

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

PROPOSAL TO CONSOLIDATE MANDATORY STUDENT FEES



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Executive Summary

The Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) and Student Health Center (SHC) programs are facing declining student fee revenues due to enrollment decline. To enhance program efficiency and financial resource management, the Division proposes merging three separate fees—Counseling and Psychological Services Fee, Student Health Fee, and Health Facilities Fee—into a single Student Health and Wellness Fee. This consolidation aims to provide financial flexibility, stabilize services in response to student needs, and eliminate outdated funding structures while having a net neutral impact on student fees. Given ongoing enrollment challenges and budget deficits, moving forward with this proposal is essential for optimizing resource utilization and better-supporting student health and wellness.

Background

The revenue sources for the CAPS and SHC programs are primarily comprised of three Category II fees: the Counseling and Psychological Services Fee, the Student Health Fee, and the Health Facilities Fee. The Division of Student Affairs has implemented a model that integrates the CAPS and SHC departments into a single organizational unit to provide comprehensive mental and physical health services to students. The two programs now operate under the leadership of the Senior Director of Counseling and Psychological Services and the Student Health Center. However, the student fees that support these areas continue to be collected and utilized separately which limits financial flexibility and does not allow for cross-utilization of the funds to support all aspects of student health and wellness.

Recommendation

In order to maximize the financial resources and better support the students, it is recommended that the three fees be merged into one consolidated fee that can be utilized to support the CAPS and SHC operations holistically.

Below is a listing of the current fees:

- Student Health Fee
- Counseling and Psychological Fee
- Student Health Facilities Fee

These fees would be consolidated into one Category II mandatory student fee fund under a proposed adjusted name:

- Student Health and Wellness Fee

It is recommended that this change take place through the Alternative Consultation Process which would include the following steps:

1. The President shall inform the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) of her intent to begin alternative consultation on the proposal;

2. Review the proposal and develop alternative consultation strategies with the SFAC and the Associated Students(SFAC);
3. Implement the alternative consultation strategies and inform the Cabinet, Associated Students, Academic Senate and other campus constituents on the details of the proposal;
4. Complete alternative consultation and summarize the results of the process;
5. The SFAC will make a final recommendation to the President;
6. The President will approve the adjustments to the fee structure;
7. The adjusted fee structure will be implemented for the 2025-2026 academic year.

This change would allow the area to adapt to the evolving health and wellness needs of students. Eliminating barriers in terms of how the funds can be utilized will help the area use financial resources to meet priorities.

Consolidating the existing fees into a single fee will not result in any change to the total amount students will pay. Refer to the Fee Chart below.

	FY24/25 Fees/Semester Current	FY25/26 Fees/Semester Proposed*
CAPS Fee	\$ 73	\$ -
SHC Fee	\$ 183	\$ -
SHC Facilities Fee	\$ 24	\$ -
Student Health and Wellness Fee	\$ -	\$ 280
Total Fees/Semester	\$ 280	\$ 280

*does not reflect annual CPI increases which will be applied to Category II fees per the approved 2001 Student Fee Referendum

Appendix I- List of Category II Fees

Associated Students Fee	This fee was established by California Education Code and supported by student referendum. It supports the student body organization established to provide a variety of programs, services and organizations to enhance the student experience. Examples of these activities include Associated Students Productions (ASP) events, Student Government, Join Us Making Progress (JUMP), the Children's School, the Tutorial Center, and funding for many student clubs. <i>See AS website for additional information:</i> http://www.sonoma.edu/as/
Consolidated Services Fee	This fee consolidated several previously charged miscellaneous administrative services and document related fees for such things as transcripts, diploma, initial I.D. card, and graduation.
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Fee	This fee was enacted in response to a CSU Executive Order which requires a certain level of mental health services to be provided on the campus. The required basic services supported by this fee include: counseling/psychotherapy, suicide and personal violence services, emergency/crisis services, outreach, mental health consultation, and referral resources. <i>See CAPS website for additional information:</i> http://www.sonoma.edu/counselingctr/
Health Facilities Fee	This fee exists under the authority of the California Education Code, with the current fee level supported by student referendum to specifically fund the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of the Student Health Center facility. <i>See Student Health Center website for additional information:</i> http://www.sonoma.edu/shc/
Instructionally Related Activities Fee	This fee was supported by student referendum and provides funding for programs related to instruction, such as Athletics, the Center for Performing Arts, the Library, and the Children's School. Additionally, the IRA fee supports many other student activities, including various educational lecture series and the STAR student newspaper.
Student Health Fee	This fee exists under the authority of the California Education Code and was supported by student referendum to more reliably fund the availability, staffing, supplies and operation of the Student Health Center. This includes the availability of student access to basic health services such as outpatient primary medical care for illness and injury; health maintenance and preventive services; first aid; pharmacy, lab, and x-ray services; health education; campus public health services; medical disaster and disease outbreak response; and other health related functions. <i>See Student Health Center website for additional information:</i> http://www.sonoma.edu/shc/
Student Union Fee	This fee was supported by student referendum and supports the financing, construction, maintenance, student programming, and operation of student body facilities, such as the Student Center and the Recreation Center. <i>See Student Center and Recreation Center websites for additional information:</i> http://www.sonoma.edu/studentcenter/ http://www.sonoma.edu/campusrec/