



March 28, 2019

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 2019-2020. 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** as well as the introduction of **Lifetime Career and Alumni Connections** 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 existing comprehensive fees, the University proposes an increase for full-time undergraduate students of \$100.40 per semester. This increase is essential to maintaining the cost of existing student services and expanding others. The Lifetime Career and Alumni Fee totals an additional \$25.00 per semester. This would bring the Comprehensive Fee total to \$1,152.90 for full-time Undergraduate students per semester, effective fall 2019.

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 2019-2020 academic year, please visit <https://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 Intramural and South Fields, and the staffing and scheduling of the 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 2,500 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 student the free use of a massage chair along with free confidential health screenings to identify opportunities to enhance healthy lifestyle choices. We have also acquired additional fields and a field house at the South Field complex. With our ongoing equipment replacement cycle, we replaced older cardio machines with 37 new treadmills and some specialized cardio machines.

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 \$2.40 per semester. As we continue to provide employment and leadership opportunities for our students, these additional resources will help address the costs associated with our 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 services such as onsite pharmacy and laboratory, free chiropractor services, 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, programs to increase access to care have expanded, including offering a Nurse Practitioner Clinic, PreP (HIV Prophylaxis), and a dietician on site for free consultation. To meet ever increasing student demand, we have also expanded hours of availability and bolstered afterhours services such as our medical advice line and CAPS After Hours. 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 \$5.00 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 which all adds to positive experiences and exposure for the entire university community.

Island Federal Credit Union Arena opened its doors four years ago and 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 \$7.75 increase in the Intercollegiate Athletics fee per semester in the 2019-20 academic year.

Technology

With improvement to connectivity, and student engagement with learning resources and learning spaces 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's Student Technology Fee Advisory Council actively engages student constituents in activities for obtaining feedback and suggestions from students, bringing in guest speakers, and visiting areas of campus that provide tech-fee funded resources;
- DoIT's "Suggestion Box" resource, accessible on Blackboard and through all SINC site desktops provides consistent, real time input;
- DoIT's annual student technology survey data;
- Our team's continual review of trends in how students engage with the university informs the selection of technology and technology services that benefit learning.

These feedback mechanisms help DoIT in its mission to offer reliable technological resources designed to make learning and engagement seamless and transparent. The proposed increase in the Technology Fee of \$52.75 per semester will be used to improve and expand: network infrastructure, access to library resources, classroom media systems, technology support services, security of student data, and more. To meet the needs of *all* students, DoIT will continue to bolster student connectivity which includes expanding the infrastructure required to increase and improve WiFi, cellular coverage, and broadband capabilities; increase investment in online library research databases and related technologies to deliver access;

increase the number of online courses and course materials; grow our tech support footprint to provide greater access to device support; and continue to build mobile applications that students want and need as they interact with the University on a daily basis.

This increased technology funding allows us greater customization of our technology resources for the needs of varied student populations including graduate, professional, and health science students, online students, undergraduate students, and students who expect our technologies and resources to be accessible and secure. In addition, the increase allows us to maintain and improve the quality of the resources offered to the campus community. The expectations of our diverse student populations are high, and DoIT strives to meet and exceed these expectations, provide the infrastructure to allow innovation to flourish, and help all students be successful.

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 by maintaining and operating an aging bus fleet, enhancing transit facilities, and providing transportation services to local shopping via the Suffolk Transit Connection. Using the Transportation Fee, we have been able to install larger bus shelters at the LIRR station and 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. The Transportation Fee 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. This system utilizes 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 \$32.50 per student per semester.

Lifetime Career and Alumni Connections

Stony Brook University's unique partnership between two distinct departments has a shared vision for the integration of alumni and student career development.

The Career Center exists to EDUCATE students & alumni about the career development process and industry options, empowering them to make informed career decisions; PREPARE students and alumni for experiential learning, employment and further education; and CONNECT our diverse student and alumni talent with hiring organizations. The Career Center is the only department on campus exclusively dedicated to positioning students and alumni for successful careers beyond Stony Brook.

The Office of Alumni Relations works in tandem with the Alumni Association, seeking to reach, serve and engage 190,000 Stony Brook alumni worldwide, students and other constituencies to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between the University and its graduates, and to provide the University with goodwill and support. The Alumni Association, a non-dues paying organization with no state funding allocation, and the Career Center, together offer an impressive array of benefits, programs, services and resources to the University, while not funded at a level which is appropriate for this size institution, student or alumni body.

Our shared vision is to join forces to better support students, building upon the existing foundation of excellent, but limited, career services. We seek to provide career development for every student while they are enrolled at SBU, and life after college. We seek to amplify employer and alumni engagement to produce more career and experiential opportunities for all students. We will strengthen the support for experiential education and the development of career readiness competencies – for every student at every class level, from every academic program, and with every career intention.

The Lifetime Career Development & Alumni Connections Advisory Group met in the fall of 2018 to hear the details of our vision and learn more about the services we could provide given the resources. Based on their feedback and additional consultations with undergraduate and graduate students, we propose a \$25.00 fee per semester.

This modest fee, far less than similar fees paid by students at Binghamton, Albany, and Buffalo, will enable us to amplify career support for students and alumni. Funds will be used to add staff and expand program offerings. Priorities include improving customized support for graduate students, international students, students from all class years engaging in experiential learning activities, and recruiting more alumni mentors and employers for the broadest possible range of career interests. We plan to expand our virtual and recorded offerings, to provide better access for students and alumni with busy schedules. We will also be developing a robust sequence of employer site visits and corporate gatherings of alumni and students. A significant investment will be made in creating new paid student employee positions for graduate and undergraduate students, and funds will be directed into the Career Center Student Professional Development Fund, which provides stipends for students to support career related travel (conferences, job interviews).

The University continues to carefully allocate these resources for the benefit of students, and works very hard to balance ensuring high quality of service at a reasonable cost. 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,

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