A REFERENDUM

This is a referendum to call for a vote on whether or not to pass the proposed 2015 Student Self-Assessed Fee Plan (2015 SSAF Plan) put forth by the 2014-2015 University Budget Committee (UBC), Student Sub-Committee. The UBC is an Advisory Committee Created by the UNO President Peter Fos to work on solutions to the various financial issues internal and external at UNO. The UNO Student Government (SG) President David Teagle advocated and achieved that a Student Sub-Committee be created to be apart of the UBC, to which he focused the discussion on Student Self-Assessed Fees. The UBC Student Sub-Committee is also an advisory committee and not apart of the UNO SG, but merely contains members who are in the UNO SG.

It was determined that from this advisory committee decisions a bill would be drafted to present to the UNO Student Government Senate for discussion and approval, and then brought before the students for a referendum vote.

Further while SG members of the committee were aware of the necessity of including a new funding source for the Student Government and Student Activities Council to replace the current Student Services Fee. The UBC Student Sub-Committee was prohibited by the Chair from discussing the funding of the Student Government and the Student Activities Council, and upon his insistence that it was an SG fee that needed to be addressed by SG initiative.

Upon consultation fellow senators, it was made clear that there is a need for a fee to fund the Student Activities Council and the Student Government of UNO. There is an additional fee to be included onto the 2015 SSAF Plan, an eighty-five dollar ($85) per semester SGA Operations Fee. This fee shall be used to fund the operations of the Student Government and the Student Activities Council which have been receiving annually decreasing funding each year. As the SG serves as the governing body over some the fees, it is vital that they are properly funded. Otherwise the stability of the managing structure of the organization will not be able to handle the added burden.

Whereas, over half a decade of cuts to higher education in Louisiana has caused all schools within the state to face huge financial issues;

Whereas, in order to not only maintain the current level of operations at the University of New Orleans, but to allow the ability to start the recovery of the University of New Orleans additional funding sources must be created;

Whereas, The 2015 SSAF Plan will replace the 1987 Student Services Fee Referendum.

Whereas, the use of Student Self-Assessed Fees allows for the Student Body to control the allocation and budgeting of funding;

Whereas, the UBC Student Sub-Committee has approved on 3/9/2015 the proposed 2015 SSAF plan with UNO Student Government President David Teagle’s Approval on the series of fee proposed.

Whereas, it is the opinion of the SG Senate Leadership to include the funding of the SG and the SAC with an SGA Operations Fee on to the 2015 SSAF Plan;
Whereas, the passage of the 2015 SSAF Plan will allow for the Students to assist in offsetting the multi-million dollar budget cuts required of the University of New Orleans over the next fiscal year and in the future as State Funding continues to be removed from the University of New Orleans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS STUDENT GOVERNMENT THAT:

I. BE IT ENACTED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS STUDENT GOVERNMENT (UNO SG) IS REORGANIZED AS A STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION. IN ALL INSTANCES WHERE STANDING POLICIES REFER TO THE UNO SG THESE INSTANCES SHALL BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (UNOSGA) SO THAT ALL STANDING AGREEMENTS REFER TO THE UNOSGA AND NOT THE UNO SG.

II. BE IT ENACTED THAT A STUDENT WIDE REFERENDUM VOTE SHALL BE HELD TO DETERMINE “DO YOU SUPPORT THAT THE 2015 STUDENT SELF-ASSESSED FEE PLAN (2015 SSAF PLAN) SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO FUND ACADEMICS, TECHNOLOGY, COUNSELING, MAINTANENCE AND BEAUTIFICATION, SIL, ATHLETICS, UNO STUDENT EXPERIENCE, THE LEARNING COMMONS, AND THE STUDENT GOVERNING BODY?”

III. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE FEES ESTABLISHED BY THE 2015 SSAF PLAN SHALL BE:

a. A UNOSGA ACADEMICS FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY DOLLARS ($130) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF ACADEMIC UNITS, ACADEMICS RELATED UNOSGA PROPOSALS, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING SERIES, AND PROJECTS. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA ACADEMIC OPERATIONS BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.

b. A UNOSGA ATHLETICS FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS ($55) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF ATHLETICS UNITS, ATHLETICS RELATED NON-ACADEMIC UNITS, ATHLETICS RELATED UNOSGA PROPOSALS, ATHLETICS PROGRAMS, ATHLETICS PROGRAMMING SERIES, AND ATHLETICS PROJECTS. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA ATHLETICS BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.

c. A UNOSGA DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT FIFTY DOLLARS ($50) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF TECHNOLOGY FOR ACADEMIC UNITS, TECHNOLOGY FOR NON-ACADEMIC UNITS, TECHNOLOGY RELATED UNOSGA PROPOSALS, TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS, TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMMING SERIES, AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA TECHNOLOGY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.

d. A UNOSGA MAINTANENCE AND BEAUTIFICATION FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT FIFTY DOLLARS ($50) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF MAINTANENCE FOR ACADEMIC UNITS, MAINTANENCE FOR NON-ACADEMIC UNITS, MAINTANENCE RELATED UNOSGA PROPOSALS, MAINTANENCE PROGRAMS, MAINTANENCE PROGRAMMING SERIES, AND MAINTANENCE PROJECTS. TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THIS FEE WILL BE RESERVED SPECIFICALLY FOR BEAUTIFICATION FOR ACADEMIC UNITS, BEAUTIFICATION FOR NON-ACADEMIC UNITS, BEAUTIFICATION RELATED UNOSGA PROPOSALS, BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMS, BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAMMING SERIES, AND BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA MAINTANANCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.
e. A UNOSGA STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT TEN DOLLARS ($10) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR ANY PROGRAM, PROGRAMMING SERIES, PROJECTS, AND UNOSGA PROPOSALS THAT BUILD UNIVERSITY PRIDE AND/OR SEEK TO INCREASE RETENTION, YEILD AND ENROLLMENT. ALSO TO BE USED FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT UNITS, STUDENT AFFAIRS UNITS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE), OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS, CAREER SERVICES, OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP, OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES, FIRST YEAR ADVISING (FYA), LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER, NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (NSO), STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADVOCACY, PRIVATEER ENROLLMENT CENTER (PEC), STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, STUDENT HOUSING, TESTING SERVICES. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA STUDENT EXPERIENCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.

f. A UNOSGA OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT TWO DOLLARS ($2) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT (SLI), SIL RELATED UNOSGA PROPOSALS, SIL PROGRAMS, SIL PROGRAMMING SERIES, AND SIL PROJECTS. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA STUDENT EXPERIENCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.

g. A UNOSGA STUDENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT ONE DOLLAR ($1) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR ANY PROGRAM, PROGRAMMING SERIES, PROJECTS, AND UNOSGA PROPOSALS THAT IMPROVES STUDENT PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL HEALTH, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO COUNSELING SERVICES, AND STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA STUDENT EXPERIENCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.

h. A UNOSGA LEARNING COMMONS FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT ONE DOLLAR ($1) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED FOR THE FUNDING OF THE LEARNING COMMONS, LEARNING COMMONS RELATED UNOSGA PROPOSALS, LEARNING COMMONS PROGRAMS, LEARNING COMMONS PROGRAMMING SERIES, AND LEARNING COMMONS PROJECTS. FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED BY THE UNOSGA STUDENT EXPERIENCE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE.

i. A UNOSGA OPERATIONS FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT EIGHTY FIVE DOLLARS ($85) PER SEMESTER. TO BE USED BY THE UNOSGA TO SUPPORT UNOSGA OPERATIONS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMMING SERIES, PROJECT, AND PROPOSALS. THE FUNDS FROM THIS FEE WILL BE ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS: TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) TO THE UNOSGA SENATE, TWENTY-FIVE (25%) TO THE STUDENT ACTIVITY COUNCIL, TEN PERCENT (10%) TO THE UNOSGA EXECUTIVE FUND, THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE GREEK COUNCIL, TWO PERCENT (2%) TO THE PRIVAETERS COUNCIL, AND THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT (35%) TO THE CENTRAL BUDGET COMMITTEE. IN THE EVENT THE GREEK COUNCIL IS NOT CREATED THEIR PORTION WILL REVERT TO THE CENTRAL BUDGET COMMITTEE.

IV. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT ALL FEES ESTABLISHED BY THE 2015 SSAF PLAN SHALL BE ALLOWED BY THE UNOSGA TO INCREASE EACH ACADEMIC YEAR BY ZERO (0%) TO FIVE PERCENT (5%). IN THE EVENT THAT THE UNIVERSITY RAISES TUITION GREATER THAN 5%, THE COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH FEE ARE GRANTED THE POWER TO RAISE THEIR FEES UP TO THE PERCENTAGE OF THE TUITION INCREASE, BUT NO GREATER.

V. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT ALL FUNDS GENERATED BY THE 2015 SSAF PLAN SHALL BE CONTROLLED BY THE UNOSGA.
VI. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT ALL FUNDS GENERATED BY THE 2015 SSAF PLAN SHALL BE USED, BUDGETED, AND ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO THE POLICIES GOVERNING THE UNOSGA.

VII. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THE REFERENDUM VOTE MUST BE HELD WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS UPON PASSAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION IN THE SG SENATE. THE SG SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE VOTE IS FAIRLY AND APPROPRIATELY ORGANIZED, ADVERTISED, AND MANAGED.

VIII. ALL UNUSED 2015 SSAF PLAN FUNDS SHALL REVERT TO THE UNOSGA RESERVE ACCOUNT AT THE END OF THE EACH FISCAL YEAR.

Senate Action: passes

Presiding Officer’s Signature: Jessica Willis

Vote: 11 Yeas, 2 No, 0 Abstains

SG President’s Action: Pass

SG President’s Signature: 3-27-15

Veto Override

Senate Action on Veto: vote

Presiding Officer’s Signature: 3-27-15

DATE