March 2016

Dear Undergraduate 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 2016-17. 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 Recreation Center/Fields, Transportation, Intercollegiate Athletics, 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 undergraduate students of $22.50 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 $915.25 for full-time Undergraduate students per semester, effective Fall 2016. (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.)

For a more detailed look at our broad-based fee proposal for the 2016-2017 academic year, please visit http://www.stonybrook.edu/bursar/tuition/fees/

Below is a description of the proposed enhancement in each of the respective service units.

Transportation
The direction of the University’s transportation program is shaped by the SBU Transportation & Parking Advisory Group, which is a group of students who meet monthly during the academic year to provide feedback on transit, parking, and biking initiatives. SBU Transit continues to improve transportation services in various ways. Last year we purchased three new buses increasing our capacity and reliability. For comfort and convenience, we enhanced the SBU Transit Facility in South P Lot. To enrich passenger convenience, we continue to adjust transit schedules, as well as, provide transportation to local shopping via the Suffolk Transit Connection. In addition, our SBU Smart Transit system, developed through a partnership with the Center of Excellence in Wireless & Information Technology and the Department of Computer Sciences, uses live GPS technology to communicate transit information in select bus stops, via the web, and through iPhone and Android mobile apps. We are pleased to note that
since its inception in April 2013, SBU Wolf Ride, our innovative solar-powered bike-share program, has had more than 16,500 rides. As such, Wolf Ride has been expanded to 12 convenient stations with nearly 80 bicycles. To use a bicycle, students need only swipe their SBU ID card; bike rides under 60 minutes are free. SBU Transit also installed two new larger bus shelters, one at the LIRR rail station and the second at the Engineering quad. These shelters were made larger in order to accommodate more students during inclement weather. The new shelters were also outfitted with LED Solar powered lights to increase safety for users after dark. The shelters that were removed from the LIRR and Engineering were relocated to the Gym Road West bus stop and the RSS bus stop, both locations that did not previously have shelters. Finally, SBU Transit installed bike racks on all buses, shuttle buses, and vans, and added solar-powered lighting to many campus bus shelters. All these service enhancements are offered through, and funded by, the transportation fee which is proposed to increase only by $2.50 per semester.

Student Health and Counseling Services
The Student Health and Counseling Services fee provides for funding of medical services and mental health services offered by clinical professionals in the Student Health Service (SHS) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). In addition to direct services, SHS also provides for ongoing prevention and outreach supplies, such as free flu kits and over the counter medicines. CAPS has added programs that increase student access to services including a 24-hour support line known as CAPS After Hours”, and community based programming including Let’s Talk, Mindfulness Meditation and Animal Assisted Therapy. Student Health and Counseling Services is proposing an $8 per semester fee increase to meet the growing demand for both psychiatric and counseling support at both the main campus and Health Sciences campus locations. Specifically, the increase will support our ability to maintain short wait times for psychiatric services, support new programs aimed to heighten community awareness of student distress and promote availability of services, and expand student involvement in peer education programs that are a vital part of our outreach and prevention efforts. SHS and CAPS have been meeting regularly with the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) to advise and consult on the need for this fee increase.

Technology
With improvement of academic technology resources as a primary objective, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) seeks feedback and responds to student input regarding their needs in a number of ways. Our student advisory group meets regularly and provides a constant source of feedback; DoIT’s “Suggestion Box” resource, accessible on Blackboard and through all SINC site desktops provides consistent, real time input; and, through our team’s continual review of trends in educational technology. These feedback mechanisms help DoIT in its mission to offer reliable technological resources designed to improve our student life experience and academic success. The proposed Technology Fee of $12 per semester will be used to support over 1,500 workstations on campus, 50 workstations in Residence Halls, 12 public computing (SINC) sites in academic buildings, four (4) Collaborative Learning Areas (CoLAs) for student use, and 24/7 access to the Melville Library Reading Room. It will enable DoIT to continue to bolster student connectivity throughout the campus, wireless network coverage will continue to expand campus-wide including access in many outdoor spaces which includes expanding the infrastructure required to increase and improve cellular telephone coverage for the campus. In addition, DoIT will invest in new technology and expand virtual
tools such as all Library databases, Echo 360, Blackboard and Blackboard Mobile, Print from Anywhere, VoiceThread, Digication, Respondus, Studymate, Lynda.com, and the Google Apps suite (to name just a few). DoIT is also able to provide quality instruction to students through Client Support, on-site technology consulting at SINC sites, face-to-face workshops, and numerous online help pages.

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

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lyle P. Gomes
Vice President for Finance and Chief Budget Officer