


April 30, 2019

To: Student Fees Committee

From: Mark A. Nook 

Regarding: FY 2020 Student Fee Recommendations

Yesterday I submitted the University of Northern Iowa's request for student fees for fiscal year 2020 to the Board of Regents State of Iowa. The documents submitted to the board are attached. This request will have a first reading during the May Board meeting this Wednesday. Thank you to all the members of the Student Fees Committee for the extraordinary work you did to create the recommendation under extremely difficult circumstances. The decline in enrollment has put pressure on budgets, as a committee you accepted the very difficult task of balancing the need to keep costs to all students as low as possible and provide the services that students appreciate.

The request submitted to the board holds the Student Service Fee, Student Activity Fee, and the Building Fee at the same levels as last year, \$229.50, \$121.50, and \$242.00, respectively. The allocations of these fees largely follows the recommendation of the Student Fees Committee (SFC), with the exception of the allocation of the Student Services Fee (SSF).

As you are aware, concerns were raised about the allocation of SSF in relation to the Panther Shuttle and the Weekend Safe Ride. I received the recommendation from the SFC, a resolution from Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG), and a petition signed by 476 students. I met with your committee on Wednesday, April 17, representatives of NISG on Thursday, April 25, outgoing NISG president, Drew Stensland on Friday, April 26, and a group of concerned students on Monday, April 29 before finalizing the decision on our submission to the Board of Regents State of Iowa.

The request submitted follows the recommendation of the NISG to provide funding for the Panther Shuttle so that it can operate from October 14, 2019 through the beginning of spring break. The funds will come from a portion of the funds that the committee had originally allocated to athletics.

Given the issues that arose around the use of student fees, and the lack of data that would be helpful to future decisions regarding student supported public transportation, I am asking that NISG consider the following suggestions for this coming year.

- Appoint a person on the upper or lower cabinet to monitor the Panther Shuttle operations. One of the issues that led to the recommendation to cancel the Panther Shuttle was a significant decline in ridership. NISG presented several good ideas about ways ridership could be monitored and potentially improved.
- Work with Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MET) to establish a route or routes that operate routinely on the hour or half-hour so that students will be better able to plan their rides. The current route schedule is on a 35-minute cycle that means that stop times are not consistent and easy to remember/anticipate.
- Work with MET to establish a route or routes that will serve a larger portion of our student body living more than a few blocks from campus.

- Determine the ridership patterns and the number of unique riders so that NISG can better evaluate the effectiveness of the Panther Shuttle in serving student needs.
- Work with area landlords to help provide adequate funding for the bus to operate at a lower cost to students. Many of the landlords use the Panther Shuttle as a key point in their recruitment of student renters.

The Panther Shuttle has shown a marked drop in ridership in recent years, but there is also a significant group of students that still use the service, especially during winter months. It is important that we use the 2019-2020 academic year to both improve the shuttle so that it serves a larger portion of the student body and to better understand the costs and benefits of the service that this student fee provides.

On behalf of the University of Northern Iowa, thank you again for your thoughtful approach to the difficult challenges. Shared governance is a process that requires individuals willing to take risks, get involved, and speak up. Each of you has done exactly that, and I am thankful for the role that each of you played in this process.

University of Northern Iowa

FY 2020 Mandatory Fees – Student Services, Student Activities and Building

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve the University's Student Services Fee (SSF), Student Activities Fee (SAF) and Building Fee allocations for 2019-20.

The Student Services Fee and the Student Activities Fee provide support or partial support for a wide range of programs, activities and services at UNI. These activities and services contribute to positive student engagement in campus life which leads to retention and graduation.

In FY19, the SSF supported the Panther Shuttle Bus, Weekend SafeRide and Intercollegiate Athletics. The SSF for FY20 will remain at the FY19 fee amount of \$229.50 for the academic year. After careful consideration, the Student Fee Committee (SFC) agreed to discontinue funding for the Weekend SafeRide and the Panther Shuttle Bus services. This decision was based on low ridership numbers, limited accessibility to the student body as a whole, and the University's desire to maintain no increase for fees. The recommended allocation was approved by SFC and was presented to Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG). NISG passed a resolution recommending that the Panther Shuttle Bus service be funded at a reduced level of service through an internal reallocation of the funds. We are therefore requesting that the FY 20 SSF remain at FY19 amount of \$229.50 with the Panther Shuttle funded at the level recommended by NISG.

The SAF continues to support Northern Iowa Student Government, student organizations, student programming, Homecoming, intercollegiate academic activities, the student newspaper, multicultural education, fine arts and cultural activities, and family weekend activities. The approved fee for FY20 will remain at the FY19 fee amount of \$121.50 for the academic year. The recommended allocations were approved by the SFC and were presented to Northern Iowa Student Government.

Summer session fees are assessed at 75% of the full-time semester fee. The SAF for summer 2020 was adjusted slightly to be consistent with the 75% rule. The SFC considers "total" revenue allocations rather than "per student" allocations as they make funding recommendations.

The Building Fee provides a revenue stream to meet the bonding requirements of debt incurred in the renovation and repair in the Fieldhouse Enterprise and Maucker Union and to support continuing facility maintenance and operation needs. The academic year Building Fee will remain unchanged from FY19 to FY20 at \$242.00. An allocation of \$124 to Fieldhouse Enterprise and \$118 to Maucker Union distributes the appropriate funding to meet these obligations.

Mandatory Fees - University of Northern Iowa

| | Academic Year (per student) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | Actual 2018-19 | Proposed 2019-20 | Dollar Change | Percent Change |
| <u>Student Services Fee</u> | | | | |
| Intercollegiate Athletics | 207.80 | 218.80 | 11.00 | 5.3% |
| Panther Shuttle Bus/Weekend SafeRide | 21.70 | 10.70 | -11.00 | -50.7% |
| Total Student Services Fee | 229.50 | 229.50 | 0.00 | 0.0% |

| | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| <u>Student Activities Fee</u> | | | | |
| Student Organizations (NISG to distribute) | 32.60 | 34.20 | 1.60 | 4.9% |
| Student Activities | 88.90 | 87.30 | -1.60 | -1.8% |
| Total Student Activities Fee | 121.50 | 121.50 | 0.00 | 0.0% |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|------|------|
| <u>Building Fee</u> | | | | |
| Fieldhouse Enterprise | 124.00 | 124.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Maucker Union | 118.00 | 118.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Building Fee | 242.00 | 242.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |

| | Summer Session (per student) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | Actual 2018-19 | Proposed 2019-20 | Dollar Change | Percent Change |
| <u>Student Services Fee</u> | | | | |
| Intercollegiate Athletics | 81.80 | 82.00 | 0.20 | 0.2% |
| Panther Shuttle Bus/Weekend SafeRide | 4.20 | 4.00 | -0.20 | -4.8% |
| Total Student Services Fee | 86.00 | 86.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <u>Student Activities Fee</u> | | | | |
| Student Organizations (NISG to distribute) | 12.35 | 12.80 | 0.45 | 3.6% |
| Student Activities | 33.40 | 32.95 | -0.45 | -1.3% |
| Total Student Activities Fee | 45.75 | 45.75 | 0.00 | 0.0% |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|------|
| <u>Building Fee</u> | | | | |
| Fieldhouse Enterprise | 46.50 | 46.50 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Maucker Union | 44.25 | 44.25 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total | 90.75 | 90.75 | 0.00 | 0.0% |

Summer session fees are assessed at 75% of the full-time semester rate.

**Mandatory Fees - University of Northern Iowa
Activity and Annual Allocation**

| | 2018-19 | Proposed | Difference |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | Fall/Spring | 2019-20 | 19-20 vs. 18-19 |
| <u>Student Services Fee</u> | | | |
| Intercollegiate Athletics | 207.80 | 218.80 | 11.00 |
| Panther Shuttle Bus/Weekend SafeRide | 21.70 | 10.70 | -11.00 |
| Total Student Services Fee | 229.50 | 229.50 | 0.00 |
| <u>Student Activities Fee</u> | | | |
| Student Organizations (NISG to distribute) | 32.60 | 34.20 | 1.60 |
| Student Activities | 88.90 | 87.30 | -1.60 |
| Total Student Activities Fee | 121.50 | 121.50 | 0.00 |
| <u>Building Fee</u> | | | |
| Fieldhouse Enterprise | 124.00 | 124.00 | 0.00 |
| Maucker Union | 118.00 | 118.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Building Fee | 242.00 | 242.00 | 0.00 |

| | 2018-19 | Estimated | Difference |
|--|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| | \$ Total | 2019-20 | 19-20 vs. 18-19 |
| | | \$ Total | |
| <u>Student Services Fee</u> | | | |
| Intercollegiate Athletics | 1,919,576 | 1,852,781 | -66,795 |
| Panther Shuttle Bus/Weekend SafeRide | 200,208 | 90,000 | -110,208 |
| Total Student Services Fee | 2,119,784 | 1,942,781 | -177,003 |
| <u>Student Activities Fee</u> | | | |
| Student Organizations (NISG to distribute) | 299,851 | 288,515 | -11,336 |
| Student Activities | 816,190 | 737,614 | -78,576 |
| Total Student Activities Fee | 1,116,041 | 1,026,129 | -89,912 |
| <u>Building Fee</u> | | | |
| Fieldhouse Enterprise | 1,138,555 | 1,051,415 | -87,140 |
| Maucker Union | 1,080,849 | 993,613 | -87,236 |
| Total Building Fee | 2,219,404 | 2,045,028 | -\$174,376 |