



March 29, 2018

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 2018-19. 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 **Student Health Services/Counseling; Technology; and Transportation Services**. 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 \$76.00 per semester. This increase is essential to maintaining the cost of existing student services and expanding others. It would bring the Comprehensive Fee total to \$663.50 for full-time Graduate students per semester, effective fall 2018.

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 2018-2019 academic year, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/bursar/tuition/broad-based-fee/>

Student Health and Counseling Services

The Student Health and Counseling Services fee provides funding for medical and mental health services offered by licensed clinical professionals in Student Health Services (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, international travel health guidance, and suicide and sexual assault prevention programs. SHS provides ongoing prevention and outreach supplies, such as free flu kits and over-the-counter medicines free of charge.

Over this past year, student access to services has expanded, including use of a medical telephone consult line, CAPS After Hours, Let’s Talk, and Mindfulness Meditation. As a result of increasing student demand, we have also expanded hours of availability. Services have also

expanded to locations outside the traditional SHS building. Our Animal Assisted Therapy and bystander prevention programs have also been offered with increased frequency due to student interest.

SHS and CAPS have met regularly with the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) to advise and consult on the need for additional services. The committee fully supports a fee increase of \$4.50 per semester. The additional resources will enable us to meet the growing demand for both psychiatric and counseling support at both the main campus and Health Sciences campus, and continue to provide high quality care to our students.

Technology

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) serves as the steward of the student technology fee and is responsible for investing these funds to support existing and introduce new technology resources for students every year. In past years, in consultation with students, we have made investments in technologies and services, including: providing more than 1700 computer workstations, six graduate student computing labs and 12 public computing (SINC) sites, 90 printers (across all campuses); establishing more than 130 technology-rich classrooms; offering and upgrading campus technologies like Blackboard, Echo360, Adobe Connect, Course Evaluations (and many others); and, we continually add software to the Virtual SINC site, which students need for research and coursework. With significant student input, we built the iCREATE innovation and invention facilities, we offer hundreds of student technology workshops each year, and employ nearly 200 student assistants in support of these services.

DoIT has made a concerted effort to gather data with which to make informed decisions about the technology needs of students including surveys and meetings with the DoIT student advisory board, GSO, USG, Dean of Students, RHA, CSA and SHTM. In order to address the priority needs requested and suggested by student groups, the proposed increase in the Technology Fee of \$44 per semester will provide the following:

- Bolster student connectivity with improved WiFi in academic spaces (indoor and outdoor)
- New investments in software such as Adobe Creative Suite, SPSS and others
- Virtual Linux lab
- Implementing a minimum standard of technology in every classroom
- Increased classroom and collaboration technologies at HSC and Southampton
- Increased access to technology help desk support in SINC sites and ECC building
- Increased access and availability of student technology workshops
- Increased hours and resources in iCREATE spaces (including 3D printing and laser cutter materials)

We would like to thank our student advisory groups and others who have shared ideas and feedback to make this proposal possible and encourage a continued collaboration as we strive to provide the best information and teaching technology services.

Transportation

The University's transportation program is shaped significantly by the Transportation and Parking Advisory Group. The group, comprised of SBU students and transportation professionals, meets regularly during the academic year to review and discuss transportation and parking issues and initiatives, and provide feedback on the transportation function's impact on the campus community. SBU Transportation continues to improve transportation services in numerous 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 upwards of 80 bicycles.

Yet, we strive to continue to improve services to our students. For the upcoming year, we are committed to upgrade our bus fleet to provide greater reliability and reduce potential delays. We will be modernizing our primary bus station at Wolfie Hut in South P to better serve student need. Further, we will seek to increase transportation to more local off-campus locales. So that we may continue to improve services, we propose an increase to the Transportation Fee of \$27.50 per student per semester.

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	Neil Werner	neil.werner@stonybrook.edu

Sincerely,

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