

Objective Statement

Petition to Increase the Health Services Fee

Summary

Upon recommendation by the Campus Fee Advisory Committee ("CFAC"), President Baker has approved the submittal of a fee proposal to the students for advice and consultation. The proposal would increase the Health Services Fee by \$30 per quarter for all students attending Cal Poly effective Fall quarter 2009. The purpose of the proposed fee increase is to fund an additional three health professionals and three counselors, including ancillary staff and supplies, and to offset anticipated cuts to the department's budget next year. This fee is classified as a Category II fee, a campus mandatory fee. Category II fees are "fees that must be paid to enroll in or attend the university."¹ In accordance with the Education Code and Executive Order 1034 this fee proposal is subject to either an advisory student referendum or other alternative consultation mechanism. Either method is advisory to the President. Based on a further recommendation by CFAC, the President has approved a process of consultation in lieu of a referendum ballot.

Background

Executive Order 814 governs the provision of health services in the California State University and prescribes basic services that shall be made available to all matriculated students who have paid the mandatory health services fee. Executive Order 814 also prescribes elective or specialized health services that may be provided on a fee-for-service basis. This fee proposal is limited to basic services funded by the mandatory health services fee.

The Health Services Fee provides partial funding to support the Health Services department, which provides health services and health and wellness programs for students.

Approximately two-thirds of students use the Health Center as their primary medical provider. Currently, many services provided by the Health Center are available to students at no additional charge. For example, students do not have to pay a per visit fee to see the Health Services' physicians or nurse practitioners.

¹ Executive Order No. 1034

Cal Poly's student enrollment has grown by 18% over the last seven years yet Health Services' staffing is down by two full-time equivalent health professionals. Additionally, the Health Services' operating budget was cut by 4.3% for academic year 2008-09, is anticipating an additional mid-year budget reduction, and a further budget reduction in FY 2009/10. The increase in enrollment-based demand, paired with a drop in health professional staff and reduced financial resources has resulted in longer waits, reduced availability of appointments, early closings, the inability to see students on follow-up as quickly as desired and declining student satisfaction.

Health Services' operations were reviewed by the Student Health Advisory Council ("SHAC"). At the request of the director of Health Services, SHAC distributed a questionnaire asking students what changes they would like to see at Health and Counseling Services. The number one suggestion was to increase the number of health professionals to improve the delivery of health and counseling services to students.

Financial

Health and Counseling Services receives financial support for its program operations from two funding sources: (1) CSU Operating Fund allocations and (2) revenues generated from the Health Services Fee.

For fiscal year 2008-09, the Health Services Fee is \$55.40 per quarter, per student for fall, winter, and spring quarters. For comparison, the average CSU Health Services fee for FY 2008/09 is \$62 per quarter. The current Cal Poly fee is estimated to generate approximately \$3.2 million for fiscal year 2008-09. This estimate is based on an enrollment forecast of 17,350 full time equivalent students for Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters, and is exclusive of individuals who qualify for fee waiver programs.

This revenue is augmented by CSU Operating Fund support to provide Health Services' total annual operating budget. The Health Services' budget has always exceeded the revenue generated by the fee. The total budget has never been less than the revenue generated by the fee.

In 2008-09, Health and Counseling Services' CSU Operating fund budget was reduced by 4.3% or approximately \$185,000. As a result of California's continuing fiscal crisis, Health and Counseling Services is forecasting an additional reduction for fiscal year 2009-10.

Proposed Increase in the Health Services Fee

The Health Services fee was established in Fall 1993 at \$28 per quarter. In Spring 2001, based on alternative consultation with students and faculty, the President authorized the annual application of a Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) to all campus mandatory fees effective Fall Quarter 2001. Students approved an additional increase of \$15 per quarter effective Fall 2004. As a result, the Health Services Fee is currently \$55.40 per quarter. If fully implemented, this fee is projected to increase to \$87.62 beginning Fall quarter 2009 and generate approximately \$5,036,000 in total annual revenue or approximately \$1,850,403 in incremental revenue (Exhibit A). These projections assume a 4% price index.

Exhibit A
Proposed Health Services Fee Increase

Current Fall 2008	Estimated Quarterly Fall 2009	Proposed \$30 Quarterly Increase	FY 2009/10 Academic Year Total (Fall, Wtr, Spr)
\$55.40	\$57.62	\$87.62	\$262.85

* Includes a projected annual adjustment of 4% for price inflation.

Exhibit A
Total Estimated Revenue

Forecasted Revenue – FY 2008/09	\$ 3,185,754
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Projected FY 09/10 Enrollment		No Increase	\$30 Increase
Summer	3,748	\$ 207,639	\$ 207,639
Fall, Winter, Spring	55,110	\$ 3,175,218	\$ 4,828,518
Total Estimated Revenue		\$ 3,382,857	\$ 5,036,157
Incremental Revenue over FY 08/09		\$ 197,103	\$ 1,850,403

The Health Services Fee is one of the eight Category II fees (mandatory campus registration fees) that must be paid to enroll in state supported instruction. Cal Poly undergraduate students enrolled in six or more units currently pay \$4,287 to \$5,043 for tuition and fees for fall, winter, and spring quarters, depending on a student's declared major. If the fee proposal is approved, effective fall 2009 students would pay an additional \$30 per quarter. An increase in this fee would be included in student financial aid need analyses and eligible for financial aid awards.

Pro & Con Statements

The following are pro and con statements submitted by students about the proposed fee increase of \$30 per quarter, effective Fall quarter 2009, to fund an additional 3 medical providers and 3 counselors, including ancillary staff and supplies and to offset anticipated reductions to the department's budget next year.

Pro Statement:

The Cal Poly Health Center serves as an invaluable resource for students living both on and off campus. The Health Center sees thousands of students per year free of charge and provides medication and testing at an incredibly low cost. A small fee increase of \$30 will not only increase the number of full time medical staff, but will also allow for the hiring of additional full time counselors as well. In order to meet the demands of students while also shortening wait time, an increase in funding is near vital.

Neelie Jaggi
Communication Studies
College of Liberal Arts

Con Statement:

Student fees are at an all time high. The CSU has been faced with huge mid-year cuts and the University is in the planning stages of increasing College Based or Cal Poly Plan fees; the last thing students need is to carry any more financial weight.

The Health Center Fee proposal calls for an increase in staff with no mention of spatial necessities. The \$35 per/quarter increase does not consider the need for facility improvements.

Kayvan Chinichian
Political Science
College of Liberal Arts

