

University of Illinois at Springfield

Student Government Association

Resolution 2009-10

Resolution to Approve the Proposed Rate Increase for the Health and Counseling Fee

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association is vested with the authority to represent the students of The University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) in issues affecting them; and

WHEREAS, The UIS SGA has been requested to approve an increase in the Health and Counseling Fee for FY11.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UIS SGA approves the increase in the Health and Counseling Fee for FY11 as proposed:

Health and Counseling

We are requesting a **6.5% increase** in health and counseling fee for FY11. **This increase of \$2.00 will be allocated as follows. Counseling Center – 1.00 and Health Services \$1.00.**

The increased revenue will assist with the following program enhancements and maintenance:

- Transition to electronic medical records in the Health Service and the Counseling Center.
- *Student Health 101* e-magazine sponsored by the Health Service and the Counseling Center.
- Violence prevention initiatives by the Counseling Center (e.g., suicide prevention, threat assessment, anger management).
- Pandemic flu education and prevention materials including flu packets for ill students.
- Funding to partially cover the cost of vaccines provided to students in the Health Service. The Illinois Department of Public Health is no longer providing free vaccines. Therefore, funding is needed to offset the cost of the vaccines, to prevent passing the full cost along to students.

The Counseling Center and the Health Service provide quality services for UIS students. The growth of the campus has challenged both departments to continually improve and enhance their services and programming initiatives. The expansion of undergraduate education, the increase in the residential student population and the severity of the health and counseling issues of our students necessitate the improvement and expansion of health and counseling services.

November 8, 2009

Modifications to services are made in both departments to stay abreast of developments in our respective disciplines:

- The implementation of electronic medical records is an improvement that is being implemented on many campuses across the country. The transition to electronic medical records would improve both departments' ability to manage student medical information, increasing the efficiency of service delivery.
- The *Student Health 101* e-magazine provides access to health and prevention information in an appealing format for college students. This joint initiative of the Counseling Center and the Health Service will make this information more accessible to UIS students.
- The violence at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University has emphasized the need for campuses to be vigilant regarding campus violence, threat assessment, and violence prevention. Counseling Center programs on suicide prevention, threat assessment, and anger management are designed to help prevent violence on our campus. Funding is needed to develop and maintain these programs.
- The emergence of the H1N1 flu virus has necessitated that campuses become increasingly vigilant in preventing and treating student flu symptoms. Vaccines are available for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu but these vaccines can be costly. Educating students about preventative measures and treating students who become ill with flu symptoms is a priority that helps maintain the wellness of UIS students.

In order to meet these increasing needs, the Counseling Center and Health Service must expand the range of services provided to UIS students. The proposed \$2 increase for the fall and spring semesters and \$1 for the summer are minimal. The proposed fees of \$33 for the fall and spring semesters and \$16.50 for the summer are significantly lower than existing health and counseling fees at other Illinois campuses. We are requesting your support of the proposed fee increase, to ensure continued improvement and maintenance of health and counseling services at UIS.

Matt Van Vossen
President

Jeffrey Long
Secretary