

May 25 -27 2017

ITEM 175-1009-R0517

Request for authorization for increase to the student health services fee – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Consistent with BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions), the Board of Regents of the Montana University System approves a fee increase of 3% to the University of Montana Missoula Health Services Fee in each of the next two academic years.

EXPLANATION

1. At the September 2016 Board of Regents' meeting, the Commissioner of Higher Education's Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health Task Force presented an information item to the Academic, Research & Student Affairs Committee of the Board. Several recommendations were presented, including "The MUS should explore funding/resource availability and determine funding sources to increase mental health services to students." The campuses were charged with quickly moving forward to implement the recommendations.
2. Due to limited resources the Counseling Service at Curry Health Center currently must limit students to 8 counseling visits per year. This increase will provide funding for to increase this visit limit to 12 visits per year. Student government endorsed a 3% increase in the health fee in ASUM Senate Bill 80-16/17 for the 2018-2019 Biennium.
3. Curry Health Center (CHC) services are provided in an integrated model across all program functions, that being Medical, Counseling, Wellness and Dental Services. Each program area provides expertise depending upon how a student presents (i.e., depression, anxiety, stress, behavioral health issues, suicidality, diagnosed and undiagnosed medical conditions, etc.) Most services are covered by the Health Fee so our students can have access to quality, timely and affordable health care. Since there is no state or tuition funding for the majority of the personnel or operations of the Curry Health Center, a modest fee increase is also being requested to pay for unavoidable cost increases, such as the Board approved pay plan costs that MUS employees have, or will, receive. This will prevent a reduction in services provided to our students.
4. Students enrolled in 7 (seven) or more credits are assessed the Health Services Fee; those who are enrolled in fewer credits may choose to add the fee to have full access to services. Through this fee structure, affordability is maintained for part-time students who are not as likely to avail themselves of these services.

Increases in the per-semester fee are proposed as follows:

	FY17 Fee	FY18 Proposed	FY19 Proposed
Amount	\$256.00	\$263.68	\$271.59
Dollar Increase	-	\$7.68	\$7.91
Percent Increase	-	3.00%	3.00%

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment#1 – SB80-16/17, ASUM Resolution - Health Fee Increase for the 2018/2019 Biennium
- Attachment#2 – National College Health Association Mental Health Data 2016