

**SENATE RESOLUTION #2422**



**TITLE: Proposed Mandatory Student Fee Increases for FY15**

**DATE: March 6, 2014**

**AUTHORS: Vice President Murdoch and Senator West**

**SPONSORS: President Kahler, Executive Iberlin, Senators Gondalia, Gross, True and SALs Gern and Schmick**

1. WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Mandatory
2. Student Fee Committee (Committee) recognizes the responsibility to recommend mandatory
3. student fees that benefit a large population of students; and,
4. WHEREAS, the ASUW Student Government has the responsibility to accurately represent
5. the sentiment of the entire student body; and,
6. WHEREAS, The University of Wyoming (UW) entities holding mandatory student
7. fees are required to submit fee proposals forecasting the next fiscal year in order to keep in
8. line with the UW's current fee process; and,
9. WHEREAS, the evaluation of proposed mandatory student fee increases promotes continued
10. operation and expansion of the requesting UW fee units; and,
11. WHEREAS, there is a potential university-wide mandate to increase staff salaries and
12. benefits by a proposed four percent (4%); and
13. WHEREAS, the Committee evaluated only the programmatic mandatory student fee increase
14. requests from the University fee units in respect to the before-mentioned mandate; and,
15. WHEREAS, the Committee distributed a survey regarding the programmatic mandatory
16. student fee increase requests from the University fee units in order to elicit student responses;
17. and,
18. WHEREAS, the Committee used the collected data (contained in Addendum C) from the
19. aforementioned survey to aid in the evaluation of the mandatory student fee increase

20. requests to determine the ASUW's recommendation to the UW Board of Trustees.
21. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Senate of the Associated Students of the
22. University of Wyoming (ASUW) that the ASUW recommend and support the Fiscal Year
23. 2015 Mandatory Student Fees as outlined in Addendum A; and,
24. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW provide recommendations and further
25. explanations to the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees concerning student sentiment
26. in regards to the mandatory student fee increase requests as outlined in Addendum B.

Referred to: Student Outreach and Policy, Budget and Planning Committee

Date of Passage: 3/25/14

Signed: Kia N. Murdoch

(ASUW Chairperson)

"Being enacted on 3/27/14, I do hereby sign my name hereto and

approve this Senate action." Brett Kahler

ASUW President

Addendum A

	FY 14 Approved Fee	Increase	Percent Increase	FY 15 Proposed Fee	
ASUW	35.19	\$ 1.36	3.86%	\$ 36.55	*\$0.66 programmatic increase
AWARE	5.1	\$ 0.37	7.25%	\$ 5.47	
Music/Theater	6.05	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 6.05	
Recycle	9.11	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 9.11	
SLCE	3	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	
Stu. Media	19.97	\$ 0.35	1.75%	\$ 20.32	
Wellness	7.03	\$ 8.22	116.93%	\$ 15.25	*\$7.30 programmatic increase
SS Total	\$ 85.45	\$ 10.30	12.05%	\$ 92.75	
Athletics	102.5	\$ 12.50	12.20%	\$ 115.00	*\$12.50 programmatic increase
Recreation	110	\$ 2.50	2.27%	\$ 112.50	
Stu.Health	105.23	\$ 1.80	1.71%	\$ 107.03	
Transit	40.64	\$ 13.32	32.78%	\$ 53.96	*\$12.85 programmatic increase
Union	138.37	\$ 7.94	5.74%	\$ 146.31	
Non-SS Total	\$ 496.74	\$ 38.06	7.66%	\$ 534.80	
<b>Gr. TOTAL*</b>	<b>\$ 582.19</b>	<b>\$ 48.36</b>	<b>8.31%</b>	<b>\$ 627.55</b>	



## **Addendum B**

Trustees of the University of Wyoming,

The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) would like to thank you for considering our recommendations on the proposed increases for the Mandatory Student Fees for Fiscal Year 2015.

The ASUW Mandatory Fee Committee commenced in September of 2013 to begin researching the history of the mandatory student fees. The Committee then invited each mandatory student fee unit to speak during the fall semester on any proposed increases to their mandatory student fee. ASUW has agreed to support the proposed four percent (4%) increases for salary and health benefits for all fee units, in alignment with the potential mandate from the Wyoming State Legislature.

After hearing all of the proposals, the Committee created a student fee survey that was distributed to the entire student body this January. The purpose of the survey was to assess student opinion on the programmatic increases proposed by the following fee units: ASUW, University of Wyoming Athletics Department, the Student Wellness Cluster, and the Transit and Parking Services unit. ASUW's recommendations are based upon information relayed during the fee unit hearings, the results of the student fee survey, and additional research done by ASUW. Below is further explanation describing ASUW's corresponding decisions.

The ASUW proposed a \$0.97 per semester programmatic increase intended to expand the Associated Students Technical Students (ASTECH) program. The proposed expansion included increasing labor hours for the student employees of ASTECH in order to provide more availability for student groups to utilize the free audio-technical services, in addition to equipment maintenance and replacement funds for ASTECH. The Committee supported the increased labor hour funds due to the direct impact on student workers, student groups, and student attendees of events using the ASTECH services. This academic year alone, the ASTECH program has already impacted over 50,000 individuals at more than 300 events. The Committee did not support the equipment maintenance and replacement funds because it will not directly impact the student body, and the student survey results reflected hesitation towards the increase. Therefore, ASUW supports a programmatic increase of \$0.66 in addition to the four percent (4%) salary and benefit package, totaling a \$1.36 increase for the ASUW Student Fee.

The University of Wyoming Athletics Department proposed a \$12.50 per semester programmatic increase. After the initial Athletic Department-hearing, the Committee was not clear on the destination of the student fee funds, so a second hearing was requested. After the second hearing, the destination of the proposed student fee funds within the Athletics Department's budget was still ambiguous, and the direct impact to the entire student body and/or student athletes was unclear. The Committee ensured student athlete perspectives were represented by meeting with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and distributing the student fee survey directly to student athletes and student athletic-support groups. The survey

results were substantially unresponsive of an increase to the Athletic Department's mandatory student fee. After extensive research and deliberation, the Committee determined that support could not be given to a proposed fee increase where there was no definitive impact to students nor student support present. However, the Athletics Department offered the Student Fee Committee a compromise, included in Addendum D, consisting of the Committee's support for the proposed mandatory student fee this Fiscal Year (FY 15), and in return, the Athletics Department would not request the Athletic mandatory student fee to be increased for the next two Fiscal Years (FY 16 and 17). However, it was still unclear to the Committee where the mandatory student fee funds would go within the Athletic Department's budget, and were uncomfortable with how mandatory student fee funds would be spent. After the Committee's final decision, a detailed budget (outlined in Addendum E) was distributed to the ASUW Student Senate in order to consider the proposed Athletics mandatory student fee proposal. Therefore, though the committee did not support the proposed increase before the above mentioned budget was provided, the ASUW Student Senate was in favor of the proposed increase due to the provided budget. Since the Athletic Department does not claim employee salaries are directly affected by the mandatory student fee funds, the ASUW supports a programmatic increase of \$12.50 for the University of Wyoming Athletic Department Fee for FY15.

The Student Wellness Cluster proposed a \$7.30 per semester programmatic increase to provide the campus with a Student Wellness Center inside of Half Acre Gymnasium upon completion of the current renovations. The Center would include a full-time Athletic Trainer and full-time Health Educator available to the entire student body, free of charge, as well as University Community members who have paid for membership. The Committee was in support of the entire proposed student fee increase for numerous reasons. First, the increase has a high possibility of diminishing over time as well as having a direct impact on the entire student body. Second, the student fee survey reflected support for the proposed increase. Finally, a unique service would otherwise not be possible in the newly renovated Half Acre Gymnasium without the initial funding from mandatory student fees. Therefore, ASUW supports a \$7.30 per semester programmatic increase in addition to the four percent (4%) salary and benefit package, totaling a \$8.22 increase for the Student Wellness Cluster Fee.

The Transit and Parking Services unit proposed a \$12.85 per semester programmatic increase to provide expansion of bus routes to include the new University Gateway Center as well as an additional bus to combat wait times for the expanded route service. The student survey results reflected student support for the proposed student fee increase. The Committee determined the increase would impact current and prospective students directly. Also, the proposed student fee increase is intended only for the next fiscal year; furthermore, if not funded, the Transit and Parking Services unit would be unable to meet the needs of the new University Gateway Center and planned route expansion. Therefore, ASUW supports a \$12.85 per semester programmatic increase in addition to the four percent (4%) salary and benefit package, totaling a \$13.32 increase for the Transit and Parking Services Fee.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the ASUW's Student Fee Committee recommendation and we are grateful to be included in the process of determining the Mandatory Student Fees for Fiscal Year 2015.

Sincerely,

The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming





## Addendum C




### Student Fee Increases Survey FY15

Respondents: 2136 displayed, 2136 total      Status: Closed  
 Launched Date: 02/04/2014      Closed Date: 02/26/2014



1. This academic year, you pay \$102.50 to the UW Athletic Department each semester, which provides free student access to athletic events, and academic resources for student athletes. If better recruitment methods, game guarantees, and more efficient travel for athletes were offered in an effort to enhance competitive strategies, would you support an increase in your fee for these purposes?

		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes		400	19%	n/a	n/a
No		1735	81%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents		2135			
(skipped this question)		1			

2. How much of an increase would you support?




		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
\$6.00 per semester		91	34%	n/a	n/a
\$12.00 per semester		93	35%	n/a	n/a
\$19.00 per semester		85	32%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents		269		100%	
(skipped this question)		1867			

3. This academic year, you pay \$40.64 to Transit and Parking each semester, which provides free bus routes around campus, to and from free parking lots, and to the University apartments, in addition to SafeRide services. If the routes were expanded and buses were added to combat wait times, would you support an increase in your fee for these purposes?



		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes		786	52%	n/a	n/a
No		738	48%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents		1524			

(skipped this question) 612




4. How much of an increase would you support?

		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
\$7.00 per semester		429	55%	n/a	n/a
\$13.00 per semester		200	26%	n/a	n/a
\$20.00 per semester		154	20%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents		783	100%		
		(skipped this question)	1353		

5. This academic year, you pay \$7.03 to Student Wellness each semester, which provides salaries and professional mental health services through the University Counseling Center. If a Wellness Center were opened inside Half Acre gym, providing a full-time Athletic Trainer and a full-time Health Educator accessible to all students, would you support an increase in your fee for these purposes?



		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes		804	53%	n/a	n/a
No		700	47%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents			1504		
		(skipped this question)	632		

6. How much of an increase would you support?




		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
\$4.00 per semester		391	49%	n/a	n/a
\$8.00 per semester		211	26%	n/a	n/a
\$12.00 per semester		199	25%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents		801	100%		
		(skipped this question)	1335		



7. This academic year, you pay \$35.19 to ASUW each semester, a portion of which provides free audio/visual services to all RSOs through ASTEC. If ASTEC were to provide higher quality equipment and additional labor for the free audio/visual services offered, would you support an increase in your fee for these purposes?

		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
Yes		395	27%	n/a	n/a
No		1092	73%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents		1487	100%		
(skipped this question)			649		

8. How much of an increase would you support?

		Response Total	Response Percent	Points	Avg
\$1.00 increase per semester		119	30%	n/a	n/a
\$2.00 increase per semester		102	26%	n/a	n/a
\$3.00 increase per semester		171	44%	n/a	n/a
Total Respondents		392	100%		
(skipped this question)			1744		

## **Addendum D**

**TO: Brett Kahler, ASUW President**  
**FROM: Tom Burman, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics**  
**DATE: March 3, 2014**  
**RE: Proposal for Student Fee Support**

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Thank you for your consideration of the proposal as discussed on March 3, 2014.

If the SFC of the University of Wyoming is willing to support the increase in student-fees for the 2014-15 year, the UW Athletics Department will agree to freeze its annual request at the current 2014-15 level for the following two years (2015-16 & 16-17).

We think the additional revenue from student-fees are needed for the next FY, and we are hopeful you feel this is a win/win proposal for the students and 375+ student-athletes who pay fees.

Some may question the value athletics brings to the University of Wyoming and why student fees should be directed toward intercollegiate athletics. I am hopeful I can answer those questions in a manner that helps clarify some of the issues.

1. Wyoming athletic events are a big draw for students at UW. We often draw more than 4,000 students to a Cowboy football game. The seats provided to UW students have a retail value of \$30 to \$45 per game. We allow all students to enter ALL Wyoming athletics events at no charge. This is not the case at every school, in fact, many schools charge fees and then charge a student ticket charge.
2. Arena Auditorium renovation will dramatically enhance the seating location and atmosphere for students. We are going to re-locate the student section on the floor and immediately adjacent to the visiting team bench area and around behind the basket.
3. UW athletics events are the primary method to entice UW alumni, legislators and donors to return to Laramie, Wyoming. If we didn't have DI athletics it would be very difficult to have the same type of engagement among the constituents as we do today.
4. Athletics donors have become some of the best contributors to academic program across campus. Many of UW's largest contributors made their first donation to athletics and have since given million-dollar gifts to other parts of campus at a later date. The engagement often comes through athletics.
5. UW Athletics generates significant publicity on a regional and national level that cannot be matched by other entities on campus. Unfortunately, sports is a driver in the world of media coverage and we need to continue to push our athletics programs in an effort to grown our brand regionally and nationally.
6. Athletics plays a very important role in helping to create more diversity on the campus – especially among minority groups.
7. Last but not least, athletics is a very important revenue stream for the University as we spend over \$4,000,000 annually in tuition and fees and other associated costs.

Thank you for your consideration. Go Pokes!