Mandatory Fee: Health Services

Current Fee Level FY17: $160 Fall/Spring – Summer $107

Proposed Fee Level FY18: $167 Fall/Spring – Summer $111

FY 2016 Revenue: $9,511,746

Fee Review Organization: Student Health Advisory Committee

Current Use of Revenue

Health Services is a multispecialty, ambulatory center that provides healthcare and health education to students and their spouses/domestic partners. Our state-of-the-art, 40,000-square-foot facility within the Joseph Brown Whitehead Building, provides primary care, women’s health, psychiatry, travel, immunization and allergy care. There is on-site pharmacy, laboratory and radiology as well as nutrition services. Our staff consists of board certified physicians and certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Our professional staff also includes registered nurses, medical assistants, pharmacists, health educators, and laboratory and radiology technologists. Appointments are required for most services.

General Services Covered by the Health Fee

- Unlimited visits to a clinician in Primary Care and Women’s Health. Limited visits to Psychiatry.
- Other services include
  - X-ray/interpretation by radiologist
  - Consultations with a pharmacist
  - EKG
  - Travel Clinic consultations
  - Urgent care & first aid
  - Flu shots
  - Some lab tests
  - Pregnancy testing
  - Health Promotion services
  - Blood pressure screening

The health fee allows the following services to be offered at a low cost:

- Psychiatry Clinic
- Laboratory testing
- Allergy Clinic
- Prescriptions
- HIV testing
- Gynecological testing
- Medical/orthopedic supplies
- Nutrition consultations
- Travel medications
Students may receive services based on enrollment at Georgia Tech and payment of the health fee or on a fee-for-service basis. Students taking 4 hours or more are automatically assessed this fee and are eligible for care upon registration. Students taking less than 4 hours, taking a semester off from class or participating in a cooperative program may receive services by paying the health fee or on a fee-for-service basis. Students’ spouses and domestic partners are also eligible with payment of the health fee or on a fee-for-service basis.

**Explanation of FY 2018 Fee Request**

As noted in our 5 year business plan, the moratorium on health fee requests is in its fourth year. This is particularly troubling when you consider noteworthy trends such as increasing participation numbers, a changing student demographic and increasing number of students with mental health needs. As a result, SHS is already experiencing increases in demand for primary care, women’s health and psychiatry appointments. In psychiatry the problem is significant. Stamps psychiatrists are spending about 20% of their time providing case management services. These services typically involve arranging referrals to clinical counseling services outside of Georgia Tech. Time spent on referrals takes away from our psychiatrist’s providing psychiatric care to patients. Our plan is to add new positions to address critical needs by expanding services. The addition of two new case managers would significantly expand our mental healthcare capacity by providing case management more appropriately and increasing time to service. To address the need to support campus-wide programs, we anticipate added two full-time Health Educators to address the expanding needs of the Health Promotion department. We also are requesting the addition of a new full-time pharmacy technician to handle the increased volumes in our pharmacy which recently began accepting most insurance plan for prescriptions.

To live up to our commitment of excellence and ensure students receive the best health care, additional funding for these new positions will be needed for expanding services.

**Consequences if Request for Fee Increase is Not Approved**

Without a fee increase, new or expansion of critical clinical services and initiatives related to the health and safety of students, will be limited or not possible in the long term.