STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Approve 2016-17 Student Technology Fee Adjustment, University of Washington, Seattle

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents approve for the Seattle campus:

1. Apply the Technology Fee to students enrolled during summer quarter starting in the summer of 2017;
2. Lower the Technology Fee level for 2016-17 from $41 to $38 per full-time student per quarter.

BACKGROUND

The UW Seattle Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC) exists to support technology that augments students’ ability to engage in their educational experience. STFC accomplishes this goal by funding technology proposals generated by the UW community. STFC dollars pay for computers in Odegaard Undergraduate Library, instruments for the Low Speed Wind Tunnel, 3D printers, and much more.

The 2016-17 recommendation has two purposes. First, it is intended to create a more equitable distribution of STFC costs. Students benefit from STFC-supported projects year-round. However, only students enrolled in fall, winter, and spring quarters pay for those projects. That is why the STFC recommends charging the Technology Fee during summer quarter.

Second, the STFC wishes to reduce the amount it over-collects. In recent years, the STFC has spent significantly less money on campus technology projects than it has collected. The committee does not wish to take money from students unless it is being put to work for students. The committee therefore recommends that the Technology Fee be decreased by $3. $2 of this decrease is to compensate for the increase in revenue from charging summer quarter students the Technology Fee. An additional $1 decrease is recommended to reduce the gap between collections and expenditures.

The Student Technology Fee has been $41 a quarter (but $0 during summer quarter) for the past 10 years. The fee has not gone below $37 or above $41 per quarter since it was initiated. If the STF Fee is applied to summer quarter, it is
Academic and Student Affairs Committee

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conservatively estimated that revenue will be approximately $4,818,000 for 2016-17.

The Student Technology Fee Committee submitted its written recommendations to the Vice President for Student Life on May 24, 2016.

The 2015 - 16 and recommended 2016 - 17 distributions of the quarterly S&A Fee are displayed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full-time 2015 – 16</th>
<th>Full-time 2016 – 17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Loan Fund</td>
<td>$2.05</td>
<td>$1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5% of the Student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Fee)</td>
<td>$38.95</td>
<td>$36.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Technology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee</td>
<td>$41.00</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attachments
1. May 24, 2016 Letter, Student Technology Fee Committee’s Recommendation for 2016-17
2. Presenters’ Biographical Information
May 24, 2016

Dear Dr. Denzil J. Suite,

I am writing to offer the Student Technology Fee Committee’s fee recommendations for the coming year.

**CHARGE the Student Technology Fee During all Four Academic Quarters**

The Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC) was surprised to learn that the Technology Fee is currently charged to students enrolled in fall, winter, and spring quarters, but not to summer quarter students. The origins of this difference is not currently understood, but it has been the case for many years.¹ Charging all enrolled students the Technology Fee will create a more fair distribution of the fee burden and make the cost of attendance a more consistent.

**DECREASE the Student Technology Fee from $41 to $38**

The STFC therefore recommends a $3 decrease in the Student Technology Fee. $2 of this drop will offset the increase in revenue that will result from charging Summer Quarter students the Technology Fee. $1 of this drop serves purely to help control the over-collection rate.

¹ https://opb.washington.edu/content/summer-tuition-and-fees
Despite this $3 decrease, STFC’s revenue will likely increase slightly in the coming year. The STFC contemplated recommending even larger fee decreases. However, it ultimately decided against such measures because the committee is also undertaking new measures to increase the quantity and quality of funding requests that it receives. The committee foresees its collected revenues aligning with its expenditures in coming years through some combination of decreases in the fee level and increased student demand for the committee’s financial support.

The Student Technology Fee Committee therefore recommends that the Student Technology Fee be charged year-round and set at $38.

Sincerely,

Kiehl Sundt
Co-Chair,
Student Technology Fee Committee

Bryce Kolton
Co-Chair,
Student Technology Fee Committee
Presenters’ Biographical Information
2016-17 Student Technology Fee Adjustment, University of Washington, Seattle

Bryce Kolton, STF Co-Chair

A native Seattleite, Bryce is a junior studying Informatics at the UW. He currently serves as a Co-Chair on the Student Technology Fee Committee, joining the group during his first quarter at UW as a liaison from ASUW Student Senate. Bryce has a wide range of academic and personal interests, focusing largely around technology, science, programming, politics, and social issues. A true nerd at heart Bryce plans on staying in Seattle after graduation.

Kiehl Sundt, STF Co-Chair

Kiehl was born and raised in Sequim, WA. He earned a B.A. in Political Science and is now in his second year at UW Law.