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University Course or Lab Special Fees

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Approved by the Senate: 10/25/2005

Not Approved by the Senate:

Approved by the President: 10/28/2005

Not Approved by the President:

University Course or Lab Special Fees

Submitted by Michael Moore

10/25/2005

Motion:

I move that University courses or labs that have special fees that students must pay, must disclose the fee amount in the section comment screen (SSATEXT) on WINGS. Courses with flexible fees must disclose that a flexible fee is assessed and display the actual fee charged from the prior semester of the course or lab offering.

Rationale:

Currently, students have no way of knowing (with the exception of a few fees reported in the catalog) what, if any, fees are associated with courses and labs. These fees are not covered by HOPE scholarships. This would allow students to better plan both schedules and budgets.

SEC Response:

The SEC met October 18th to discuss these. Michael Moore submitted an agenda request about clear publication of student course and lab fees. That request is agenda item #9 on today's agenda.

Senate Response:

10-25-05: I am pleased to report that the Senate recommends the motion below presented at the October 25, 2005, Faculty Senate meeting by Dr. Michael Moore.

Michael Moore (COE): I wanted to make a comment, if I might, on the technology fees, and I appreciate the information that we did receive in response to my request. I brought this up on behalf of a number of faculty members from the College of Education, and I don't know that the response we have received really gets at a couple of the issues that prompted the request. 1) Faculty representation. Pat Humphrey (COST; Senate Moderator) said that there is a faculty member on that committee. Well, there is a department chair on that committee, and the rest of the committee is made up of administrators. There are six students, and these are there by Board of Regents' mandate from 2003. None of those students represent the College of Education, and none of the others on the committee represent the College of Education. Furthermore, some figures that we generated show that the College of Education has generated \$856,000 in fees, student fees, from its students. We have requested \$124,000 in terms of the proposals for funds. We have received \$9,500 over the three years of the funding cycles that are two per year, and I think the awards are going to be announced tomorrow for the 2006 fiscal year. And our concern is that we wonder if this structure is still serving the University as well as it might. And one of the items that we asked about was whether or not there should be a fixed amount that goes to every college from the fees that their students generate. And this is something that that we hope the committee would consider, especially for us in the College of Education, where we have received so little funds. We feel that if we receive say 20 or 30% of the funds our students generated that we would be able to assess our needs to our own technology committee, and apply those funds where we feel they are needed. A number of departments have received (smaller departments than the whole College of Education) quite a bit of money. Biology, for instance, has received \$64,000. Writing and Linguistics has received \$75,000. COBA has received \$242,000. IT Services has received over a million dollars. Our college has only received \$9,500. I think that our request for information really wanted to see if the committee could possibly address these concerns further down the line.

Linda Bleicken (Provost): I will respond briefly. There has been an awful lot of information already shared with the Senate on this. If you will recall, some criteria that are used to distribute these funds, and remember there are six students that sit on this committee all the time, and that student representation varies from year to year, so I

dare say that at some point we have had a representative from the College of Education. Sometimes we simply do not have someone on the Senate perhaps who is chosen for that specific role. One of the major criteria for funding is the number of students served. When you see a large amount of money like the amount that was given to the College of Business Administration for funding computer labs, it was awarded based on student accessibility. There are three large computer labs in the College of Business that are open very late and that are staffed with lab assistants. Students from anywhere on the campus can access not only the Library, which is open many hours, but also the College of Business. The labs are not restricted to only College of Business students. The students on the committee find two criteria to be very powerful in considering proposals: What is the accessibility, and how many students are served? The proposals are extensive. They go out to the committee, which has sufficient amount of time to review them. We sit down as a committee and make the determination. One of the reasons that there are as many administrators, I suppose, on the committee is simply that they provide a slightly more global perspective. Some of these administrators who are on the committee are maybe quasi administrators. For example, a representative from Auxiliary Services who also represents the University Housing interest. There are many labs that we have now in our housing units, and so that is very good representation for student interests. Lisa Spence, CIO, sits on the committee. She also provides a global perspective. If there is a question about the amount of money that is devoted on this committee to IT Services, once again, remember that is a global sort of expense. That goes to serve the whole campus and the students who are here on the whole campus. So those are just some thoughts that I have in responding. You know, certainly the committee has not yet met this year. We meet twice a year. We meet in the fall to make the initial allocations, and that is the largest amount of money that is allocated during the year. We meet again in the spring to allocate any monies that are remaining, and then any monies that are sitting there also go during the rest of the summer to address needs that inevitably come up. Some of you may remember a few years ago, I think it was two years ago, we had the exploding projector bulbs in some of our smart classrooms, and so there was a need to replace those for life safety issues. Those are some ways that these dollars are used, and we really try to take a look at how do we serve student need with this fee. Thank you.

Laurie Markle (SGA): In reference to College of Education representation on the Student Technology Committee, I received information from our President Shri Davis yesterday that there will be a College of Education Senator there to take my place tomorrow. I am not going to be able to attend the meeting tomorrow because I will be giving a presentation in Dr. Graham's class. The College of Education Senator will be

there because there has been information shared about the College of Education concerns about lack of representation.

Marc Cyr (CLASS): If we are talking global representation, then I think we need to have the part of the globe that is made up by colleges and by the faculty also represented. One can have such a large view that one loses sight of what is going on in the trenches. I think that very often faculty members in departments and colleges are a little closer to the needs of their colleges, and I think that a little better representation of faculty from various colleges might help somewhat in the distribution of the funds.

Candy Schille (CLASS): As I understand it, this is a University committee, not a Senate committee in any way? [Someone replied: Correct.] Candy then continued by saying that the only thing that we can do is sort of suggest, hope, pray, etc., etc.?

Pat Humphrey ((COST) and Senate Moderator): That would be my impression.

Candy Schille (CLASS): You know, it really looks to me like Linda's answers were pretty good, but it still looks to me like Michael's remarks are very compelling. Insofar as what this body can do, it does not look like much. Linda talked about the two meetings that the committee is going to have, and it sounds like they are going to have a really full agenda on those days. So if the committee was willing to, perhaps they might take another look at their organization, their priorities, and at what seems like a pretty convincing inequity in numbers. Maybe they need to have a third meeting--just a suggestion.

Linda Bleicken (Provost): Point taken.

Motion "University Course or Lab Special Fees," Michael Moore (COE): I move that for the University courses or labs that have special fees that students must pay, the fee amount be disclosed in the section comment screen (SSATEXT) on WINGS. Courses with flexible fees must disclose that a flexible fee is assessed and display the actual fee charged from the prior semester of the course or lab offering. The motion was seconded.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: Michael, as maker of the motion you get the floor first.

Michael Moore (COE): Thanks. Currently, unless it is a PA class, students really have no idea whether or not a fee is assessed in the class or the lab. It does not show up on the registration schedule. I talked to the Registrar about this, and he said that they are

upgrading and hoping to get the software that would put the fee on the registration form that students have when they register. For the time being this motion would let the students know when they go to register on WINGS that there is a fee for a particular class or lab, and that fees are not covered by HOPE Scholarships. This would allow students a better opportunity to both plan their schedules and their budgets.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: Point of information. The fee on the SSATEXT screen will show when students search the schedule. Hearing no other discussion, Dr. Humphrey called for a vote, and the motion carried by voice vote.

President's Response:

10-28-05: Dr. Grube approved the motion. Following review of the recommendation adopted by the Faculty Senate at the October 25, 2005, Faculty Senate meeting, as provided in your memo of October 27, 2005, I have approved the motion below presented to the Senate by Dr. Michael Moore.

MOTION: I move that University courses or labs that have special fees that students must pay, must disclose the fee amount in the section comment screen (SSATEXT) on WINGS. Courses with flexible fees must disclose that a flexible fee is assessed and display the actual fee charged from the prior semester of the course or lab offering.

RATIONALE: Currently, students have no way of knowing (with the exception of a few fees reported in the catalog) what, if any, fees are associated with courses and labs. These fees are not covered by HOPE scholarships. This would allow students to better plan both schedules and budgets.