Student Services Fee Report
For Campus Recreation

Overview

The Department of Campus Recreation mission is to educate, serve and promote wellness for the entire university community. Over 22,430 students utilized the Student Recreation Center at least once in 2006. We employ over 300 students in various positions to not only manage facilities and programs, but also involve 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.

The Department of Campus Recreation, with the assistance of the Student Services Fee allocation, has provided student employees (over 300 students) with fair wages and compensation for the many jobs they perform to support students and other users of the Student Recreation Center, as well as all programs and services within Campus Recreation. These include:

- Intramurals
- A Camp
- Facilities Operation
- Fitness
- Aquatics (life guards)
- Non Credit classes
- Outdoor Adventures
- Sport Clubs
- Marketing

Three separate funding requests from the Department of Campus Recreation were supported by the Student Services fee for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

1. The Department of Campus Recreation was appropriated $67,770 that allowed the department to permanently implement an increase in the wages for approximately 300 students to the State's minimum wage of $6.75 per hour. Special funding for Lifeguards salaries during the summer (09) to keep them employed with Campus Recreation and not work at other city agencies that pay better salaries is part of the above appropriation listed.

2. The Student Services Fee also provided a fair and equitable wage for 5 graduate assistants (GAs) within the department. We received $28,992 this year to fund these 5 GA positions. However, Campus
Recreation was able to fill only 2 Grad Assistant positions this year (one at .5 FTE and one at .75 FTE) for a total of $11,925. So we will be returning $17,067 to the committee this year. We will be recruiting this coming spring to fill the remaining 3 GA positions and will be requesting support for all five GA positions for next year.

3. Lastly the Student Supervisors in all program areas within the department received funding for a Fair Wage increase—$49,117: Campus Recreation is providing a fair wage increase for 65 Student Supervisors who when the minimum wage increase took place were not given compensation for their years of experience and level of responsibility within the department due to lack of fiscal resources within Campus Recreation. These students will now be compensated fairly for their additional responsibilities due to the support from the Student Services Fee.

Use of Funds

In order to facilitate the usage of the funds efficiently, the following implementation/procedure was identified and approved through Jolene UnRuh and the Student Services Fee Committee. Given the limitations of PSOS and the impracticality of split-funding student positions, 14 New Recreation Services student positions are currently being funded from the Student Services Fee, which has allowed Campus Recreation to increase wages for approximately 300 students and thus provide the Minimum Wage increase across the board. The special funding for lifeguards will be implemented this summer and will be split funded through the two fiscal years (FY2008-09, and 2009-10).

The two currently filled positions GA are being funded through the Student Services Fee (SSF) account until the allocated amount has been used ($11,925). These positions will then revert back to Campus Recreation for funding the remainder of the fiscal year at the new rate.

Given the limitations of PSOS and the impracticality of split-funding positions, Campus Recreation has assigned 9 Student Supervisor positions to the SSF account, which has allowed Campus Recreation to provide a fair wage to 60 Student Supervisors. These increases took affect during the September 22, 2008 pay period. Again, if necessary, the 9 student supervisor positions will be switched back to Campus Recreation funding once the total SSF funding allocation is utilized ($49,117). It may be necessary to add additional supervisors to the SSF account to ensure utilization of all allocated SSF funds.

Student Fee Breakdown

Minimum Wage Increase - $67,770
Graduate Assistants Fair Wage—$28,992
Student Supervisors Fair Wage—$49,117
Other Funding Sources

The Student Affairs Fee is only providing support for the raises for students. The costs for basic wages and employee related expenses are funded through the Campus Recreation local account. The student wages are funded through membership fees, as well as program and services fees, and we continually look for ways to supplement our funding through corporate sponsorships, etc. It would be impossible to give students an equitable wage without the support of this fee. We appreciate this financial support, and look for ways to continually provide better wages for students.

Impact of the Fee:

All of these funds have been allocated to 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.

Student Comments:
From students who received the increases:

- It’s a good increase and good for students. We need even more for all the work we do for the program.
- Finally paying attention to our needs as students.
- It a good thing and long time coming. I’m graduating this spring so I just wish it had happened sooner.
- Good UA and Campus Rec are rewarding students that attend school but work for other students and the school.
- I like it! I can afford things now like rent!
- Very appreciative for future students who will be getting a comparable wage based on current minimum and not past ones. I’m graduating, but planning to come back for graduate school.