



Resolution # 15-2008

*The University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA)*

*The Pennsylvania State University*

2008 - 2009 Session

[November 19, 2008]

*Be it Enacted by the Association, having been brought to floor  
by a 2/3rds vote, a*

**Resolution**

**Reprobation of Commons Area Recreation Rooms Fees**

(Decided: [35/0/0])

**Nature of the Situation:**

Currently, there are plans to begin to charge a nominal fee to student groups and organizations using the Commons Area Recreation Rooms on campus. There presently exists extremely flawed reasoning behind the reasons for this fee from a student advocacy perspective and based upon reactions from student groups from across various areas on campus. The current plan for this fee is to only be applied to student groups which are not associated with Penn State Residence Life. It should be stated that the fee is planned to be implemented in January by administration. It is the opinion of the University Park Undergraduate Association and others who are associated with non-Residence Life groups that there is a need to make a statement regarding the illegitimacy of this fee and to begin to collaborate in a cohesive and collective manner that will help to create a consolidated and powerful student voice revoking this fee.

A monetary charge will not solve the issue of damages in the Recreation Rooms. If students are charged a fee, to cover renovation and cleaning expenses, nothing eliminates the factor that damages may increase, which may lead to an increase in the fee or even the creation of a new fee, further crippling student groups that do not have the funds to pay for such extra expenses. Student groups spend enough time and energy trying to keep an active membership, now the administration is trying to financially exclude them from using spaces they help fund through tuition, by implementing this fee. The adverse affects of this implementation is that student groups will be forced to increase fees, ultimately hindering student groups within university.

It shall also be said that this resolution will serve as a means to collect student opinions and to assist in the creation of discussion amongst students to put forth a more powerful voice on this issue. This fee has reportedly been passed by the Corporate Controller's Office and there are plans for implementation in January 2008, so there is a need for faster than normal action and mobilization on this issue.

It is the opinion of the UPUA that this fee is very detrimental to all student organizations not affiliated with Residence Life because a wide array of student organizations, including those who live in residence areas, use the recreation rooms as a way to facilitate messages and to reach out

1 to students living in the residence halls. These recreation rooms serve a vital purpose in the  
2 respect that they are needed to assist student groups in the communication of campus events and  
3 activities to students, and any fee of student groups to do this alienates and discourages activities  
4 not limited to the flow of information on campus.

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6 The money made from such a fee will go to Penn State through the Director of Housing and out  
7 of the hands of the students who pay it. This is irresponsible, and harms the accountability of the  
8 university and administrators. There is a dire need for a student voice on how the money  
9 generated by this fee is distributed. In addition, the current plans include no student controlling  
10 interest in this fee, by Association of Residence Hall Students (ARHS) or any other student  
11 group. When this fee is approved and is charged, it will be necessary that there be an organized,  
12 cohesive, and strong student voice created on where this money goes and how it is intended to be  
13 spent.

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15 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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17 It is the recommendation of the UPUA that all plans of implementing this fee shall be delayed  
18 until there is more information given to students about this fee and that a collective voice be  
19 created by the assembly, but not limited to all student groups on campus, to move forward with  
20 future actions, enabling a resolve to the fee as well as a review of potential fee costs. Also,  
21 proper documentation of this fee should be made public immediately so that members of student  
22 groups who use the recreation rooms are aware of the fee. The UPUA and others who are  
23 stakeholders in the implementation of this fee are to be encouraged to be active in gathering  
24 information on this fee and its purpose. It is also recommended that there be more precautions  
25 taken to make sure that fees such as this one can be prevented in the future, by consulting  
26 students who are going to be affected by the fee.

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28 As internal action, the Facilities Committee hereby charges the Executive Board with assisting in  
29 some of the duties of the investigations, and awareness in reasoning the details of the fee. This is  
30 deemed necessary because there has yet to be any formal documentation or information given to  
31 students on this fee, besides the fact that it will be implemented.

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33 The UPUA also formally requests a sound and justifiable report or line of reasoning on the  
34 necessity of this fee from the administration.

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36 The Assembly charges the UPUA Facilities Committee, in collaboration with ARHS, to form a  
37 task force to address concerns in relation to this fee. During this task force UPUA calls upon  
38 ARHS to postpone the fee implementation in good faith until all issues can be resolved.

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40 Respectfully submitted,

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42 Nick Mance, Off-Campus Representative, Facilities Committee Chair  
43 Sam Loewner, Off-Campus Representative, Facilities Committee Vice-Chair  
44 Peter Khoury, Freshman Representative  
45 Sedrick Hines, On-Campus Representative  
46 Bryant Poland, National Pan-Hellenic Council Representative

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Committee Vote: 5/0/0

Signature of the Assembly Chair:

Ralph K. Civello

Gavin Keirans  Affirm  
[President]  Veto

Gavin Keirans  
President, University Park Undergraduate Association