

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: University of Nevada, Reno Graduate Student Fitness Fee and Procedures & Guidelines Manual Revision

MEETING DATE: June 8-9, 2017

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At the December 5-6, 2013 meeting the Board of Regents approved a mandatory undergraduate fee of \$45 per semester to fund the debt service and programmatic operating expenses of the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center and access to the Lombardi Recreation Pool and Court Facilities. The Graduate Student Association (GSA) voted not to support the fee for graduate students based on the student survey results conducted during the last week of October 2013. Those results were based on 327 graduate students responding to the survey with 44% voting yes and 56% voting no.

The E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center opened in February 2017. Graduate students who wish to use the facility and Lombardi Recreation Pool and Court Facilities are currently assessed a \$100 per semester user fee.

In April 2017, GSA held an online student advisory vote regarding the graduate students' willingness to pay the proposed \$45 proposed mandatory fitness fee. A total of 691 graduate students participated in the vote representing 24% of all graduate students. Of those voting, 72.5% favored the fee. On April 18, 2017, GSA voted in favor of recommending that the mandatory \$45 per semester fitness fee be assessed to all graduate students beginning in fall 2017. \$15 of the fee will be used to fund the debt service, with the remaining \$30 to augment the programmatic operating expenses.

The previously approved fitness center fee for undergraduates was inadvertently deleted from the Procedures and Guidelines manual in June 2015. The Procedures & Guidelines Manual, Chapter 7, Section 12, would be revised to codify the fee for undergraduates and, as proposed, for graduate level students. Exhibit 1.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

President Marc Johnson requests approval of a mandatory graduate student fee of \$45 per student per semester commencing in fall 2017 to allow for access to the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center and the Lombardi Recreation Center and approval of a corresponding revision in the Procedures & Guidelines Manual, Chapter 7, Section 12 to include this fee.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

GSA has requested that the mandatory fee begin for fall 2017 to allow open access to the fitness center facilities for all graduate students at the same rate as undergraduate students.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- GSA voted on April 18, 2017 to recommend assessing the \$45 fitness fee for graduate students beginning in fall 2017.
- In a recent student advisory vote, of the 691 graduate students participating, 72.5% favored the mandatory fitness fee.
- Most of the current graduate students were not students in 2013 and now want equal access to the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center and Lombardi Recreation Pool and Court Facilities just as undergraduate students.
- Many graduate students have shared with their GSA representatives they would be more likely to use the facilities if the fee was part of their mandatory fees.
- The mandatory fee would open access to all graduate students at the same rate undergraduates have that would promote the president’s initiative around physical health and its positive effect on students’ academic achievement
- Mandatory fees are eligible to be covered by financial aid. User fees are not.
- Students who participate regularly in campus-based fitness and recreational sports programs are retained at higher rates, graduate in large numbers and perform a full GPA point better than their counterparts who do not participate. (Oseguera and Ree, 2009; Crozier, et al, 2008; Fischer, 2007).

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

The fitness fee will increase the cost to attend the University.

7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

- Do not assess the \$45 per semester fee as requested by the Graduate Student Association.
- Continue to charge graduate students who request to use the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center and Lombardi Recreation Pool and Court Facilities the \$100 per semester user fee.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____ Amends Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____

xAmends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #7 Section # 12_____

Other: _____

Fiscal Impact: Yes X No _____

Explain: The \$45 per semester mandatory fee for the E.L. Wiegand Fitness Center will generate \$105,000 annually for debt service and \$210,000 annually for programmatic operating expenses.

EXHIBIT 1

**POLICY PROPOSAL – PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES MANUAL
CHAPTER 7, SECTION 12
Fees and Tuition**

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 12. Student Fees

A. STANDARD STUDENT FEES

The following student fees have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Regents (institutions may charge up to the amount approved).

<u>Description</u>	<u>UNLV</u>	<u>UNR</u>	<u>NSC</u>	<u>CSN</u>	<u>GBC</u>	<u>TMCC</u>	<u>WNC</u>
Academic Success Initiatives Fee (per undergraduate student enrolled in 1 or more credits)	25.00	25.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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Executive MBA Program Fee	4,100.00/ sem	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Fitness Center Fee (undergraduate and graduate)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>45.00</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
GPSA Graduate Special Fee	18.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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