2015

University of New Orleans
2015 Student Self-Assessed Fee Plan

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UNO Student Government
3/30/2015
University of New Orleans 2015 Student Self-Assessed Fee Plan

Overview

The University of New Orleans’ 2015 Student Self-Assessed Fee Plan (2015 SSAF Plan) is a product of students for the benefit of students to sustain their curricular and co-curricular experiences at the University.

The Plan was proposed by the University Budget Committee’s student sub-committee, an advisory committee including representation from each college and various areas of student life, chaired by Student Government President David Teagle and Student Government Treasurer Derreck Blake Deason, on March 9th, 2015.

Student Senator Joy Ballard authored the legislation (R.X15C034) that was passed in the UNO SG Senate on March 27th, 2015 with 16 yeas, two (2) nays, and zero (0) abstentions.

The plan proposes the following fees for all University of New Orleans students each semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Name</th>
<th>Fee Purpose</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA ACADEMICS FEE</td>
<td>For the funding of academic units, academics-related SGA proposals, academic programs, academic programming series and projects</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA ATHLETICS FEE</td>
<td>For the funding of athletics units, athletics-related non-academic units, athletics-related SGA proposals, athletics programs, athletics programming series and projects</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FEE</td>
<td>For the funding of technology for academic units, technology for non-academic units, technology-related UNOSGA proposals, technology programs, technology programming series and projects *In addition to the current STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA MAINTENANCE AND BEAUTIFICATION FEE</td>
<td>For the funding of maintenance and beautification in academic and non-academic units, maintenance and beautification-related SGA proposals, maintenance and beautification programs, maintenance and beautification programming series and projects *In addition to current maintenance fees</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE</td>
<td>For the funding of any program, programming series, projects, and/or SGA proposals that build University pride and/or seek to increase retention, yield, and enrollment.</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FEE</td>
<td>For the funding of Office of Student Involvement and Leadership (SIL) programs, programming series, and projects and SIL-related SGA proposals.</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNOSGA STUDENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH FEE
For the funding of any program, programming series, projects, or SGA proposals that improve student wellness, including initiatives from Counseling Services and Student Health Services
$1.00

UNOSGA LEARNING COMMONS FEE
For the funding of the Learning Commons, Learning Commons-related SGA proposals, Learning Commons programs, programming series, and/or projects
$1.00

UNOSGA OPERATIONS FEE
For the funding of SGA operations, programs, programming series, projects, and proposals. The fee would be allocated as follows:
- 25% to the UNOSGA Senate
- 25% to the Student Activities Council (SAC)
- 10% to the Executive Fund
- 3% to the Greek Council
- 2% to the Privateer Council
- 35% to the Central Budget Committee
$85.00

Further explanation and justification are included in the following pages.

Justification
After years of cuts to higher education in the state of Louisiana, the University of New Orleans’ financial outlook is dire. The students of the student subcommittee to the University Budget Committee were charged by UNO President, Dr. Peter J. Fos, to find means to counteract the millions in budget cuts that have adversely affected the University. Students have created a bold proposal because boldness is necessary for continued success at the University.

Attached you will find a number of documents to support the desperate need for this proposal:
- March 23, 2015 “UNO will never close, but students deserve more than a gutted shell: Peter Schock”
  http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/02/uno_will_never_close_but_stude.html
- March 13, 2015 “Update on State Budget” memorandum from President Peter J. Fos
- February 28, 2015 “Message from UNO President Fos on Governor’s Budget”
- February 26, 2015 Universities Letter to Governor Jindal
- January 26, 2015 “University Budget Committee” memorandum from President Peter J. Fos
- January 16, 2015 “State Budget Update” memorandum from President Peter J. Fos
- January 16, 2015 “Louisiana higher education officials talk about potential cuts to colleges and universities” http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/01/louisiana_higher_education_off.html
- January 24, 2015 “Louisiana higher education officials say campus closures are a possibility” http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/01/college_university_closures_mi.html
- Minutes from the Spring 2015 University Budget Committee student subcommittee meetings
- Minutes from the March 27th, 2015 UNO Student Government meeting
These documents outline a bleak outlook from only the last few months-- in recent years, the University of New Orleans has had to propose program cuts, has laid-off dozens of employees and has not been able to replace countless others. The situation was best summarized by Peter Schock in his editorial on nola.com, “...it’s essential that everyone in the greater New Orleans area who has a stake in the future of the University of New Orleans understand that the looming budget crisis will not force this university to close.

“You cannot do more with less; you can only do less. But we have been captive to that slogan for years, complying with cut after cut, until we have finally arrived at this point: We cannot take one more cut. Since 2008, UNO has lost 183 full-time faculty members, a loss of 39 percent, which is far in excess of the 19 percent drop in our student population over the past six years. As for our support staff, President Peter Fos does not exaggerate when he publically notes that he is running out of employees to terminate. Our backs are to the wall.”

Students have been given no other choice. The use of student self-assessed fees allows for the Student Body to control the allocation and budgeting of funding with restricted funds that cannot be used outside of their intended purpose and cannot be used or taken in the general fund. Unlike Grad Act funds or WISE funding or tuition swap, this money cannot be granted and then subsequently taken away.

Students from every college and from various walks of life came together to create the 2015 SSAF Plan, including members of the University Budget Committee student subcommittee and the Student Government:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Sub Committee for the UNO Budget Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: David Teagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Christopher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent Polizzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Jose Torres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Lynn Roblez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Putnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Langston Williams</td>
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The passage of the 2015 SSAF Plan will allow for students to assist in offsetting the multi-million dollar budget cuts required of the University of New Orleans over the coming fiscal year and in the future as state funding continues to be removed from the University of New Orleans.
Projected Annual Revenues

At the University of New Orleans’ current enrollment, project revenues total nearly **$7 million annually**. Fall 2014 enrollment totaled 9,234 students—at that enrollment, fall semester fee revenues would equal $3,545,856. Spring 2015 enrollment totaled 8,281 students—at that enrollment, spring semester fee revenues would equal $9,179,904. Enrollment numbers have plateaued over the past few years, enabling the University to reliably consider at least $6,725,760 in revenue in student self-assessed fees from this plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Name</th>
<th>Fee Amount</th>
<th>Annual Fees (per student)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA ACADEMICS FEE</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
<td>$260.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNOSGA ATHLETICS FEE</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FEE</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA MAINTENANCE AND BEAUTIFICATION FEE</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FEE</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA STUDENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH FEE</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA LEARNING COMMONS FEE</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA OPERATIONS FEE</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
<td>$170.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL (ALL FEES)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$384.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$768.00</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The fees as described here created an opportunity to offset overhead costs and allow departments to reallocate funds.

Anticipated Expenditures

UNOSGA Academics Fee

The University anticipates over $2.25 million in revenue for academic programs alone each year, providing for much needed lab updates, supplies, and course materials. With five colleges and on program of study (Business Administration, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Interdisciplinary Studies), students felt it fair to assess a $130 semester fee (roughly $25 per college and $5 for IDS).

Anticipated expenditures include:

- Children’s Library
- Lab and departmental supplies
- Tocqueville Project Speakers
- Musical Excursions
- Einstein Week
- Other regular programming
UNOSGA Athletics Fee
The University anticipates nearly $1 million in revenue for athletics each year, providing much needed funding for uniforms, transportation, and supplies for our 14 Division I sports teams.

Anticipated expenditures include:

- Travel and lodging
- Uniforms
- Equipment
- Athletic programming

UNOSGA Digital Infrastructure Fee
The University anticipates nearly $900,000 in revenue for digital infrastructure annually. The fee supplements the current Student Technology Fee specifically for programs and projects for students. The current Student Technology Fee is overextended with student workers and academic software, leading the student subcommittee of the University Budget Committee to create this fee.

Anticipated expenditures include:

- Software (e.g., Guidebook, OrgSync, GIS, etc.)
- PC’s for on-campus computer labs
- Projectors and A/V materials
- Other digital outreach and programming

UNOSGGA Maintenance and Beautification Fee
The University anticipates nearly $900,000 in revenue for maintenance and beautification annually. The fee supplements the current maintenance fees specifically for projects that do not receive funding currently. There are a number of areas on campus in need of repair and beautification, leading the student subcommittee of the University Budget Committee to create this fee.

Anticipated expenditures include:

- Campus clean-ups
- Renovation of the Amphitheater
- General beautification
- Sidewalk drainage
- Lighting Fixtures
- Building Maintenance

UNOSGA Student Experience Fee
The University anticipates just over $175,000 in revenue for the student experience fee each year. This fee is designated for all recruitment, yield, and retention programs that promote the student experience here at the University of New Orleans. Intended offices include but are not limited to: First Year Experience, First Year Advising, New Student Orientation, Student Affairs, and more.

Anticipated expenditures include:

- First Year Interest Groups
- Privateer Camp
- Other programming efforts
UNOSGA Student Involvement & Leadership Fee
The University anticipates just over $35,000 in revenue for the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership each year. SIL provides a number of programs and resources for the Student Body and requests funds from the SG each year.

Anticipated expenditures include:

- Student Organization Resource Center
- Leadership Retreat
- Service Coalition service days
- Leadership Recognition Ceremony

UNOSGA Student Physical and Mental Health Fee
The University anticipates just over $17,000 in revenue for the student physical and mental health fee each year. Intended offices include but are not limited to: Student Health Services, Counseling Services, Recreation and Intramural Sports.

Anticipate expenditures include:

- Intramural sports supplies
- Departmental student workers
- Outreach programming

UNOSGA Learning Commons Fee
The University anticipates just over $17,000 in revenue for the Learning Commons each year. The Learning Commons is a portion of the Earl K. Long Library dedicated to student academic success.

Anticipated expenditures include:

- Scantrons, blue books, and other testing supplies
- Student workers

UNOSGA Operations Fee
The University anticipates nearly $1.5 million in revenue for the Student Government Association each year. The fee will be divided as follows: 25% to the UNOSGA Senate, 25% to the Student Activities Council (SAC), 10% to the Executive Fund, 3% to the Greek Council, 2% to the Privateer Council, and 35% to the Central Budget Committee.

Anticipated expenditures include:

- Homecoming
- SUCbAUF Annual Crawfish Boil
- Campus-wide programming
- Paraprofessional development
- Greek Leadership Retreat
- Open Forums
- Major Projects
- Student Academic Travel
- Study Abroad Scholarships
- SGA staff
Terms of Assessment

All expenditures will be reviewed and approved annually by the respective student subcommittees of the UNOSGA Central Budget Committee, a body that will serve as the student self-assessed fee oversight committee and is made up of members of the SGA and the Student Body at Large and the Chief Business Affairs Officer and the Chief Student Affairs Officer, or their respective designees, each of whom will have a voice, but will not vote.

Every expenditure shall have an associated budget request that will be reviewed and approved or denied by its respective subcommittee. The Chief Business Affairs Officer and the Chief Student Affairs Officer, or their respective designees, will be present and non-voting at any meetings of budget subcommittees where business is conducted. Each subcommittee will include a variety of students, including students who are more directly affected by the fee (e.g., student athletes on the SGA Athletics Budget Subcommittee, peer mentors and other student leaders on the SGA Student Experience Budget Subcommittee).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Review Subcommittee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNOSGA ACADEMICS FEE</td>
<td>SGA Academic Operations Budget Subcommittee</td>
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<td>UNOSGA ATHLETICS FEE</td>
<td>SGA Athletics Budget Subcommittee</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNOSGA DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FEE</td>
<td>SGA Technology Budget Subcommittee</td>
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<td>UNOSGA OPERATIONS FEE</td>
<td>SGA Central Budget Committee</td>
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</tbody>
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Budget requests shall include:

- A 1-2 page typed summary for the expenditures proposed
- A detailed budget in spreadsheet format for each expenditure
- If previously requested, documentation from the previous year’s purchases

*Requirements may be adjusted by the UNOSGA Central Budget Committee as necessary.

Should a fee go unused or misused, the committee may file a report recommending whether the SGA Senate should take action to initiate the recall referendum process with respect to a student self-assessed fee.
Voting Methodology
All elections and voting at the University of New Orleans (e.g., Homecoming Elections, Student Government Elections, etc.) take place online using Qualtrics Software, per instruction from the University Chief Information Officer, David Dupree. Each currently enrolled student at the University receives a unique link to his/her individual ballot to submit one vote in the election. Links cannot be shared and are validated through panels in the software.

The ballot will read as such:


- YES
- NO

Spring Elections take place April 15th & 16th, 2015. Because spring elections take place before the University of Louisiana System meeting on April 25th, 2015, the University of New Orleans plans to host a special election for the 2015 SSAF Plan. Because ULS approval is required before a student body vote can be held, UNO is unable to host the vote in conjunction with spring elections.

Although ULS Finance and Business policies require that “Voting for student assessed fee proposals shall be scheduled to coincide with regular campus elections such as Homecoming Court, SGA elections, etc. in order to maximize participation,” the University of New Orleans’ Student Body is requesting special permission to conduct a special election on April 28th & 29th, 2015 in conjunction with a pervasive and intentional communication plan to maximize participation.

SGA Resolution
Please see attached.

Communication Plan
Education regarding the 2015 SSAF Plan is important for transparency and for the Student Body to understand its impact and importance.

The first piece of the communication plan is to educate students regarding the financial need of the University. Initial communications have already begun with ongoing memorandums from the Office of the President. Ongoing listerv emails will continue to emphasize and describe the depth of financial need that the University is currently sustaining.

The second piece of the communication plan is to educate students regarding the difference between unrestricted and restricted fees. In senators’ conversations with fellow students, they found that many students are not aware that some funds may be taken by the state via Tuition Swap. This plan will be implemented during the first week of April via campus-wide email, posters, and on social media (particularly YouTube).
The third piece of the communication plan is twofold: (1) to educate students to their rights and ability to control funds at the University through student self-assessed fees and (2) to educate students of the positive impact of the proposed fees. To do this, the Student Government and University Budget Committee will host at least three (3) open forums, create a poster campaign, and continued social media presence. Senators are creating YouTube videos explaining each fee individually, outlining who was at the table to decide on the fee amount, and to discuss anticipated expenditures from the fee. This portion of the communication plan will take place weeks 2-4 of April.

The final piece of the communication plan is to promote the Student Body vote. Every voice matters. Every student gets input. This will take place via email and social media in the last week of April.

An additional piece of the communication plan includes ongoing promotion of the benefits of the 2015 SSAF Plan should it pass. Press releases and transparent documentation are integral to satisfying the spirit of this plan: to provide students the opportunity to control where and what their fees fund at the University of New Orleans.