**Student Fees Ad Hoc Committee**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this committee is to look into the six categories of fees listed below and investigate how student fees were set, and were said money goes. The committee was to then review the recommended fee increases for the next year, and 2-4 years after that were presented from the previous Student Fees Committee. After reviewing these fees, the committee was charged to make adjustments to fee increases and present them to Student Senate as a budget plan.

The committee was made up of various student leaders across campus including: Tamera Dunn, Adam Watson, and Jeff Drake. The Committee was also chaired by both Student Senate President Abby Freeman, and Student Regent Bradley Gardner. Many people were asked by the committee to come in and educate us about certain areas in which student fees apply. Those people included: Becky Mullins for Classroom Renovation, Angel McAdams for Student Activities, Jerry Wilmes for the Wellness Fee, Mary Throener for Minimum Wage, Paul Klute helped look into the effects of the Ereader on Textbook Fees, and John Rickman helped us with the Technology Fees.

**Budget Plan**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fee** | **Current 08-09** | **FY 09-10 Actual** | **FY 09-10 Suggested** | **FY 10-11** | **FY 11-12** |
| Classroom Renovations | 5.50 | 5.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 8.50 |
| Activities | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.50 |
| Wellness | 5.50 | 5.50 | 5.50 | 6.00 | 6.50 |
| Minimum Wage | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Textbook | 6.00 | 6.00 | **6.00** | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| Technology | 10.00 | 10.00 | 12.00 | 12.00 | 12.50 |

**Reasoning:**  Below is a breakdown of the six sections of student fees, and the rationale behind there adjustment.

**Classroom Renovations**

This fee is used to help with the upkeep and improvement of many of the various facilities at NWMSU. Becky Mullins was very helpful in explaining to us the projects that are currently being worked on, as well as educating us about future projects. Some of these projects include and areas investigated:

1. Colden hall renovation- adding 4 new rooms with increased capacity
2. Deluce Fine arts building- Choir rooms will be improved by fixing walls doors and sound systems, this will improve the overall sound quality of the room
3. Wells hall- will be finishing removing all asbestos soon
4. CIE- will be finished and hopefully open by next year
5. Valk offices renovation will be done by sometime in April

Ms. Mullins suggested that the previous committee’s suggestion of an increase in 09-10 was accurate and that it coincided with certain projects that are happening in the future (for instance the REEP program and the new suite style dorms that are to be built).

**Activities**

This fee is used to aid in supporting activities on campus, such as those presented by the Student Activities Council. Angel McAdams met with members of the committee and explained that the activity fee was based upon a yearly budget. She also told us that based on their situation for next year and their budget, that no increase in that category is needed for 09-10

**Wellness**

The wellness fee is used to help fund the University’s Wellness Center and its staff. Dr. Gerald Wilmes the director of the wellness center met with a member of the fees committee, and explained that the Wellness fee was based on a set budget each year. Dr. Wilmes explain that **he did not expect need for an increase in FY 09-10**. This is due to the fact that there is expected to be a salary freeze next year. Dr. Wilmes also said that they were able to hire on an additional counselor this year to help out with the increasing demand for counseling. This salary came out of the existing fee schedule.

**Minimum Wage**

The minimum wage fee is present to aid in helping to supplement the Student Labor Budget so that the university can keep employing positions at minimum wage. Many of the positions are held by students and contribute significantly to the functioning of NWMSU. Mary Throener visited the committee and talked about many programs, including the Career Pathing Program, and about the financial situation of the Student Labor Budget.

Some facts about student employment include:

* Appoximatly 50% of jobs on campus start at minimum wage
* There are around 1000 Student Employees and exactly 742 faculty and support staff
* NWMSU averages 22,000 hours of work in the summer and, 35,000 from Sept. to April
* Students participating in the Career Pathing program can earn .25 annually by continuous participation
* If including the Career Pathing Program (which increases base pay with each level) a student can earn as much as 38,610 over the course of a 4 year college career

Mary Throener stated that she doesn’t believe an increase in the FY 09-10 will be necessary, as the budget is currently in the black and is expected to be so next year. Mary explained that it is often better to wait to see what the federal minimum wage is going to be in the coming year and then raise it to what it needs to be, rather than provide for a steady increase that follows the minimum wage.

**Textbook**

The purpose of the Textbook Fee is to aid Textbook Services in the purchase of new books and its general operation. Next year this fee will also be expanded to encompass the operation and implementation of the new E textbook program. The Etextbook program will start next fall at around 15% and will continue to increase each year till we get as close to 100% as possible (though 100% will never truly be reached and physical textbooks will never truly be eliminated. Paul Klute, the assistant to the president, came to talk with the committee and discussed many of the causes and effects that Etextbooks would have on the Textbook fee. Paul also showed us many new models of ereaders and discussed how Etext would be implemented to the students in the coming year. Paul stated that without the Etextbook program the cost from the publishers would force the Textbook fee to be raise to 7.00 but with the Etextbook program in place, we would not need to increase Textbook fees for FY09-10

**Technology**

The Technology Fee is used to support many parts of the NWMSU campus. It is used to help provide computers to every full time student at Northwest, and provide support for said computers. It also is used to provide wireless internet and basic internet to areas of the NWMSU campus. Thirdly the fee helps to purchase licenses, purchase and/or upgrade new software, and networking systems for the necessary function of the electronic campus.

Jon Rickman came to speak with the committee about various projects and plans that were in the making in order to make the technology experience here and NWMSU better. One of the main plans is to start making all the Residence Halls, and nearly all classrooms, to go wireless. Jon also explained the Microsoft Maintenance for notebook computers has risen to 95,000 for next year. Other upgrades include two new vendors to replace old ones that have stopped support. And finally the current degree audit system and current web content manager will need to be replaced. The new audit system will become web based and student accessible.

Jon made the recommendation to out committee to raise the Technology Fee to 12.00 for the FY 09-10