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## UIS student gov't backs athletic fee increase

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**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

Posted Nov 09, 2009 @ 11:30 PM

Last update Nov 10, 2009 @ 06:01 AM

The University of Illinois Springfield's move to NCAA Division II athletics got another boost Sunday night when the Student Government Association voted to support a \$17 increase in the intercollegiate athletic fee paid by students.

If the increase is approved by the U of I board of trustees, UIS students next fall will be paying an athletic fee of \$149 per semester, up 12.9 percent from the 2009-2010 school year.

The increase will be used to help cover equipment and travel costs for the inaugural UIS baseball team, which scheduled to compete in 2010-11.

Matt Van Vossen, Student Government Association president, said this would be the fourth consecutive year for an athletic fee increase — part of a five-year plan for UIS to move to NCAA Division II from NAIA membership.

The SGA vote is advisory only. Any fee increases ultimately must be approved by the U of I board of trustees.

The previous athletic fee increases have been 6.3 percent in FY 2008, 12.7 percent in FY 2009, and 14.8 percent in FY 2010, Van Vossen said. Another athletic fee increase is on the table for next year, he said, with no more planned after that.

"We feel that having more athletic teams will advertise the school more and that will make the school grow and create more on-campus activities," said Van Vossen, who supports the fee increase. "It's all about growing the number of activities available on campus."

He said the athletic fee increase passed the SGA — as did other proposed fee increases — but not without opposition.

"Some just didn't think it was necessary, with the recession and all the other student fees going up," he said. "They also were afraid it would change the culture at UIS from academic to more of an athletic culture."

To become a member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, UIS must field a baseball team by 2010-11, which means funding up to 30 scholarships and paying for a head coach and assistant coach.

Rodger Jehlicka, UIS athletic director, last year estimated the initial cost of establishing a team, scholarships and perhaps a new stadium at \$2 million. He projected the athletic department budget for FY 2012, when UIS will be active members of Division II, at \$1.9 million.

The student athletic fee is expected to generate about \$115,000 for the athletic department this year.

The SGA also voted to support a student activity fee increase of \$7 and a health and counseling fee hike of \$2.

Yet to be voted on are housing rate increases and a \$12 per semester hike in the general fee, Van Vossen said.

"The housing rate increase varies as to where someone lives on campus, but the increase is the lowest in both percentage and dollar amount in the past seven years," he said.

If all the proposed fee increases (not including housing and a \$5 per semester hour campus and library technology assessment) are approved by the trustees, a full-time UIS student will pay \$891.50 per semester in fees next fall, an increase of \$38 over this year.

Chris Dettro can be reached at 788-1510.

### University of Illinois Springfield student fee structure (full-time student, fall semester 2009)

Student activity fee: \$150

Intercollegiate athletic fee: \$132

Career Center fee: \$15.50

Non-instructional facility fee: \$46

Recreational facility (gym) fee: \$18

Recreation Center fee: \$194

Health fee: \$31

Student-to-student grant fee: \$4

Student insurance fee: \$263

Campus library and technology fee: \$5 per semester hour

Total: \$853.50 plus \$5 per semester hour

Source: *UIS*

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