Local Fees Committee Memo

FY 2023-2024 Meeting
Office of the Treasurer
LOCAL FEES

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER

S M T W T F S
1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8
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10 11 12 13 14
15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

WEDNESDAY 09.06.23
INTRODUCTORY MEETING @ Zoom @ 2:30PM - 3:30PM

FRIDAY 09.08.23
PRESENTATIONS @ Zoom @ 11:00AM - 1:00PM

TUESDAY 09.12.23
DELIBERATION MEETING @ Zoom @ 11:00AM - 12:00PM

WEDNESDAY 09.13.23
SENATE MEETING & TOWN HALL @ FSU Student Union @ 7:30 PM

THURSDAY 09.14.23
FINAL MEETING @ Zoom @ 11:00AM - 12:00PM

ZOOM LINK: HTTPS://FSU.ZOOM.US/J/93407191565
To whom it may concern,

As we navigate through unprecedented challenges, FSU SGA and FSU Administration remain committed to the welfare and success of our student body. In keeping with our mission to provide world-class education, facilities, and support, we find ourselves facing a crucial crossroads regarding local fees that are instrumental to student well-being and campus operations.

The Local Fees Committee has convened to reassess the current fee structure, taking into consideration the increasing costs of healthcare, activities, and athletic programs on campus. The intent of this memo is to outline the recommendations made by the Local Fees Committee for the academic year 2023-2024.

Importantly, these proposed changes have been voted upon and approved by unanimous consent, emphasizing the Committee's collective recognition of the urgency and need for these fee adjustments. These come after a decade-long period of financial stagnancy, despite escalating operational costs and student demand.

The Local Fees Committee, guided by Florida Statute (FS) 1009.24, is vested with the authority to review and adjust local fees, subject to a maximum increase of 5% or $1.73 per credit hour, effective starting Fall 2024. This statutory framework ensures that the fees remain compliant with the law and reflect the evolving needs of the university and its student body.

The last fee raise occurred in 2013, and the current fee amount stands as follows: $7.90 for Athletics, $13.97 for Health, and $12.86 for Activities and Services. These fees are crucial for subsidizing healthcare facilities, supporting student organizations, and maintaining athletic programs that are an integral part of our university's culture and pride.

In line with the university's mission and by unanimous consent, the Local Fees Committee's proposal seeks to increase each fee as follows: **$0.69 for Health, $0.65 for Activities and Services, and $0.39 for Athletics.** This suggested rise in fees addresses the dire circumstances and financial gaps faced by each of these sectors. Additionally, the Local Fees Committee strongly recommends that a subsequent fee increase be considered for the following academic year to sustain the quality and availability of essential services.

We trust you will find our recommendations fair and necessary for the continued success and vitality of Florida State University. We look forward to your timely consideration and affirmative action in this matter.

Sincerely,

Adam Bowling
Student Body Treasurer
Health Fee

Introduction
The mission of University Health Services (UHS) is to promote and improve the overall health and well-being of FSU students, a vision that aligns with the idea of a healthy community where every student thrives. I am writing to strongly recommend an increase in the Health Fee by $0.69 per credit hour, which is essential to maintain and enhance the quality of healthcare services offered to our students.

Existing Services
- UHS provides a multitude of essential services, including but not limited to:
- Medical appointments for illness, injury, and wellness
- Team-based collaborative care
- Primary and priority care

Mental Health Services
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides various mental health services including:
  - Individual and Group Therapy: In 2022-2023, 3,972 unique students were seen at CAPS, and 344 students received group therapy services in specialized groups like Distress Tolerance, Body Wellness, and LGBTQ Empowerment.
  - Crisis Intervention: CAPS received 441 after-hours calls for crisis intervention, highlighting the urgent need for these services.
  - Treatment Coordination: Over 700 students were referred to Treatment Coordination Services.
  - Specialized Programs: CAPS has continually innovated its service offerings, including the introduction of Telemental Health Services, Single Session Treatment, and specialized Behavioral Health Consultations.

Student Demand
In 2022, UHS recorded 42,083 student visits, 80% of which were by undergraduates and 20% by graduate students. The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) saw 3,972 unique students in the academic year 2022-23. Additionally, CAPS reviewed 377 mental health withdrawals and 624 course drops, which further underscores the dire need for these essential services.

Efficiency and Future Initiatives
UHS has identified innovative processes aimed at retaining as many services as possible while optimizing the skills and strengths of staff. Future initiatives include implementing electronic check-in and enhanced online scheduling.

**Consequences of Not Increasing the Fee**
- Unable to meet the timely demand for student health needs.
- Unfilled healthcare provider and CHAW staff positions.
- Service reductions and unmet student needs.
- **Potential loss of accreditation**

**Budget Constraints**
- No increase in Health Fee in the last 10 years
- Rising physician salaries and overhead costs
- 13 Empty Psychologist Positions
- Budget cuts affecting yearly merit salary increases
- High employee turnover rate

**Recommendations**
- Approve the recommended increase of $0.69 per credit hour in the Health Fee.
- Utilize the additional funds to support healthcare providers and CHAW staff.
- Direct a portion of the funding towards the identified future initiatives at UHS.

The increase in funds is essential for the ongoing provision of high-quality healthcare services to the FSU student body, especially considering the continual increases in costs and the unprecedented times we are living in.
Activities and Services Fee

Introduction
Florida State University's Activities and Services (A&S) Fee directly supports numerous critical facilities and services across campus that enhance the student experience. To continue offering these essential services and to meet the rising operational costs, I strongly advocate for an increase in the A&S Fee by $0.65 per credit hour for the 2024-25 academic year.

Rationale for Increase
- Direct and Supplemental Support
- 13 facilities across campus and over 200 acres of outdoor space.
- Over 1,000 student employees and 110 full-time staff and administrators.
- Supplemental support for FSU Childcare Center, SAFE Bus, Center for Global Engagement space, among others.

Engagement and Programming
- Statistics of student engagement reveal the importance and reach of programs supported by A&S Fee:
  - 450,000 monthly visitors to the Student Union.
  - Over 1.1 million participated in Campus Recreation programs in the last year.

Economic Factors Since Last Increase
- Consumer prices have risen 31%.
- The minimum wage in Florida has increased by 54%.
- Health insurance costs for full-time employees have surged by more than 50%.
- Deferred maintenance costs have risen.

Projected Costs
- Projected budget for FY 2025 is $17,519,810, which is $2,904,369 more than the current budget.

Consequences of Fee Stagnancy
- Reduction of facility hours and access.
- Limitations on the scope and variety of programs and services.

Recommendations
Approve the recommended increase in the A&S Fee of $0.65 per credit hour. Allocate additional funds towards Campus Recreation, the Student Union, and Student Government.
Use part of the increase to meet the rising operational costs, including staff salaries and maintenance of aging facilities.
Your immediate action on this crucial matter is essential for the continued enrichment of the student experience at FSU.
Athletics Fee

Introduction
To sustain the high standard of athletic programs and student facilities at Florida State University, I propose an increase in the Athletic Fee by **$0.39 per credit hour** for the 2024-25 academic year.

Rationale for Increase
- Athletic Achievements
  - Recent Director's Cup rankings show FSU in the top 20 nationally for the last four years.
  - Team National Championships in Soccer and Softball in recent years.
  - US News & World Report ranking of 19th nationally underlines the prestige of our athletics program.

Student Employment and Engagement
- Seminole Productions employs 150 students per year.
- Over 200 students are employed in the athletics department annually.
- The Marching Chiefs have an approved budget of $263k from athletics.
- Special Programs and Events
- Free admission for students to post-game concerts (Spring Game).
- Longest stretch without a fee increase (11 years) in modern program history, warranting an adjustment.

Economic Factors
- No fee increase since 2013 has led to a stagnation in resources.
- The proposed fee would still be well below the state average of $11.77, ensuring affordability.

Recommendations
- Approve the increase in the Athletic Fee by $0.39 per credit hour.
- Allocate these additional funds to women's athletics, student employment in athletics, and the Marching Chiefs.
- Review the funding for special programs and post-game events to ensure they are adequately supported.
**Conclusion**

As FSU's commitment to student well-being, engagement, and athletic prowess remains at the forefront of our institutional values, the proposed fee increases for the Health, Activities and Services, and Athletic sectors are imperative. They are especially essential in light of rising costs, unfilled staff positions, and the pressing needs of our diverse student body. A minimal increment in each fee—$0.69 per credit hour for Health, $0.65 for Activities and Services, and $0.39 for Athletics—will have a tremendous collective impact.

These increases will enable us to maintain the high quality of healthcare, enrich the student experience across various facilities and services, and continue to support an athletic program that brings pride and recognition to the FSU community.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed Increase</th>
<th>New Fee Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>13.97</td>
<td>.69</td>
<td>14.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>A&amp;S</td>
<td>12.86</td>
<td>.65</td>
<td>13.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>7.90</td>
<td>.39</td>
<td>8.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34.73</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>36.46</td>
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The increases are carefully calculated to fill in critical financial gaps without causing undue burden on students, keeping us well below state averages for comparable fees. They will secure the university's standing and the well-being of our students, not just for the next academic year but for many more to come. I urge immediate action on these recommendations, as the sustainability and enhancement of these vital sectors directly affect the quality of life and success of every student at Florida State University.