

The Increasing Cost to the Student

The income from students has been mounting gradually, but only in absolute figures.²¹

Year	Total Income	Income from Fees and Tuition	
		Absolute Amount	Per Cent. of Total Income
1875.....	\$7,960,569	\$2,136,062	26.8
1880.....	7,980,128	1,881,350	23.5
1885.....	12,253,158	2,270,518	18.5
1890.....	16,808,734	3,764,984	22.4
1895.....	22,134,601	6,336,655	28.6
1900.....	31,676,572	8,375,793	26.4
1905.....	45,715,927	10,919,378	23.8
1910.....	80,438,987	19,220,297	23.9
1915.....	118,299,296	34,067,238	28.8
1920.....	240,141,994	65,604,128	36.9
1922.....	319,592,549	64,296,212	20.1
1925 (estimate).....	435,000,000	100,000,000	22.9

However, the per cent. which the income from fees and tuition is of the total income of higher education has remained relatively constant until 1920, with a sudden drop in 1922 to 20.1, the lowest since 1885. The per cent. which student fees and tuition is of the total income, based on the estimated figures for 1925, is 22.9.²² From the individual student's standpoint he is paying approximately the same proportion of the cost of his education as he was in 1900. A comparison of 1900 with 1922 shows the situation to be about as follows: the average fees and tuition have doubled; the total income has increased nine times; the income from students has multiplied itself eight times; enrollments have increased five times and the cost of living has just about doubled. This means that the student has been paying a slightly decreasing proportion of the cost of his education since 1900. It is a matter of common knowledge that it costs more to attend college now than formerly. But these higher costs are not due to larger fees and tuition, for when the expenses of a student are analyzed, it is evident that the increasing costs have been more rapid in other items such as board, room, clothing, and social expenses than they have in purely educational expenses. The standard of living in the university community has mounted very rapidly and if it is possible for the student to meet the demand of the rising costs of necessities together with a higher standard of living, he ought to be able to meet a larger share of the cost of his education.

²¹ Based on data taken from Sears, *Op. Cit.*, pp. 55-61, up to 1915 and after 1915 from U. S. Bureau of Education Bulletins on "Statistics of Universities, Colleges and Professional Schools" for respective years.

²² Since these estimates were made and presented to the Association of University and College Business Officers of the Eastern States, December, 1925, at Pinehurst, N. C., the U. S. Bureau of Education has given out its figures which are: Total Income \$387,694,609 and Income from Students \$81,168,998 which is 20.9 per cent of the Total Income. This is only .8 per cent higher than 1921-22 and is still lower than any other year since 1885. These, however, do not necessarily invalidate the estimated figures, inasmuch as the figures of the U. S. Bureau of Education represent only those institutions reporting and do not include some of the larger institutions, many of which are privately controlled and thus receive considerable income from fees and tuition.