

University of Illinois at Springfield

Student Government Association

Resolution 2009-11

Resolution to Approve the Proposed Rate Increase in the General Fee for FY11

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 General Fee for FY11.

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

General Fee

We are requesting a **6.2% increase** in recreation center fee for FY11.

The request for a fee increase has been developed under the following premises which we deem of paramount importance:

- This request is put forth with the welfare of the university and students in mind irrespective of our own self-interest.
- This request flows directly from and in service to a 21-month department-based initiative to develop a comprehensive and collaborative strategic plan.
- This request is deemed necessary for us to meet goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in our strategic vision. Specifically and most importantly, we believe this fee increase is essential to ensure appropriate fiscal accountability of our entire fund so that we can avoid operating in the red.

The *Pro Forma* developed for the TRAC is a valuable tool for forecasting the financial picture and it, along with many of its incorporated projections, are continuously evolving and impacted by a wide variety of factors. After carefully reviewing the initial *Pro Forma* alongside our updated version, we continue to see a structural deficiency that needs to be addressed. Frankly, we can't continue to rely on a carry-over from year to year. Our mandatory transfers and expenses are more costly than originally projected, they are absorbing the carry-over at a rapid pace, and they will only continue to increase. In that vein, the monies collected from this fee increase would not be used to fund new initiatives; rather they would be used to pay for our current and necessary functional expenditures.

The magnitude of this deficiency is very concerning to us. Like many units, we reduced our FY08 and FY09 budgets and have been extremely frugal with our spending. We have cut positions and combined others. These actions have made little difference on our bottom line yet have had a negative impact on our programs and services. We can't continue to let the programs and services suffer. One of the most consistent findings in higher educational research is that student personality characteristics, college satisfaction, scholastic achievement, attrition rates, and recruitment are highly correlated with extracurricular involvement, specifically in intramural and recreational sports. There is also a direct correlation between the level of participation in recreational sports and the following benefits: improves emotional well-being, reduces stress, improves happiness, improves self-confidence, builds character, makes students feel like part of the college community, improves interaction with diverse sets of people, is an important part of college social life, teaches team-building skills, is an important part of the learning experience, aids in time management, and improves leadership skills. If we are to develop and maintain Recreational Sports and TRAC as a functional and aesthetic recruitment and retention tool we must consider this fee increase.

Matt Van Vossen
President

Jeffrey Long
Secretary