Student Services Fee Proposal 2009-2010 – Student Wage Increase and New Positions for Campus Recreation

Introduction
The Department of Campus Recreation mission is to educate, serve and promote wellness for the entire university community. Over 23,433 students utilized the Student Recreation Center at least once in 2007. We foresee a sizable increase in the usage pattern when the expansion opens in January, 2010.

We employ over 338 students in various positions to not only manage facilities and programs, but also involved them in various leadership positions that require special teaching skills, certifications, and supervising other students. Students are our # 1 priority and it is a goal for us to keep our programs and services affordable for all students and provide professional development opportunities for them as well. Funding continues to be a concern for us as we have reached a market ceiling on charging students and users for our services and programs. We continue look for ways to secure support through corporate sponsorships and donors to offset costs for supplies and materials (one time costs), but these dollars cannot be used to support wages for students and staff (except on a temporary basis).

FUNDING REQUEST
Campus Recreation requires additional funding to maintain its current level of service to the University community. The immediate need is to increase funding to improve our ability to pay student employees in response to federally mandated minimum wage increases and hire new student employees for the expansion of the Student Recreation Center.

- Federal Minimum wage increase for student staff for various positions with Campus Recreation from $6.75 to $7.25. The total request for covering this wage increase is $85,000 and includes fair wage restoration as well as ERE costs. This will affect 338 students who are employed throughout various program and facility areas of Campus Recreation. The outcome of this project will be measured through survey of existing employees to determine job satisfaction level after implementation of this increase.

- Funding for new student staff positions-hiring additional student workers to manage the new areas within the expansion of the Student Recreation Center. (See budget for breakdown of positions and annual costs) $96,724. This will add an additional 31 new student positions for Campus Recreation and allow us to maintain the operation of the expansion. Outcomes will be measured through interviews for all staff hired for the expansion determining salary and job satisfaction.

- Funding for new Graduate Assistant positions-hiring additional graduate assistants to manage new areas of the facility (expansion) as well as for marketing and managing new digital signage (17 monitors), as well as website maintenance and other marketing initiatives (Hothand, Reach TV system). $92,280. This will add 3 new GA positions for the department. We are currently working with Higher Education Department to secure possible GA’s for these positions. We will also work with GPSC and the Marketing Department to publicize the GA positions that are associated with Marketing. We will market all new positions for the expansion (undergrad and graduate positions) with Career Services and Joblink. The outcome will be measured through GA’s job satisfaction survey.

Total Request: $274,004

All of these funds will support students, both undergraduate and graduate students in their educational endeavors. These jobs provide the students with valuable leadership experience outside of the classroom, as well as a source of income to help cover the costs associated with their education here at the UA. If this funding is not provided, we will need to reduce the number of student employee positions in Campus Recreation as well as decrease the operational hours for the Student Recreation Center. The Recreation Advisory Committee is in full support of this funding request.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns for this request.
Juliette Moore, Director of Campus Recreation