New or Increases to Student Fees Report

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Prepared for
Western State Colorado University Student Government Association

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Background

This material has been prepared for presentation to the Western State Colorado University Student Government Association, to comply with the University’s “Institutional Plan for Student Fees” (revised September 2014). The plan was established pursuant to Colorado Revised Statues (C.R.S.) 23-5-119.5 and Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) policy, Section VI-C-3.00.

The plan is intended to inform the student body of changes in mandatory student fees assessed by the administration or by student groups. The plan contains the following information:

- Definition of those fees that are covered by the plan.
- The mechanism to be used to notify students of changes in student fees.
- The process for approving and appealing changes in student fees.

A copy of the “Institutional Plan for Student Fees” can be obtained in the Office of the Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, 328 Taylor Hall or in the Student Government Association office.

This report includes information on the types of fees charged at Western and the proposed changes to these fees for the 2015-16 academic year.
Academic Purpose Fee

Academic Purpose Fees are assessed to support the delivery of the University’s academic programs. Academic purpose fee may be campus wide or non-campus wide. The following are the two categories of academic purpose fees at Western:

Instructional Fees
Fees related to an instructional program or school or division, but not to a specific course offering. This may include University-specific fees or program-specific fees.

For the academic year 2014-15, Western implemented a business school fee which is applied to all courses within the academic disciplines of business, accounting and economics. The fee for courses taken within these areas is $25 per credit. Western is not proposing an increase to this fee for academic year 2015-16.

Course Specific Fees
Fees related to enrollment in a specific course, including online course fees. Revenues from each course specific fee is restricted for costs related to the course and each section of the course must be assessed the same fee.

Western eliminated course specific fees in 2011. Some courses will continue to assess charges to cover travel costs associated with field experiences.
Student Purpose Fees

Student purpose fees: Fees assessed to support a specific student service, program or function. Student purpose fees may be campus wide, non-campus wide or optional and may include, but not be limited to, University Center operations fees, Student Government Association fees, intercollegiate athletics fees, technology fees, campus sustainability fees, and recreation center fees.

Student purpose fees at Western include the following:

- **Student Government Association Fee.** This fee is assessed to all enrolled students to support the activities sponsored by the Western State Colorado University Student Government Association. The Student Government Association allocates funds annually for the support of student clubs, student programming, student humanities activities, and intramural athletics.

- **Intercollegiate Athletic Fee.** This fee is assessed to all enrolled students to support intercollegiate athletics.

- **Computer Fee.** This fee is assessed to all enrolled students to enhance student access to technology through the support of student-use labs.

- **University Center Operations Fee.** This fee is assessed to all enrolled students to support the operation and programs of the University Center.

- **Campus Sustainability Fee.** This fee is assessed to all enrolled students to provide Western’s students access to the financial resources to initiate projects that (1) support Western’s use of more sustainable and renewable energy, (2) reduce unnecessary consumption of goods, (3) increase reuse of usable goods and recycling of materials, or (4) promote ethical stewardship of all resources and land on the Western campus.

The administration is currently proposing an inflationary adjustment (rounded to the nearest nickel) on all student purpose fees. The rate of inflation is currently projected at 2.7%.

The following are the proposed fee changes for FY 2015-16:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Current Annual Fee</th>
<th>Proposed Annual Fee</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Government Association Fee</td>
<td>$181.20</td>
<td>$186.00</td>
<td>$4.80</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercollegiate Athletic Fee</td>
<td>$212.40</td>
<td>$218.40</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Fee</td>
<td>$102.00</td>
<td>$104.40</td>
<td>$2.40</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Center Operations Fee</td>
<td>$284.40</td>
<td>$291.60</td>
<td>$7.20</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Sustainability Fee</td>
<td>$9.75</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$.25</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$789.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>$789.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21.85</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.85%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Charge for a student taking 24 credit hours annually (12 credit hours per semester).
Administrative Purpose Fees

Administrative purpose fees: Fees assessed to provide administrative and support services or cover administrative costs. Administrative purpose fees may be campus wide or non-campus wide. The University may assess any fee an administrative cost as outlined in Section 7 of this Plan.

At this time Western does not have any administrative purpose fees and no new fees are proposed for the 2015-16 academic year.
Facility Fees

Facility fees: Fees assessed to support the construction, renovation, expansion or maintenance of campus buildings or infrastructure. Facility fees may only be campus wide. Revenue generated from facility fees may be used for payment of principal and interest on bonds issued for long-term debt.

In academic year 2009-10 the student body approved a facility fee which was first assessed to students in the academic year 2010-11. Per the approved vote, this fee will increase annually until it is fully implemented in academic year 2019-20. The annual fee for a full time student taking 30 credit hours per year will increase from $1,545.00 in academic year 2014-15 to $1,797.00 for academic year 2015-16.
Optional Student Fees

Optional Student Fees are non-mandatory assessments for which students must take action to either opt-into or opt-out of the payment of such assessments. Except for health care fees, Western or the organization receiving a optional student fee shall refund the fee upon request to any student who paid the fee. The refund shall be available during the entire semester in which the student paid the fee.

Optional student fees at Western include the following:

- **Fitness Center Fee.** This is a waivable, $50.00 per semester or $100.00 for the academic year, optional fee. The fee is placed on all student bills and a waiver form is provided for a student to have the fee removed. This is referred to as a negative check off. The fee supports the operation and maintenance of the student fitness center.

- **Renewable Energy Fee.** This is a waivable, $15.00 per semester or $30.00 for the academic year, optional fee. The fee is placed on all student bills and a waiver form is provided for a student to have the fee removed. This is referred to as a negative check off. The fee supports the purchase of wind energy credits from the City of Gunnison.

*The administration is proposing no increase in these fees for FY 2015-16.*
The University takes seriously its commitment and responsibility of providing high-quality, cost-effective programs to its students through the collection of student fees. The proposed changes presented in this document are made with extensive consideration both to the impact on the overall cost of attendance and to the impacts on the services provided by these fee-supported programs.

Students with any questions or concerns are encouraged to address them to the Office of the Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, 328 Taylor Hall.