

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

ADVISORY STUDENT FEE ALTERNATIVE CONSULTATION

Proposed Increase to Mandatory Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Fee

Shall the current SDSU mandatory Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee be increased by \$80 per semester effective Fall 2009, adjusted annually by the Higher Education Price Index beginning Fall 2015, to provide general budget support to intercollegiate athletics, fund added intercollegiate athletics women's sports, student spirit initiatives, sports clubs and other IRA mandatory costs?

- All students at San Diego State University currently pay \$95 per semester in support of instructionally related activities (the IRA fee paid by those students attending the Imperial Valley Campus exclusively would not be affected by this proposal). In the current academic year, this IRA fee supports: a) Intercollegiate Athletics; b) 100+ instructionally related activities in the academic colleges; c) the Aztec Marching Band; d) student sports clubs; and e) several student licensing and insurance programs.
- This advisory student alternative consultation process seeks student input regarding a proposed increase in the IRA fee of \$80 per semester for the purpose of improving gender equity in intercollegiate athletics, increasing funding in support of sports clubs, enhancing student spirit initiatives, and providing a reliable source of funding for Athletics to address cost pressures from rising grant-in-aid costs as well as other increasing IRA mandatory costs.

OPEN FORUMS TO BE HELD:

Wednesday, October 29, 2008	10:00AM	AS Council Chambers – Aztec Center, Lower Level
Thursday, October 30, 2008	2:00PM	Backdoor – Aztec Center, Lower Level

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

A Recommendation in favor of the proposed fee means:

- The current SDSU mandatory IRA fee would be increased by \$80 per semester for the purpose of increasing the Athletics operating budget, student sports clubs budgets and other IRA mandatory cost budgets.
- SDSU would add up to two intercollegiate women's sports programs to achieve gender equity goals to meet CAL-NOW requirements.
- SDSU will organize and enhance specific efforts to implement formal student spirit club activities to create and foster identifiable Aztec pride and spirit traditions at athletic events.

- SDSU students would continue to be admitted free to home athletic events (approximately 150 events annually) limited only by student seating availability.
- The overall IRA support to Athletics would increase by an estimated \$4.9 million to maintain a robust athletic program, to student sports clubs by an estimated \$374,000 to support student participant expenses and to IRA mandatory costs by an estimated \$100,000.
- Revenue from the current IRA fee would continue to be allocated to Athletics, instructionally related activities in the academic colleges, the Marching Band, and several student licensing and insurance programs.

A Recommendation in opposition to the proposed fee means:

- The current SDSU mandatory IRA fee would remain at \$95 per semester (and the current summer fee would remain at \$7 per unit up to a maximum of \$77).
- Revenue from the fee increase would not be available to allocate to Athletics operating budget, student sports clubs or other IRA mandatory cost budgets.
- The University would have to re-allocate resources, currently funding other programs, to support Athletics and comply with CAL-NOW gender equity requirements.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS: The IRA budget for 2008-09 (exclusive of the Imperial Valley campus) includes \$6,466,650 from fees, \$62,797 from the General Fund, \$35,000 from interest income and \$85,920 from reserves. Of this, \$5,986,799 was allocated for Athletics (with a transfer of Athletics General Fund allocation to Academic Affairs of \$2,724,772), \$200,000 for Academic Affairs, \$5,000 for student Sports Clubs and \$459,720 for insurance, music licensing fees and administrative charges.

The IRA fee may only be used to support instructionally related activities including intercollegiate athletics (Ed Code 89230). The initial purpose of the IRA fee was to relieve the Associated Students organizations in the CSU of the need to support athletic programs.

Along with the rest of the university, Athletics has experienced decreasing General Fund support due to statewide budget reductions but has also had to cope with increasing expenditures for athlete grants-in-aid that necessarily increase as student fees, tuition and housing costs increase each year. These factors compounded by other escalating fixed costs, have created an increasing structural budget gap. Of Athletics' 2008-09 budget of more than \$31 million, General Fund support comprises approximately 25% and IRA fees paid by students comprises approximately 19%--see budget pro forma below.

Total fees (includes state university fees and all campus mandatory fees) at SDSU are below the mean for the CSU. After the proposed fee increase, total fees at SDSU would rank 8th in the CSU. SDSU institutional support of athletics on a per student basis is 5th in the Mountain West Conference. The proposed increased fee would not change the ranking.

Student sports clubs would receive an increase of approximately \$370,000 in support of the over 425 sports club athlete participants in 16 existing sports clubs. The additional revenue would be used to fund team expenses, such as uniforms and travel for which the clubs currently have to fund raise. The additional revenue also provides an opportunity to add additional club sports.

See, [PRO FORMA -- PROPOSED INCREASE TO MANDATORY INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES \(IRA\) FEE.](#)