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S18RS SGCR No. 14 (Campus Life)

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STUDENT SENATE
S18RS
SGCR No. 14
BY: SENATOR GREEN

ENROLLED

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO PLACE A REFERENDUM BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODY IN THE FALL 2018 ELECTION TO URGE AND REQUEST THE LSU BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO REVIEW AND REAPPORTION THE CAMPUS LIFE SUPPORT FEE

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, THE CAMPUS LIFE SUPPORT FEE DOES NOT CURRENTLY SERVE THE STUDENT BODY WITH RESPECT TO THE COST STUDENTS PAY FOR IT; AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS FEE TO PROGRAMMING IS INSUFFICIENT WHEN COMPARED TO ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT; AND

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, THE OFFICIAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDENT FEE VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Campus Life Support Fee Report

Student Fee Value Assessment Committee

Background

The Campus Life Support Required Student Fee was first instated as a \$19.00 per semester and \$3.00 in the summer fee in the Fall of 2008. The Campus Life Support Fee also applied to all part time students as a dollar (\$1.00) per credit hour fee. It was increased the next year to \$20.00 with the following purpose:

“Dedicated to the Office of Campus Life, which provides hundreds of social, cultural, recreational and service programs for the campus each year. The Office of Campus Life provides students with opportunities to serve the campus in a variety of leadership and other volunteer positions. Examples of programs supported by this fee include speakers, art gallery exhibits, films, theatrical presentations, dances, concerts and entertainment events.”

The overall use of this fee as determined by Campus Life per student by semester is as follows:

Facilities Operations and Staff	\$16.00 (80%)
Programming	\$4.00 (20%)
Total	\$20.00

In the 2017 Financial Year, the spending breakdown of this fee was as follows:

Salaries	\$466,404 (41%)
Fringe Benefits	\$195,215 (17%)
GA Stipends	\$77,530 (7%)
Union Rental of Space	\$22,000 (2%)
Office Telecomm, Operations, and Supplies	\$76,441 (7%)
Student Employees	\$31,593 (3%)
Student Programming	\$224,640 (20%)
Rollover to FY 2018	\$33,089 (3%)
Total	\$1,126,912

From the 65% of this fee that pays for salaries, fringe benefits, and graduate stipends, the office of Campus Life in FY 2017 had nine full time staff positions (eight of which were paid by the Campus Life Support Fee) and seven graduate assistants. Campus Life attempted for FY 2018 to reduce the amount of hired graduate assistants from 7 to 4, but later increased graduate employment from 4 to 5.4 (one part-time) because they felt their programming quality would have suffered otherwise.

From the expense report, the current spending of the fee is in line with the intended breakdown, as 20% of the fee goes to programming and the other 80% is spent on facilities, operations, and staff. A significant portion of this programming (\$72,418.63 in FY 2017) is determined and planned by the Student Activities Board, which is an unpaid volunteer group of student leaders who work with Campus Life on programming for leadership development and experience purposes. The Student Activities Board plans activities and programs for students such as movie nights, the Silent Disco, and the Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball. At the majority of events planned by either Campus Life or the Student Activities Board, attendance is tracked through Tigercard swipe entries (with the exception of large-scale events such as the Homecoming Concert and Fall Fest) which for the 2016-2017 year were categorized by classification:

Freshman	957 (19.18%)
Sophomore	1180 (23.65%)
Junior	1123 (22.51%)
Senior	1309 (26.24%)
Post-Baccalaureate	2 (0.04%)
Graduate Student	406 (8.14%)
Law Student	8 (0.16%)
Vet Student	4 (0.08%)
Total	4989
Student Enrollment (Fall 2017)	30,099

Timeline

The Student Fee Value Assessment Committee was formed on February 7th, 2018, as a result of SGR No. 2 passed by the Student Senate with the explicit purpose “to review student required fees and their outcomes by weighing the value of each program, service, and entity.” This committee, comprised of members of both the Executive and Legislative branches of Student Government, met weekly after its formation to review public information regarding Student Required Fees. On February 9th, the committee requested from administration in Campus Life additional information regarding the Campus Life Support Fee such as budgets, expenditures, and attendance for any events associated with the fee. The committee also asked to set up a meeting with representatives from Campus Life to answer any questions the committee had regarding the fee. On February 22nd, the requested information was received, and the committee met with two representatives from Campus Life on March 1st. After reviewing public information and information provided by Campus Life, the committee convened to weigh the value of the programs and services provided by the Campus Life Support Required Student Fee. The opinions expressed in this report are reflective of the majority opinion of the committee.

Opinion

After reviewing all information provided, the committee would like the LSU Board of Supervisors to reassess the purpose of this fee compared to its current apportionment (20% for programming; 80% for facilities, operations, and staff). The committee agrees that this is not an appropriate apportionment of student fees and that not enough is allocated towards programming, which is evident in the quantity, quality, and outreach of the programming provided.

In terms of outreach, we believe that the quality of the programming offered by Campus Life is reflected by the attendance numbers of unique participants of

these events. The quantity of professional school attendees who equally subsidize this fee is grossly insufficient (8 law students in a year and 4 vet school students in a year) compared to the attendance of undergraduate and graduate students. The quality of outreach to these groups could be increased if more of this fee was directed towards programming, which includes advertisement.

The primary stated purpose of the Campus Life Support fee is to provide “hundreds of social, cultural, recreational and service programs for the campus each year,” which we believe is not accurately represented by the apportionment of this fee. We do not believe that the current ratio of programming to oversight is appropriate, especially given that a significant portion of this programming is offered by the Student Activities Board—an unpaid volunteer group of students. The committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors regulate the apportionment of this fee to 40 programming and 60 for facilities, operations, and staff; so that the overall use of this fee as determined by Campus Life per student by semester would be as follows:

Facilities Operations and Staff	\$12.00 (60%)
Programming	\$8.00 (40%)
Total	\$20.00

To make up for the loss of oversight, we would like to see the Student Activities Board and other student leadership involved with Campus Life expanded and be given more autonomy in planning these events. Additionally, we would prefer that significant cuts not be made to graduate assistant positions, as they have been shown to play important roles in guiding Campus Life student leaders. Additionally, graduate students are still here for educational purposes, so they can also benefit from the leadership development opportunities offered by Campus Life programming.

For these reasons, we recommend that the LSU Board of Supervisors reapportion the Campus Life Support Fee as described, so that the programming offered by this fee serves the students proportionally to its cost.

Jack Green

Co-Chair of the Student Fee Value Assessment Committee

PARAGRAPH 4: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE THAT A REFERENDUM BE PLACED BEFORE THE STUDENT BODY IN THE FALL 2018 ELECTIONS TO URGE AND REQUEST THE LSU BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO REVIEW AND REAPPORTION THE CAMPUS LIFE SUPPORT FEE.

PARAGRAPH 5: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS LIFE JACOB BRUMFIELD, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS JASON DRODDY, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DAN LAYZELL, AND THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

PARAGRAPH 6: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A TWO-THIRDS (2/3) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

APPROVED:

JAMES J. MICKLER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: _____

JASON J. BADEAUX
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: _____