

Fall 2019

F18RS SGR No. 18

Bridget Ryan

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Recommended Citation

Ryan, B. (2019). F18RS SGR No. 18. Retrieved from https://repository.lsu.edu/sg_sslegislation/1247

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STUDENT SENATE
S18RS
SGR No. 17
BY: SENATOR RYAN

ENROLLED

A RESOLUTION

TO COMMEND THE LSU STUDENT HEALTH CENTER AND STUDENT HEALTH CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, D'ANN MORRIS FOR PROPERLY USING STUDENT FEES IN ITS OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

- PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, THE LSU STUDENT HEALTH CENTER PROVIDES A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT PROMOTE PHYSICAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND GENERAL WELLNESS; AND
- PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, THE LSU HEALTH CENTER FEE IS LESS WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER SEC AND PEER INSTITUTION SCHOOLS WITH SIMILAR SERVICES; AND
- PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, THE LSU STUDENT HEALTH CENTER PROVIDED ALL NECESSARY FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS TO THE STUDENT FEE VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE, AND
- PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, THE FALL 2018 STUDENT FEE VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE HAS PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING OPINION REGARDING THE LSU STUDENT HEALTH CENTER FEE:

Opinion

After reviewing all information provided, it is the opinion of the Student Fee Value Assessment Committee (SFVAC), hereafter referred to as the Committee, that there should be no change to the fee.

The Student Health Center (SHC) Fee has steadily increased over the past several decades to meet increasing demand as well as offer more comprehensive services. It offers a wide variety of health related services, and it has also pioneered a system of comprehensive care, connecting the usually separated health components and allowing for more beneficial care. However, in recent years the SHC fee has remained stagnant even as salaries and demand have risen. The SHC was approved for a \$5 student fee increase for FY 14 to FY 16, but it never occurred due to administration changes and state operating budget cuts. The SHC Fee was increased by \$10 in 2017. This fee increase serves to maintain the SHC at its current level of service.

The SHC faced another series of challenges during the summer of 2016 when the SHC caught on fire, causing a significant amount of damage to the building and medical equipment. The SHC wanted to upgrade some of its older equipment but insurance would not cover the cost. As such, SHC had to pay for

additional medical equipment with its own funds. In addition, the basement was flooded in August 2016, which caused further damage to recently renovated areas. This led to an operating loss for FY 16.

The Committee also inquired about the pharmacy closure during the fall of 2018. The pharmacy originally operated under the SHC but was later contracted out in 2017 due to lack of student use. The contracted pharmacy left in 2018 because the service was not generating enough money to operate. The SHC pharmacy was out-of-network for insurance which costs students more money. Students also prefer other pharmacies that are nearby. The SHC determined that this was not a valuable use of student resources and fees. The Committee believe the SHC had student's best interest in mind when deciding to not reopen the pharmacy.

The Committee also looked at the availability of mental health services through the SHC, a major complaint among students. The Committee agrees with SHC's assessment that a lack of mental health services is not the issue; rather, it is underutilization of wellness programs. The SHC offers a variety of wellness programs that address nutrition, time management, stress management, bystander intervention, and other services that benefit students. Most of these services are unknown to the student body and the Committee believes there needs to be a larger marketing campaign to better inform students.

Overall, the Committee was impressed by how the SHC uses student fees. The SHC operates in an efficient and effective manner. As of now, there should be no change to the fee. The one improvement the Committee encourages is greater advertising of the wellness services they offer. Since the Committee's meeting with SHC Executive Director D'Ann Morris, Student Government has begun working with the SHC to improve student awareness of the services.

PARAGRAPH 5: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE THAT NO CHANGES TO THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER FEE SCHEDULE ARE NEEDED FOR ITS WORK AND SERVICES, AND

PARAGRAPH 6: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT STUDENT GOVERNMENT TAKES AN ACTIVE ROLE IN INCREASING STUDENT AWARENESS OF SERVICES OFFERED BY THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER, AND

PARAGRAPH 7: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO D'ANN MORRIS, STUDENT HEALTH CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND

PARAGRAPH 8: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) 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:

Christina Black
Speaker of the Senate

Stewart Lockett
Student Body President

Date:_____

Date:_____