

ACTION ITEM #7

WSU Pullman, Proposed Student Recreation Center
Mandatory Student Fee Rate Change
(Leslie Brunelli/Dave Cillay/Romando Nash/Sean Greene)

March 7, 2025

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: WSU Pullman, Proposed Student Recreation Center Mandatory Student Fee Rate Change

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents authorize an increase in the WSU Pullman, Student Recreation Center mandatory student fee effective academic year 2025-2026.

SUBMITTED BY: Leslie Brunelli, Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration/CFO

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: In accordance with RCW 28.B.15.100, the Board of Regents may determine and establish fees to meet institutional needs. The WSU Pullman student body passed a referendum in 1997 to create a mandatory student fee for the purpose of constructing and operating a recreation center on the Pullman campus. The mandatory fee is dedicated exclusively to the operation and maintenance of the recreation center. The referendum also established an advisory board to ensure the facility meets established priorities and continues to be dedicated to student recreation, and that all funds remain within the center.

The SRC fee was established in 2001, following approval of the student referendum in 1997. Since then, fee increases have been proposed and approved by the University Recreation Advisory Board before being presented to and approved by the Services & Activities Fee Committee, and then reviewed by the Regents.

The University Recreation Advisory Board consists of 16 members, 11 of whom are students (including the GPSA executive officer, ASWSU executive officer, one first-year student, one graduate student, and 7 students at large) and 5 representing non-student stakeholders (Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Alumni, President's Office, and Finance & Administration). At the most recent meeting, 12 board

members were present, and the proposed 9% fee increase was passed unanimously.

This proposal was presented to the Pullman S&A Fee Committee on February 6, 2025. The committee unanimously approved the increase with a 9-0 vote.

Please see the table below for the current annual rate and proposed change effective academic year 2025-2026:

Rate	Current	Proposed	Change	% Change
Student Recreation Center Fee	\$350	\$382	\$32	9.1%

The SRC fee has not kept pace with inflation during and after COVID-19. The fee remained static from fiscal year 2018 until fiscal year 2022 and has since increased by only 11.5% since fiscal year 2023. These minimal increases have not been enough to cover rising costs, including wage rates (48%), salaries (16%), goods and services (29%), and utilities (45%). Additionally, post-COVID enrollment decline of 20% has resulted in a loss of over \$1M annually in SRC fee collections.

To minimize fee increases, University Recreation has reduced operating expenses by more than \$780,000 annually through staffing cuts, reduced hours, and operational adjustments. However, failing to increase the fee further would lead to even more reduced services for students, including additional cuts to SRC building hours and deferrals of vital maintenance projects and equipment replacements. These reductions could negatively impact the student experience and potentially compromise safety standards.

An approved increase in the SRC mandatory student fee will help cover the \$2.48 million annual bond payment (due to expire in 2032) and support the continued operation of the SRC facility at standard levels, including maintaining hours of operation, and funding maintenance and custodial support. Even with the increase, the SRC will continue to face significant budgetary challenges due to inflationary impacts on operational costs and maintenance needs. Priority projects, such as replacing the SRC flooring, upgrading building controls, and window replacements, will remain at the forefront.

Please find additional supporting documentation here:
https://budget.wsu.edu/documents/2024/12/ay25-26-fee-change-supporting-documents_src.pdf