



Cornell University

The Student Assembly
Executive Committee

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To: President David J. Skorton
From: The Student Assembly Executive Committee
Date: November 30, 2007
Subject: Approval of the 2008-2010 Student Activity Fee

The Student Assembly has been charged with setting the undergraduate Student Activity Fee since 1999. We respectfully request your endorsement of this fee representing hundreds of hours of work by the Student Assembly and its subsidiary committees. Every organization receiving funding has taken an active role in the fee-setting process.

Our recommendation for this fee is \$204 per student per academic year. This fee will remain in effect for the 2008-2010 funding cycle. The aggregate funding available for student organizations will be roughly \$2,700,000 per year.

Through this memorandum, we will provide you with a brief overview of the organizations that this fee will be funding.

What organizations will the Student Activity Fee fund?

A total of twenty-six organizations have been allocated funding from this fee, including the Student Assembly Finance Commission, which subsequently funds an additional 350 organizations with our direct oversight.

We are excited that this fee will provide funds for student groups on campus and we would like to highlight some of the reasoning for funding these groups.

- For the first time in two years, **The Department of Athletics and Physical Education** will be funded at \$9.95 per undergraduate student. With this funding, all undergraduate students will be able to acquire a Big Red Sports Pass at no additional cost, which provides all undergraduate students free admission to most varsity athletic events. Additionally, a portion of this funding will be utilized for promotional activities and advertising as well as free admission for all students at the Homecoming.
- A newly by-line funded organization, **Cornell Minds Matters** will be funded at \$1.00 per undergraduate student. This group is a mental health advocacy group to dispel the stigma associated with mental awareness.
- We will be funding **Class Councils** at a record \$14.50, which is a monumental increase. We hope that this funding will provide for an exceptional senior convocation speaker, a memorable Senior Week, and sustained funding for class unity at Cornell.

Why is there a \$22 increase in the fee?

We understand that many undergraduate students are price sensitive to a raise in undergraduate tuition. With that in mind, we have feel we successfully cut superfluous expenses so that no money is wasted.

While the \$22 fee is a greater percentage increase then we have seen in recent funding periods, it is important to note that a group that had not been funded in the past, Athletics, is included with this funding.

Other increases can be attributed to the growing cost of administrative costs, gas prices, and inflation.

What are the next steps in this process?

We stand ready to answer your questions about the fee. Please do not hesitate to contact us with regards to any group.

In January, it has been standard procedure that we briefly present this fee to the Board of Trustees. We hope that with your endorsement, in addition to those in your senior administration, the Board of Trustees will accept this recommendation.

Next semester, the Student Assembly will revise the byline funding policy in Appendix B of our charter, which stipulate exactly how the money we have allocated is to be spent. We will, of course, forward you these recommendations.

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We thank you for your assistance in this process and we look forward to building a stronger relationship between your office and the undergraduate Student Assembly.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions.

CC: All By-Line Funded Groups
All Student Assembly Members
Carolyn Martin
Steven Golding
Susan Murphy
Carolyn Ainslie
LeNorman Strong
David Yeh
Doris Davis
Kent Hubbell