



Resolution # 6

The University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA)

of the 2008 - 2009 Session

August 27th, 2008

Be it Enacted by the Association, having been considered by the Summer Steering Committee, a

RESOLUTION

Facilities Fee Organization

(Decided: [22/1/1])

Nature of the Problem:

Currently a student facility's fee has been assessed to all students at University Park against the desire of the duly elected student government. This fee is fifty dollars a semester per student or approximately two million dollars a semester. A major objection by the student body and the UPUA has been the lack of clear student-controlled governing mechanisms for this money. Currently, and as far as the elected leadership is aware, no governing entity exists for this fee and the money generated. This Resolution serves to outline and provide recommendations for the implementation of a student-centered and controlled allocation of this new student tax.

Recommended Course of Action:

Nature of the Fee:

- The fee will be enacted to support the construction of non-academic, student services facilities at Penn State University Park.
- The fee will be driven by the understanding that the University believes it is in the best interests of the student community for students to finance improvements to their facilities. Students shall retain the right to decide that new facilities or additions are not required to support their needs. The University shall retain the right to support the upkeep of its existing facilities through financing dollars outside of its tuition receipts.
- The fee will be regulated by students and managed by the University. The students and University shall work together to support the end goals of the fee, but they shall respect the boundaries established by the management process.
- Any extra tuition student tax or fee shall not displace prior or future commitments by the University from its general funds for the uses outlined above.

Governing Structure:

- The Student Activity Fee Board and its subsidiaries shall have no jurisdiction over the facilities fee as new construction is beyond the scope of the SAFB's establishment.
- No Commonwealth Campus shall have influence on the University Park fee, nor shall University Park have any influence on Commonwealth Campus fees.

- 1 • The fee shall be regulated by the UPUA and GSA by an advisory board to the UPUA and GSA, under the
2 supervision of the UPUA Executive Board comprised of the following voting membership unless otherwise
3 denoted:
 - 4 ○ The chairman of the UPUA Facilities Committee as chairman of the Board
 - 5 ○ The membership of the UPUA Facilities Committee, including at least one off-campus Representative
 - 6 ○ One student member of the SAAB to be selected by the SAAB
 - 7 ○ One student employed or affiliated with University Park fitness services – selected by appropriate student
8 group
 - 9 ○ One student employed or affiliated with University Park Performing Arts services – to be selected by
10 appropriate student group
 - 11 ○ One student member of the ARHS - to be selected by ARHS
 - 12 ○ The student chair of the DSS
 - 13 ○ Two graduate students – to be selected by GSA
 - 14 ○ A member of the HUB-Robinson Cultural Advisory Board
 - 15 ○ The following individuals shall be extended invitations to serve as **non-voting** student members:
 - 16 ▪ The OPP Overall from THON
 - 17 ▪ The OPP Overall from Homecoming
 - 18 ▪ The LGTBA Student Resource Center
 - 19 ○ The University shall be welcomed to invite as **non-voting** resources to the board:
 - 20 ▪ One executive or staff member of OPP
 - 21 ▪ One executive or staff member of Fitness Services
 - 22 ▪ One executive or staff member of Accounting/Finance/Auxiliary Business Services
 - 23 ▪ One executive or staff member of Student Affairs (providing operational support for the group)
 - 24 ○ The UPUA Advisor shall be invited to serve as advisor to the Board. If they cannot serve, the University
25 may select a staff member from the Center for Student Engagement or a Graduate Assistant from any
26 student affairs department.
- 27 • The intent behind the membership design is to provide access to a diversity of student opinion to ensure that needs
28 are being met while constraint is being exercised.
- 29 • It is recognized that the University President and ultimately the Board of Trustees have the ultimate authority over
30 construction; however the UPUA Assembly shall retain full regulatory control over the Board on all matters of
31 what is ultimately sent or not sent to the University President.

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33 *Structure and Management of the Fee:*

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- 35 • The fee shall be assessed upon each student who is enrolled at University Park at Part-Time or higher status each
36 semester from Fall 2008.
- 37 • Fees shall be set at the Full-Time level and pro-rated to part-time based on credits.
- 38 • The Fee shall accumulate into various Funds as follows
 - 39 ○ A General Fund shall be maintained to support the start-up of new projects and for reasonable repairs an
40 maintenance of projects that have been supported by independent funds of the Fee that are, at the time of
41 considering general fund replenishment, closed.
 - 42 ○ Individual Project Funds to support construction, addition, repairs, and maintenance of facilities approved
43 for funding by the board.
- 44 • The Board shall meet each month of the academic year to consider the status of the fee and projects to be funded.
- 45 • For every project the University or Students wish to finance whole or in part through the facilities fee – the
46 project shall be presented in preliminary form to the Board at one of its meetings.
- 47 • No later than the second meeting following initial approval, the Board shall hear a detailed plan for the project
48 and how a individual project fund shall be set up to support the project. The presentation must include a per-
49 student dollar cost effective for the immediately following semester and projections of the same cost for each
50 semester period following initial.
- 51 • The Board shall vote to approve or not approve the project as a recommendation to the UPUA Assembly. If
52 approved, the per-semester, per-student cost shall accumulate into the fee. The Board shall have the right to not
53 approve projects for any rational business reason, including desire to not raise the fee, existing of similar
54 facilities, or belief that a more cost-efficient proposal exists.

- Each semester, the change in cost on each project shall accumulate into the fee. It is expected that project costs will decrease semester-over-semester at some point in the project life.
- At any meeting, but required at the anniversary meeting of the project's formal initial approval, the Board shall consider the need to override projected costs. Increases and Decreases may be proposed subject to the approval of the UPUA Assembly.
- The specific dollar amount of the fee shall be:
 - The sum of per-student semester cost of the outstanding approved projects and
 - The cost necessary to reset the general fund to a fixed opening balance of \$3M.
 - In the first year, the fee may be set at a higher amount with the intent to establish project funds in the first six months of the semester.
- It is acknowledged that fees are relatively fixed annually. With that said, the fee shall be formally set for the future academic year each March at an estimate of the actual with no more than a \$5 overage allowed.

Consideration of Projects and Providing Information:

- The fee and its spending shall be transparent. With the exception of confidential pricing/cost information, cost reports shall be furnished to the Board each semester from the University's Finance/Accounting offices.
- The Board shall permit the University as much time as it needs to provide its advisement at meetings and to present its projects. The University may return for reconsideration of projects an unlimited number of times provided that such actions do not cause undue hardship to the Board.
- The Board shall respect the duties of the University to ensure the upkeep and growth of the buildings and grounds.
- The University shall be permitted to hold the Board accountable to the University Trustees, and the Board shall be permitted to hold the University accountable to what it has expressly agreed to do for the Board.
- The ultimate approval of projects shall rest with the UPUA Assembly as the only entirely elected undergraduate student body, in consultation with the GSA.

Respectfully submitted,

Summer Steering Committee

Committee Vote: 5/0/0

Signature of the Chair:

[President]
Gavin Keirans

Affirm

Veto

The University Park Undergraduate Association