

## BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

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Presidents University System of Georgia 270 Washington Street Atlanta, Georgia 30334

## Dear Presidents:

The Board has taken action to enhance and strengthen policies related to student fees. These actions underscore the Board's passion regarding student affordability. Affordability of a college education is critical to ensuring that current and future generations of students continue to enjoy access to public higher education, acquire college degrees, and are not deterred from this pursuit due to cost. Maintaining the appropriate balance between institution programs/services and cost to students is an important responsibility that begins with the President of each institution.

Mandatory student fees are integral to providing students with a high quality educational experience. These fees are the primary source of funding for non-academic, student focused activities and facilities. My position on mandatory fees remains consistent, therefore, the System Office and the Board of Regents will <u>not</u> consider requests for new fees or fee increases for FY 2018. The only exceptions are as follows:

- 1. Fee increases needed to support PPV projects whose revenues are falling or expected to fall below levels to sustain those projects. However, <u>before</u> requesting an increase you should:
  - a. review all project costs and processes to identify where efficiencies can be realized and expenses reduced;
  - b. explore other sources of revenue, besides fee revenue, to compensate for any actual or anticipated revenue shortage;
  - c. determine the availability of reserves to sustain project; and
  - d. evaluate the project plan to determine whether revisions to the plan to meet the lower revenues levels or estimates are feasible.
- 2. Prior commitments of multi-year fee plans.
- 3. On a case by case basis, consideration will be given to institutions to allow for the reallocation of fees, provided that the overall mandatory fee level remains neutral.

Institutions <u>must</u> continue to right size mandatory fee supported programs and activities based on current enrollment levels. This action will require institutions to evaluate and prioritize current programs and activities and make the necessary adjustments to stay within budget.

Additionally, you are strongly encouraged to evaluate all fees assessed to students to determine the appropriateness of these fees. The revisions to Board policy requires Board approval for fees charged to significant populations of students (i.e. students within a grade level, students within a particular degree program, etc.).

All templates and supporting documentation must be submitted by the established due date. Submissions, along with significant amendments thereto, received after the due date will not be considered. Detailed instructions and templates will be provided by the Office of Fiscal Affairs under separate cover.

Thank you for your leadership as we strive to create a more educated Georgia.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Huckaby

cc: Dr. Steve Wrigley

Henry M. Huckaby

Chief Business Officers Chief Academic Officers

Shelley C. Nickel Tracey Cook