BOARD OF REGENTS
STATE OF IOWA

MANDATORY FEES AT REGENT UNIVERSITIES

Brief History of Mandatory Student Fees

Mandatory student fees on America's campuses began over a century ago with the uncontroversial motive of funding extracurricular activities and amenities not covered by tuition to enhance student life. The belief was that certain activities and facilities – from athletic fields to student centers to caps and gowns – clearly would enhance student life on campus. For example, in 1875, the student fee at the University of Wisconsin paid for "heating and lighting the university hall and public rooms, music, each diploma, and a matriculation fee in the law department." Similarly, in 1949, the fee paid for "admission to athletic contests, concerts, class dues, cap and gown fees, [and] science laboratory fees."[1]

Mandatory fees provide access to activities and services, and are typically assessed to all students. They are not user fees and may not be waived. All students are encouraged to take advantage of the benefit these fees provide.

These fees are not for academic purposes, provide a distinct revenue resource and may only be used for the stated purpose – that is, they are restricted funds.

Mandatory Fees History at Regent Universities: Prior to the 1990's, a portion of tuition would be designated to purposes such as student activities and services. During the early 1990's, the Regents approved three types of mandatory fees, which were in addition to tuition - health fees, computer fees, and health facility fees. Mandatory fees provide a distinct resource to respond to the specific needs of students and are restricted to the purpose outlined.

The student health fee was approved for FY 1991, after several months of study. This fee eliminated the existing voluntary health fee and created a mandatory student health fee to benefit all students.

The computer fee (now technology fee) was initiated in the fall of 1990 for FY 1992. At the time, the institutions were charging numerous, miscellaneous computer fees for courses/programs. The Board consolidated these miscellaneous computer fees into a comprehensive fee to improve computer education and access for all students. The mandatory computer fee continues to serve the purpose for which it was established, providing a distinct resource to respond to computer infrastructure and technology needs to support instructional initiatives and programs.

The health facility fee was initiated at Iowa State University for FY 1994 to be applied to debt service obligations on a bond sale that funded the relocation and improvements of facilities for the Student Health Service. This was followed by the initiation of health facility fees to support improvements to student health facilities.

Establishment of the Student Fee Committee: During the 1992 General Assembly, legislation was enacted providing students the authority to participate in the allocation decisions for student fees.

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[1] A Brief History of Mandatory Student Fees http://www.thefire.org/pdfs/student-fees-2.pdf

MANDATORY FEES AT REGENT UNIVERSITIES

Per Iowa Code §262.34B, a student fee committee at each university, composed of five students and five university employees, is required to make recommendations for the student fee allocations to the university president by April 15 for the subsequent academic year.

The university president, in turn, makes a recommendation to the Board and the Board makes the final decision on the allocations of student fees. This process allows student input into the decisions of how the student fees are allocated.

Redirect of Tuition to Mandatory Fees: In October 1999, the Board made a fundamental change in the structure of tuition and fees, approving a request of the University of Iowa to establish new mandatory fees for certain student activities and student services and eliminating designated tuition. The change took tuition revenues that had been designated historically for student activities and student services, and established them as separate and distinct mandatory fees to allow for greater transparency and accountability.

In October 2000, the Board made a similar redirection of tuition to new mandatory fees for Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa so that an additional portion of tuition revenues could be utilized for academic programs.

The redirection from tuition to mandatory fees produced the following:

- Tuition dollars became available for academic areas and needs.
- Students paid mandatory fees rather than tuition to support specific programs that promote student activities and services.
- Students continued to pay the same amount for tuition, plus any base tuition increase approved by the Board for next year (i.e. students continued to pay the same level of tuition, but the funds were spent for different purposes).

Continued Student Involvement: In approving this redirection to mandatory fees, the Board required the universities to return to the Board for specific approval of any increase in fees and to:

- Consult with students regarding the proposed expenditures of the newly available tuition revenues released by redirection of tuition to fees.
- Report to the Board on revenues and expenditures for all tuition and fees generated by this proposal (including the disposition of unallocated funds).
- Address the applicability of mandatory fees for part-time students, off-campus students, and summer session students.

Prior to the elimination of designated-tuition fees, there had been a mix of mandatory fees and designated-tuition fees on a per student basis. In certain cases, a particular student need was funded from both sources, which often caused confusion.

In November 2002, the Board directed the universities to phase out all allocations of tuition and establish them as mandatory fees, simplifying student fees. Designated-tuition fees were completely eliminated by the 2004-05 academic year.

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Current Policy: Regent Policy Manual §8.03 contains the Board's current policy on mandatory fees as follows:

8.03 Mandatory Fees

A. General Policy

Mandatory fees, charged to each student, provide a distinct resource to respond to specific needs of students. Each institution must seek Board approval for any new mandatory fees or changes in mandatory fees.

For a new mandatory fee to be established, a university must:

- Disclose origination of proposed fee (i.e. by student request or a need identified by the university).
- Identify the basis for the fee (i.e. services to be provided by fee and related costs of those services).
- Consult with students regarding the proposed expenditures of the newly available revenues.
- Obtain documentation from the recognized student body governments indicating the extent of student support for new fee.

For proposed increases in mandatory fees above inflation, a university must follow the steps outlined for a proposed new fee.

Annually, during the discussion of tuition and mandatory fees, the universities must:

- Report to the Board on revenues and expenditures for all fees generated by the mandatory fees (including the disposition of unallocated funds);
- Unexpended funds from mandatory fees must be spent for the purposes for which the fee was originally implemented.
- Address the applicability of mandatory fees for part-time students, off-campus students, and summer session students.

Each university must establish formal policies and procedures for assessing each mandatory fee and for granting exemptions.

B. Mandatory Fees for Part-Time Students

The institutions must submit any changes regarding assessment of mandatory fees to part-time students to the Board for approval during the annual discussion of tuition and mandatory fees.

C. Exemptions

The universities may grant exemptions from mandatory fees to extension and study abroad students and other off-campus groups, such as student teachers, co-op students, internship students, and practicum students.

University exemption policies should consider the student's access to campus services and physical proximity to campus. University policies should include definitions and criteria for judging access to institutional facilities and should be consistent with related bond covenants.

MANDATORY FEES AT REGENT UNIVERSITIES
Description of Mandatory Fees

The following is a list of mandatory fees approved for the 2015-16 academic year. These fees were approved in December 2014. While some of the fees do not apply to all three universities or are structured a bit differently, the following provides a general description of each fee and what it supports.

Technology Fee (SUI, ISU, UNI) – provides a distinct resource to respond to computer infrastructure and technology needs to support instructional initiatives and programs. These fees support such areas as: student-focused central computing services, computer labs, internet access, technology classrooms, etc.

Higher technology fees were approved for students majoring in Business, Engineering, Law, Public Health, and Pharmacy at the University of Iowa, and for students majoring in Business, Agricultural Systems Technology, Engineering, Computer Science, and Industrial Technology at Iowa State University, with the additional funds earmarked for support of the computer services and facilities used by students in those majors.

The University of Northern Iowa has only one mandatory technology fee for all students.

Health Fee (SUI, ISU, UNI) – Health services provide basic health services equitably to all students. The fee allows a student to see a health professional with no office visit charge as many times during the semester as needed. Services may include consultations, treatments, injections, laboratory exams, prescription services, over the counter medications, prevention, nutrition counseling, and wellness education; services may have additional costs. Mental health services are also provided.

Health Facility Fee (SUI, ISU, UNI) – finances the repair, renovation, and space additions needed for Student Health Facilities and funds the debt service for bonds issued for those health facilities. Currently, there are no fees for SUI.

Student Activities Fee (SUI, ISU, UNI) – primarily provides funding for the student governments and many other student-run organizations. Funds are allocated by the Student Fee Committee and reported to the Board of Regents prior to the start of a new academic year.

Student Services Fee (SUI, ISU, UNI) – provides funding for services including the bus systems on each campus, student publications (e.g. Daily Iowan), and may include support for athletics. Funds allocated by Student Fee Committee and reported to the Board of Regents prior to the start of a new academic year.

Career Services Fee (SUI) – funds centralized and comprehensive services offered by the Career Center Services at SUI. Examples of services include career education, experiential education (e.g. internships), on-campus recruiting, corporate and community relations, and employment research.

Student Union Fee (SUI) – provides funding for a portion of the operational costs of the Iowa Memorial Union.

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Arts & Cultural Events (SUI) – supports many cultural events and performances on campus that are free to students. The fee also subsidizes a reduced cost of student admission to any ticketed event produced by the Division of Performing Arts (student are admitted at a reduced price).

Recreation Fee (SUI, ISU, UNI) – supports the operation and maintenance of recreational services facilities on the campuses as well as programmatic recreational offerings (intramurals). The fee includes the debt service on the recent new construction of recreation and wellness buildings at SUI and ISU.

Building Fee (SUI, ISU, UNI) – used to pay the debt service for certain construction projects (self-supporting facilities) on the campuses. Examples include the memorial unions on each of the campuses. Fees are allocated among enterprises to ensure minimum bond coverage ratios are met. Allocation is approved by Student Fee Committee and reported to the Board of Regents prior to the start of a new academic year.

Professional Enhancement Fee (SUI) – charged to all enrolled students in the Graduate College. The Graduate College offers many professional enhancement opportunities, including: Professional Development Workshops/Programs; Scholarly Integrity; Sponsored Programs – Grant Writing; and the Jakobsen Conference/Forum.

Mandatory Fees																
YEAR	RESIDENT TUITION	Technology	Health	Health Facility	Student Activities	Student Services	Student Union	Building	Career Services	Recreation	Arts & Cultural Events	Total All Mandatory Fees	% INCREASE	TOTAL RESIDENT TUITION & MANDATORY FEES	% INCREASE	HEPI Inflation Range
SUI																
2011-12	6,436	442	224	10	67	71	116	119	21	235	24	1,329	3.1%	7,765	4.7%	2.2%-4.0%
2012-13	6,678	463	237	-	69	74	120	123	26	243	24	1,379	3.8%	8,057	3.8%	2.6%-4.2%
2013-14	6,678	463	237	-	70	74	120	123	26	246	24	1,383	0.3%	8,061	0.0%	1.8%-3.4%
2014-15	6,678	469	237	-	71	75	120	123	26	256	24	1,401	1.3%	8,079	0.2%	1.8%-3.2%
2015-16	6,678	477	237	-	72	77	120	123	26	269	25	1,426	1.8%	8,104	0.3%	1.6%-3.2%
ISU																
2011-12	6,408	230	196	16	71	188		55		322		1,078	20.4%	7,486	7.0%	2.2%-4.0%
2012-13	6,648	230	196	16	71	188		55		322		1,078	0.0%	7,726	3.2%	2.6%-4.2%
2013-14	6,648	230	196	16	71	188		55		322		1,078	0.0%	7,726	0.0%	1.8%-3.4%
2014-15	6,648	230	196	16	74	191		55		322		1,084	0.6%	7,732	0.1%	1.8%-3.2%
2015-16	6,648	230	196	16	74	196		55		322		1,089	0.5%	7,737	0.1%	1.6%-3.2%
UNI																
2011-12	6,408	229	176	29		213		235		60		942	4.0%	7,350	4.9%	2.2%-4.0%
2012-13	6,648	252	189	29		217		235		65		987	4.8%	7,635	3.9%	2.6%-4.2%
2013-14	6,648	258	203	31		258		220		67		1,037	5.1%	7,685	0.7%	1.8%-3.4%
2014-15	6,648	270	213	31		295		224		68		1,101	6.2%	7,749	0.8%	1.8%-3.2%
2015-16	6,648	290	228	31	101	219		229		71		1,169	6.2%	7,817	0.9%	1.6%-3.2%

New Rec Building

University Mandatory Fee Proposals for 2015-2016 Academic Year

University	**SUI / ISU / UNI**		
Mandatory Fee Category (Please circle)	**Technology / Health / Health Facility / Student Activities / Student Services / Student Union / Building Fee / Career Services / New** _____		
Sub-Categories (Please circle)	**Business / Engineering / Public Health / Law Comp Sci & MIS / Undergraduate / Graduate Other** _____		
Other Details (Please specify)			
Actual 2014-15 Fee Amount ($)		**Proposed Amount ($)**	
Proposed increase ($ & %):			
Discussed with leadership of: Faculty? Staff? Students? Discussed with other university presidents?	YES NO YES NO YES NO YES NO		
Provide clear and concise explanation along with convincing justification for proposed increase (use as much space as necessary)			
Concisely describe how proposed increase will assist the university in making progress on strategic goals and objectives			
Anticipated Revenues (include revenue projections for FY 2016 and compare to FY 2015). Describe how new funds will be spent.			

University of Iowa

Technology Fee

	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual
Balance Forward	$ 2,704,062	$ 2,313,360
Mandatory Fee Revenue/Distribution	$ 12,469,813	$ 12,289,962
Other Fees & Revenue	$ 55,000	$ 40,000
Total Revenue	$ 12,524,813	$ 12,329,962
Expenditure		
Staff Salaries & Fringe	$ 5,715,892	$ 5,333,504
Hourly Wages & Fringe	$ 773,449	$ 772,692
Equipment, Comp HW/SW & Projects	$ 5,870,609	$ 5,608,323
Other Expense	$ 555,564	$ 510,706
Total Expense	$ 12,915,515	$ 12,225,225
Ending Balance	$ 2,313,360	$ 2,418,097

Fee Description: Supports instructional computing demands by providing financial support to improve the quality and quantity of student computing resources (facilities, equipment, and services) and other information sources.

University of Iowa

Health Fee

	FY13 Actual	FY14 Actual
Balance Forward	$ 3,562	$ 720,405
Mandatory Fee Revenue/Distribution	$5,944,859	$5,910,656
Services	1,436,451	1,462,023
WL Pharmacy Space Utilization	11,000	11,000
Interest Income from Operations	25,773	38,782
Other	5,795	36,621
Total Revenue	$ 7,423,878	$ 7,459,082
Expenditure		
Staff Salaries & Fringe	$5,529,469	$5,803,959
Hourly Wages & Fringe	45,049	88,159
Computers/Equipment/IT Services	156,955	165,062
Other Expense	975,562	946,912
Total Expense	$ 6,707,035	$7,004,092
Ending Balance	$ 720,405	$ 1,175,395

Fee Description: Assessed to students enrolled for more than four (4) semester hours in a session. This fee supports many services: unlimited office visits with a healthcare provider for illness or injury at no cost, subsidizes the costs of other services, public health initiatives on campus, phone access to a registered nurse for health information and advice, and health education and promotion. Providers include: family physicians, gynecologist, psychiatrists, physician assistants, dietitian, substance abuse counselor, and health educators. Public initiatives involve alcohol harm reduction initiatives, outbreak management, tuberculosis prevention, and influenza clinics. Health promotion and education campus wide activities include outreach education workshops, student health fairs, and online incentive health programs. Individual consults are available for fitness assessments, nutrition counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, sexual health education, stress management, and tobacco cessation.

University of Iowa

Recreation Fee & Building Fee (Rec Services)

Department of Recreation Services - Total P&L

	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues		
* Mandatory Rec Services Student Fee	6,382,080	6,347,907
* Building Student Fee (Rec Services carve-out)	1,788,096	1,757,286
All Other Revenue	6,714,152	6,497,437
Total Revenues	14,884,328	14,602,630
Expenses		
** Debt Service	5,973,006	6,048,381
** O&M Expense - CRWC & other Rec Facilities	2,722,599	2,705,042
All Other Expense	6,438,618	6,108,530
Total Expenses	15,134,223	14,861,953
Net Margin	(249,895)	(259,323)

Fee Description (Recreation Fee) : Supports the operation and maintenance of Recreational Services facilities on the UI campus, including the new Campus Recreation and Wellness Center (CRWC), as well as programmatic offerings of Recreational Services. The establishment of the fee was essential for the construction of the CRWC and is used to help pay the debt service on the facility.

Fee Description (Building Fee): Contributes to funding for certain construction projects on the UI campus for projects primarily benefiting students. This fee is currently used to provide partial funding for the debt service payments on the Campus Recreation & Wellness Center, Hawkeye Campus projects (HTRC) and the Iowa Memorial Union.