



Dr. Steve Wrigley
Chancellor
University System of Georgia
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334

January 30, 2017

Dear Chancellor Wrigley:

I have reviewed the Georgia Tech Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee (MSFAC) recommendations for mandatory fee adjustments for Fiscal Year 2018 (see Attachment 1). The review process fully complied with Board policy, and I have accepted the proposed increases and adjustments as recommended. I have grouped the proposals into three categories: proposed increase; proposed adjustments/no increase in fees; and special request.

Proposed Increase

The recommendation from the MSFAC includes a \$5 increase in the Student Health Fee, which represents a 3% increase over the current level. Attachment 2 summarizes the justification of this proposed increase.

Proposed Adjustment/No Increased Fee

The MSFAC and associated student government groups also reviewed the “Student Activity Fee” (SAF) and recommended that it be held at the current level of \$123, but have asked that it be split into three separate fees to clarify how these funds are used. The Student Government Association began this discussion in Fiscal 2016 with the MSFAC to designate how much of the total fee was devoted to each of the three distinct functions listed below. I am therefore recommending that the current SAF fee be reclassified so that it can only be used to fund student organizations and to separate the remainder of the fee, with separate portions identified as a Recreation Fee and a Student Center Fee. Again, this recommendation will not affect the total amount:

Current:	\$123 – Student Activities Fee (student organizations)
Proposed:	\$40 – Student Activities Fee (student organizations)
	\$51 – Campus Recreation Center (program and operations)
	<u>\$32</u> – Student Center (program and operations)
	\$123 – Total

~~In addition, I am recommending that the Campus Recreation Center “program and operations” fee be combined with the existing \$54 Recreation Facility Fee (“Recreation Fee” on the BOR website) used to help pay debt service on the Campus Recreation Center (CRC). The combined fee would be \$105 and be referred to as simply the Recreation Center Fee. This will help simplify the bill paying process and clarify that the funds are for the CRC operations and capital costs. Again, this will result in no fee increase.~~

As we have discussed previously, it is our intention to request a fee increase for a future fiscal year of no more than \$85 as voted on by the students, to support the debt/lease costs associated with the planned renovation and expansion of our student center.

Documents previously submitted to your office have shown the strong support from the students for this proposal, with more than 66% of the student body voting in support of this fee. The combination of the separate Student Center fee, as proposed above, and the proposed "student center facilities fee" would significantly clarify the purpose and simplify the billing process.

Special Request

The final request pertains only to **graduate students** and involves shifting \$100 from the Special Institutional Fee (SIF) to Graduate Tuition, which will reduce the graduate SIF to \$344. The Board approved a similar shift for Fiscal Year 2016, thereby reducing the \$544 graduate SIF to \$444.

The rationale behind this request is that graduate student mandatory fees are generally not covered by scholarships or fellowships. Hence, they must pay the fees out of pocket. The same is true for our graduate students supported on sponsored research projects. The combination of graduate students supported on scholarships, fellowships, teaching assistantships, or research projects, constitutes approximately 70% of our on-campus graduate student population and approximately 90% of our PhD students. The graduate student leaders strongly support this shift, which reduces the out of pocket costs for these students but does not significantly impact institutional revenue.

In closing, as per Board Policy, our student fee approval process involved significant student input to the recommendation process, including review by the Georgia Tech Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee, which is comprised of eight students, plus two faculty and two staff. The student members include the presidents of the graduate and undergraduate Student Government Association (SGA) and the SGA's joint vice president of finance. The Committee maintains an open web site to post fee requests and other backup documents, providing significant opportunity for input from the general student population. As part of the review process, the student leaders solicit and receive extensive student input into the process. This year both the Student Health Fee increase and the separation of the Student Activity Fee received strong support.

In summary, for undergraduate students the total mandatory fee increase would be 0.4%, including the Special Institutional Fee, as shown in Attachment 1. For graduate students, the overall fees would decrease by 9.5%. Please let me know if you require any additional information regarding these requests. Georgia Tech's Budget Office submitted all supporting documents to the USG Budget Office this past December with the exception of budget forms to separate the Student Activities Fee. We plan to submit these in the next several days.

Sincerely,



G.P. "Bud" Peterson
President

c: Ms. Shelley Nickel
Ms. Tracey Cook
Mr. Steve Swant
Mr. Jim Kirk

**Georgia Institute of Technology
Summary of Mandatory Fees for Fall Semester
FY2015 through 2018 Recommended**

Detail of Mandatory Fees:	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018 Recomm	% Change FY17-18	% Change FY15-18
Transportation	\$81	\$81	\$85	\$85	0.0%	4.9%
Technology	\$107	\$107	\$107	\$107	0.0%	0.0%
Student Activity (Student Orgs.)	\$123	\$123	\$123	\$40	0.0%	0.0%
Campus Recreation Center				\$51		
Student Center				\$32		
Student Health	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$165	3.1%	3.1%
Athletic	\$127	\$127	\$127	\$127	0.0%	0.0%
Student Recreation Facility	\$54	\$54	\$54	\$54	0.0%	0.0%
Subtotal - GT Imposed Fees	\$652	\$652	\$656	\$661	0.8%	1.4%
Undergraduate - Special Institutional Fee	544	544	544	544	0.0%	0.0%
Graduate - Special Institutional Fee*	544	444	444	344	-29.1%	0.0%
Undergraduate, Total Mandatory Fees	\$1,196	\$1,196	\$1,200	\$1,205	0.4%	0.8%
Graduate, Total Mandatory Fees	\$1,196	\$1,096	\$1,100	\$1,005	-9.5%	-16.0%

* SIF reduced by \$100 to \$444 for graduate students in FY16; shift to tuition. *Request to shift another \$100 to tuition in FY18.*

Highlights of \$5 Student Health Fee Proposal

Recap of Factors Impacting Request:

- No increase in health fee for four years despite in the medical cost increases
- Workload factors:
 - Increasing participation numbers (percentage of students requiring care)
 - Changing student demographic
 - Increasing number of students with mental health needs
- Substantial increases in demand for: primary care, women’s health, and psychiatry
- Psychiatry – psychiatrists devoting 20% of their time providing case management services, including arranging referrals to clinical counseling services outside of Georgia Tech; decreased time available to provide psychiatric care to patients
- Health Promotion – need to expand staffing to meet the demand for prevention and education efforts in the areas of alcohol and other drugs, sexual health, sexual violence, nutrition, and general wellness

Priorities for Additional Funding from Fee Increase:

- Care Coordinator – Addition of a psychiatry care coordinator (social worker and licensed professional counselor) to further expand mental healthcare capacity by providing case management to students; reduced load on psychiatrists
- Health Educators – Addition of two full-time Health Educators to address the expanding needs of the Health Promotion Department in the areas mentioned above, as well as three new areas – sleep, time management, and financial wellness

Budget/Fee Request Recap:

\$1.50	1 Care Coordinator
\$3.00	2 Health Educators
<u>\$0.50</u>	Support Costs for New Positions
\$5.00	Total Increase Requested