



## UNIVERSITY PROGRAM AND FACILITIES FEES

2009-10 Academic Year

### The Purpose of Student Fees

Imagine, for a moment, a quite different UNL. Erase from the campus scene all recreational facilities, the Nebraska Unions, the Health Center, and the residence halls. Eliminate all student services such as counseling, career services, and study skills programs; all student organizations and activities, and government groups; and all campus programs -- films, concerts, dances, workshops, performing arts, intramural sports, etc.

What remains represents the core of higher education -- the academic curriculum. Everything else, some would say, is unnecessary. But is it? American educators have long recognized that college students develop not only intellectually, but physically, socially, and emotionally as well, and that these dimensions of human development are interrelated. Educators know, too, that academic achievement can be helped or hindered by the quality of campus life.

Thus, most American universities offer more than classrooms and instructors. They provide services, facilities, and programs designed to make the institution a community where most students' interests and needs can be met. At UNL, as elsewhere, some of these facilities, services, opportunities, and programs are self-sustaining; some are supported by tuition and tax monies; others are financed by "student fees," or what UNL calls University Program and Facilities Fees (UPFF).

Although paid by students for programs and services oriented to students, UPFF assessments are not "user fees." They are, rather, part of the cost of attending the University. All enrolled students -- even those who may be pursuing an off-campus course such as student teaching -- are assessed student fees along with tuition, whether or not they expect to take advantage of fee-funded facilities and services that particular semester. Like taxes that we pay within the larger communities in which we live, student fees are essential to the support of vital functions within the University community -- in this case, functions that enrich, enliven and humanize the institution.

### Levels of Fee Assessment

There are two levels of UPFF assessment, determined by the number of credit hours for which a student enrolls each semester:

1 to 6 credit hours:	\$252.70
7 or more credit hours:	\$448.10

Fees for students enrolled for one to six hours do not include the Health Center general operations assessment or the assessment for debt service on facilities. Students enrolled for fewer than seven credit hours who desire to utilize the Health Center may elect to pay the \$143.91 fee or they may procure health services at the Center on a fee-for-service basis. Students enrolled for less than seven credit hours who elect to enroll in the University-offered Student Accident and Sickness Insurance plan must pay the Health Center fee each term that the insurance is in force.

### Fee Allocations

The following table details the allocations of UPFF funds for 2009-10. The allocations to UNL student organizations are categorized as "Fund A" of UPFF, and the allocations to University-administered programs and facilities are categorized as "Fund B" of UPFF. The "Per Student Per Semester Assessment" figures are approximations, indicating the proportional breakdown of the \$448.10 paid by students enrolled for seven or more credit hours.

	<u>Per Student Per Semester Assessment</u>	<u>Projected Annual Revenue</u>
<u>Fund A (Student Organizations)</u>		
ASUN (Student Government)	\$ 10.16	\$ 450,279
<u>Daily Nebraskan</u>	2.74	115,686
University Program Council:		
UPC Programming	3.61	160,065
Lied Center Discounts	<u>2.46</u>	<u>109,000</u>
Subtotal	18.97	835,030
 <u>Fund B (Institutional Obligations and Student Services Agencies)</u>		
Campus Recreation	\$ 130.25	\$ 5,770,077
Nebraska Unions:		
General Operations	82.89	3,672,072
Newspaper Program	6.43	284,786
Transit Services	8.94	396,086
University Health Center:		
General Operations	143.91	5,511,777
Counseling & Psychological Services	5.16	228,616
Debt Service on Facilities	51.50	1,845,626
Contingency	<u>.05</u>	<u>1,915</u>
Subtotal	429.13	17,710,955
 TOTAL for Fund A & B	 \$ 448.10	 \$ 18,545,985

Fund A Refunds: Board of Regents policies stipulate that students may request a refund of the amount indicated in the "Per Student" column for any or all of the items listed under Fund A. Forms for applying for a Fund A refund may be obtained at the Student Organizations Financial Services Office (Nebraska Union, Room 222) during the first four weeks of each semester.

#### How Decisions About Spending Student Fees Are Made

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Board of Regents, the total income from University Program and Facilities Fees is divided into two portions: Fund A is used to fund programs and activities managed by student groups; Fund B is used to make bond payments and fund staff salaries and operating costs for various student services and maintenance of related facilities.

ASUN (Association of Students of the University of Nebraska) recommends to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs all assessments and disbursements of Fund A monies, preparing its recommendations on the basis of annual budget requests submitted by eligible student organizations. To fulfill this responsibility, ASUN has established a Committee for Fees Allocation (CFA) composed of four ASUN senators and seven students elected to represent the three categories of student living arrangements -- residence halls (2), Greek houses (1), and off-campus (4). The Vice Chancellor forwards ASUN's recommendations to the Chancellor along with any suggested modifications, and the Chancellor makes final decisions on Fund A allocations.

Decisions on the allocation of Fund B are made by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the Chancellor. It has been customary for ASUN's Committee for Fee Allocation to review annual budget requests submitted by Fund B agencies and to make recommendations through ASUN to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs on UPFF Fund B assessments, as well as on those in the Fund A category. The UPFF Fund B assessment includes a \$51.50 per student per semester debt service assessment that is mandated by the University's bond agreements, and thus, this portion of the Fund B is not subject to change. These bonds funded construction and renovations of the Nebraska Unions, University Health Center and the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center.

The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is the University officer directly responsible for most UPFF-funded agencies and functions. Questions about the use of UPFF funds should be directed to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, 106 Canfield Administration Building.

In regard to UPFF assessments and allocations, as in all other matters, the University of Nebraska does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veterans status, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation.



An equal opportunity employer and educator with a comprehensive plan for diversity

June 2009