March 9, 2017

Dear Graduate Students,

Over the past ten months, leadership in various fee-funded service units at Stony Brook University has been meeting with student-based committees who are consulting and advising on a Comprehensive (“broad based”) Fee increase proposed for the academic year 2017-18. In order to continue and improve the quality of services that our students require and expect in an environment of rising costs, we are introducing increases to the Comprehensive Fee. The Comprehensive Fee components include support for continued and expanded services in Transportation Services; Student Health Services/Counseling; and Technology. This letter is the next step in the consultation process, the goal of which is to inform you of developments and request your feedback.

Related to the proposed changes to comprehensive fees, the University proposes an increase for full-time Graduate students of $24.50 per semester. This comprehensive fee increase is essential to maintaining the cost of existing student services and expanding others. It would bring the Comprehensive Fee total to $587.50 for full-time Graduate students per semester, effective Fall 2017. (Comprehensive Fees are not related to the College fee, the Student Activity fee and the Academic Excellence and Success fee, nor are they related to various course and/or lab specific fees.)

Below is a description of the proposed enhancement in each of the respective service units. For more information regarding the broad-based fee proposal for the 2017-2018 academic year, please visit http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/bursar/tuition/Broad_Based_Fees.html.

**Transportation**

The direction of the University’s transportation program is shaped by the Transportation and Parking Advisory Group, comprised of students and SBU transportation professionals who meet monthly during the academic year to discuss transportation and parking issues and initiatives, and to provide valuable feedback on their impact to the campus community. With guidance from this group, SBU Transit continues to improve transportation services in many ways, from maintaining and operating an aging bus fleet, to enhancing transit facilities, and providing transportation services to local shopping via the Suffolk Transit Connection. Using transportation fees, we have been able to install larger bus shelters at the LIRR station and the Engineering quad (outfitted with LED Solar powered lights to increase safety for users after dark), and install bike racks on all buses, shuttle buses, and vans. Transportation fees also enable us to operate and maintain the SBU Smart Transit system, developed through a partnership with the Center of Excellence in Wireless & Information Technology and the Department of Computer Sciences, which uses live GPS technology to communicate transit information in select bus stops, via the web, and through iPhone and Android mobile apps. It also provides the resources needed to operate SBU Wolf Ride, our innovative solar-powered bike-share program that features 12 convenient stations and nearly 80 bicycles.

As we strive to fulfill our mission to maintain and modernize our fleet so our students have more reliable and modern bus service and as we continue to provide all the above mentioned transportation services, we propose an increase to the Transportation Fee of $8.00 per student per semester.
**Student Health and Counseling Services**

The Student Health and Counseling Service fee provides funding for medical services and mental health services offered by licensed clinical professionals in Student Health Service (SHS) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). In an effort to be proactive and address the upsurge in students seeking care for health related concerns, SHS and CAPS continuously work to expand health care services. This includes a full scope of comprehensive and integrated wellness and health promotion activities such as individual and group counseling services, stress reduction activities, mental health screenings and suicide and sexual assault prevention programs. SHS provides ongoing prevention and outreach supplies, such as free flu kits and over the counter medicines. Programs are being added to increase student access to services such as a medical telephone consult line, CAPS after hours, Let’s Talk, Mindfulness Meditation, Animal Assisted Therapy, bystander prevention programs along with delivering services that are expanded to locations outside the traditional SHS building. Both SHS and CAPS continue to explore innovative methods to enhance the availability and accessibility of services provided. SHS and CAPS have been meeting regularly with the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) to advise and consult on the need for and added services that can be provided through a moderate fee increase of $2.50 per semester. This added financial resource will partially enable us to meet the growing demand for both psychiatric and counseling support at both the main campus and Health Sciences campus. Specifically, the increase will help offset some of the personnel costs. Student Health and Counseling Services will be relying on efficient and effective management of current resources to address the costs associated to providing services to the students.

**Technology**

With improvement of learning space technologies and academic technologies as a primary objective for Student Tech Fee use, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) seeks feedback and responds to student input regarding their needs in a number of ways:

- DoIT has reworked its student advisory group into a newly formed Student Technology Fee Advisory Council that will be actively engaged in activities for obtaining feedback and suggestions from students;
- DoIT’s “Suggestion Box” resource, accessible on Blackboard and through all SINC site desktops provides consistent, real time input;
- Our team’s continual review of trends in educational technology informs the selection of technology services that benefit learning.

These feedback mechanisms help DoIT in its mission to offer reliable technological resources designed to improve the student's life experience and academic success. The proposed increase in the Technology Fee of $14.00 per semester will be used to support over 1,500 workstations on campus, 50 workstations in Residence Halls, 17 graduate student computer workstations and labs, 20 public computing (SINC) sites in academic buildings, and new Collaborative Learning Areas (CoLAs) for student use. DoIT will continue to bolster student connectivity as wireless network coverage continues to expand campus-wide, which includes expanding the infrastructure required to increase and improve cellular telephone coverage for the campus. As students are becoming increasingly mobile, DoIT is
expanding online tools and investing in new technology such as a new Echo Lecture Capture Active Learning Platform that will further enhance student engagement with course content, Blackboard and Blackboard Mobile, Print from Anywhere, VoiceThread, Digication, Online Course Evaluations and Classie Evals, improved Scantron test scanning services and the Google Apps suite (to name just a few). DoIT provides online self-help, live virtual and face-to-face technology workshops to students, and on-site technology consulting at SINC sites. The expectations of the student population are high, and DoIT strives to bring innovation to the campus, to help the students be successful.

For more information about the consultation process and the proposed fees, please feel free to contact the appropriate individual listed below:

Student Health & Counseling  Marisa Bisiani  marisa.bisiani@stonybrook.edu
Technology  Patricia Aceves  patricia.aceves@stonybrook.edu
Transportation  Connell Friel  Connell.friel@stonybrook.edu

Sincerely,

Robert Megna
Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration