



**Joint Statement of the Student Representatives of the
Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee**

January 18th, 2022

The Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee (MSFAC) provides recommendations on fee levels for the next fiscal year to the President, who in turn submits his recommendations to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Broadly, this Committee supports not raising the aggregate mandatory student fee level for Georgia Tech students in the next fiscal year. The Committee worked to alleviate where possible the ongoing negative fiscal and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for students while also ensuring institutional operating costs are met. Separately, in November 2021, Teresa MacCartney, Acting Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, requested University System of Georgia institutions not recommend an increase to aggregate mandatory student fee levels in the next fiscal year.

As the Student Representatives of MSFAC, we met with the Faculty and Staff Representatives of MSFAC on January 14th, 2022 to vote on our recommendation for mandatory student fee levels in Fiscal Year 2023. To develop our recommendation, the Committee heard presentations from representatives of the Mandatory Fee Participants. In total, MSFAC heard seven presentations across four meetings. In six of seven presentations, no fee changes had been proposed by the representatives of the participating departments. During the remaining presentation, the Committee heard a proposal to increase the Student Activity Fee by \$10.

Given the Committee's commitment to not raising aggregate fee levels, the Committee needed to recommend a decrease in other fees to consider recommending the proposed increase. Based on the presentations and discussions heard by the Committee, a decrease in fees for any participating department is not feasible without also hindering operations. Many departments dependent on the mandatory student fees spend all allocated money each fiscal year to cover operational costs. Additionally, a few participating departments experienced significant economic pressure from the pandemic, and a fee decrease at this time will exacerbate existing fiscal challenges. Since no fee can sustain a decrease without introducing undue financial

complications for the participating department, the proposed \$10 increase to the Student Activity Fee is not recommended by the Committee.

Accordingly, following a vote, the Committee unanimously recommended *keeping mandatory student fees at current levels* for Fiscal Year 2023. The Committee's recommendations meet both our goal and Acting Chancellor MacCartney's request. This Committee appreciates the various departments' efforts to adhere to the goal of not raising the aggregate mandatory student fee level for Georgia Tech students in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Committee reiterates our deep belief that the burden of mandatory student fees should be minimized for all Georgia Tech students in this upcoming fiscal year and in years to come. When considering proposals for new student fees and increases to existing student fees, we urge departments, offices, and student groups to support a comprehensive approach to funding units' needs by seeking alternative funding sources or exploring fee reallocation to ensure the overall student fee burden is not increased.

In Progress and Service,

Srija Somaka, MSFAC Co-Chair

Stephen Eick, Graduate Student Body President

Samuel Ellis, Undergraduate Student Body President

Elizaveta Gonchar, Graduate Student Member

John Graves, Undergraduate Student Member

Mansi Mahajan, Graduate Student Member

Muhammad Shahmeer Omar, Undergraduate Student Member

Tolga Ustuner, Undergraduate Student Member