



March 29, 2018

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 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 **Recreation Center/Fields; Student Health Services/Counseling; Intercollegiate Athletics; 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 undergraduate students of \$83.75 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 \$1,027.50 for full-time Undergraduate 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/>

Recreation Center/Fields

Campus Recreation offers a wide variety of facilities, programs, and services to our students. This includes staffing and maintenance of our centerpiece facilities including the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center, the Campus Recreation Fields, and the staffing and scheduling of the newly refurbished University Pool. The Recreation Facilities fee funds the daily operation of the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center and Recreation Field Space. This fee helps cover the cost for daily operation of our indoor and outdoor facilities visited by over 3,000 students daily; funds the replacement of heavily utilized equipment, maintenance and custodial services; and provides continued employment opportunities for more than 200 students. Student employment utilizes 25% of our annual budget which is significantly impacted due to the \$1/hour minimum wage increase (and future increases through 2021).

To best support our students, we are expanding programs that enhance the quality of student life and promote involvement. For example, we have implemented a wellness resource room

which allows students the free use of a massage chair along with free confidential health screenings to identify opportunities to enhance healthy lifestyle choices. We have built a low-ropes challenge course, are planning to build a high-ropes course, and are providing open recreation swim hours during the year. With our ongoing equipment replacement cycle, we replaced older cardio machines with 56 new cycles, additional free weight equipment, new selectorized exercise machines, and some specialized cardio machines. These new machines have the added benefit of internet accessibility.

The Campus Recreation Advisory Board has met throughout the year and provided ongoing feedback. Based on various operational cost increases, minimum wage increases, and more student-focused services, the board unanimously supports a fee increase of \$2.25 per semester. As we continue to provide employment and leadership opportunities for our students, these additional resources will help address the costs associated with salary and operating expenses.

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.

Intercollegiate Athletics

The Stony Brook University Department of Athletics currently sponsors 18 NCAA Division I programs and continues to experience significant facility growth, increased spectator support, and enhanced national media attention, all of which adds to positive experiences and exposure for the entire university community.

Division I Athletic programs significantly increase institutional profile and the prestige of a Stony Brook degree. The NCAA Women's Lacrosse final four is being hosted by Stony Brook University this year, on campus in LaValle Stadium. The community exposure and national media coverage we are receiving from our Women's Lacrosse program being ranked #1 in the nation -- five weeks and counting -- is unprecedented. This goes beyond sports, as once the amount of athletic information discussed in the media ends, broadcasters talk about the institutions' academic achievements, most notable graduates, and various other facts about the school, which again increases our institutional profile, and, the value of your Stony Brook degree. Similarly, the power of the NCAA Basketball tournament and its direct impact on institutional exposure is immense. The University of Maryland/Baltimore County (UMBC), part of our America East Athletic conference, was able to make history in the NCAA tournament this year as the first #16 seed to beat a #1 overall seed, University of Virginia. The exposure UMBC received across national and social media is priceless, and reminiscent of the impact our Stony Brook Baseball team had in raising the profile of our campus across the nation when we made history by reaching the 2012 College World Series. That impression continues as our student athletes make their way onto the professional stage such as Jameel Warney (NBA), Travis Jankowski, Nick Tropeano, Tom Koehler and Joe Nathan (MLB), and Will Tye (NFL). Every time one of these athletes is on the field/court Stony Brook is mentioned. The value this provides our University and student body is immeasurable, and sportscasters continue to talk about where they started -- at Stony Brook University.

Stony Brook University Athletics continues to provide a superior product in terms of its Division I Athletic Department and trends significantly lower in athletic fees in comparison to our peers in the America East, Colonial Athletic Association, and SUNY. Additionally, we are focused on continuing 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 a \$5.50 Intercollegiate Athletics per semester increase for the 2018-19 academic year.

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:

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Sincerely,

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