

March 9, 2017

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 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 **Recreation Center/Fields; Transportation Services; Intercollegiate Athletics/University Pool; 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 \$28.50 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 \$943.75 for full-time Undergraduate 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.

Recreation Center/Fields

Campus Recreation offers a wide variety of facilities, programs and services to our student population. This includes staffing and maintenance of our centerpiece facilities, the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center, the Campus Recreation Fields, and beginning this year, staffing and scheduling oversight for the newly refurbished University Pool. In addition, programs are expanding to include access to multiple diverse services within campus recreation. To help cover the cost for daily operation of our indoor and outdoor facilities visited by over 3,000 students daily, fund the replacement of heavily utilized equipment, provide continued employment opportunities for more than 200 students, and to help offset large minimum wage increases throughout the year, a \$1.25 increase in campus recreation fee per semester is proposed for 2017-18. The Campus Recreation Advisory board has been meeting through the year; they have reviewed and are fully supportive of a fee increase proposal. As we continue to provide employment and leadership opportunities for our students, this fee increase will partially help address the costs associated with our growing staff and operating expenses. Campus Recreation will be relying on efficient and effective management of current resources, as well as carryover from reserve funds, to address the costs associated with services operations.

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.

Intercollegiate Athletics/University Pool

The Stony Brook University Department of Athletics currently sponsors 18 NCAA Division I programs and is proud to add one new program in 2017-18 with the reinstatement of women's swimming and diving. The department continues to experience significant facility growth, increased spectator support and enhanced national media attention which all adds to positive experiences and exposure for the entire university community. This year, with the reinstatement of women's swimming and diving and the opening of the newly renovated University Pool, the Department of Athletics will incur additional expenses associated with operating this facility as well as with overseeing a successful Division I swim program. In conjunction with Campus Recreation, Athletics is committed to providing opportunities for Stony Brook students to enjoy the offerings that come from having a pool located on our campus. Island Federal Credit Union Arena opened its doors three years ago and also continues to offer our student-athletes, student fans, Stony Brook University Athletic Bands, and our award-winning Stony Brook University Dance and Cheer squads an incredible facility to call home. Commons Day events and USG-sponsored concerts continue to enjoy the first class experience provided during events held in the arena. Similarly, the Department of Athletics is committed to providing excellent student and fan experiences at all home football games and have enhanced the Student Lot experience with events and live music as part of the efforts to expand the highly successful Seawolves Town experience. Athletics is committed to maintaining free undergraduate student admission to all home sporting events, further enhancing marketing opportunities and providing even more spectacular in-game promotions; therefore, we must continue to financially support growth in these areas. Additionally, we must also continue to provide increased student employment opportunities at our events, bolster scholarships, support the women's swimming and diving program, and ensure appropriate transportation for our teams. While these associated costs continue to increase substantially, we are recommending only a \$2.75 increase in the Intercollegiate Athletics fee per semester in the 2017-18 academic year.

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	<u>marisa.bisiani@stonybrook.edu</u>
Athletics	Donna Woodruff	<u>donna.woodruff@stonybrook.edu</u>
Recreation	Jay Souza	<u>jay.souza@stonybrook.edu</u>
Technology	Patricia Aceves	<u>patricia.aceves@stonybrook.edu</u>
Transportation	Connell Friel	<u>Connell.friel@stonybrook.edu</u>

Sincerely,

Robert Megna
Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration