

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 24, 2025

Item H.2. **McNeese State University's** request for approval to allow for a student referendum for student self-assessed fee increases.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The McNeese State University Student Government Association proposes that a referendum be placed for a student vote for each of the following proposed student self-assessed fees:

		Proposed	Proposed
	Current Fee	Fee	Fee Increase
Fee Title	Fall and Spring	Fall and Spring	Fall and Spring
Organization Fee	4.00	6.00	2.00
SGA Fee	6.25	9.00	2.75
Equestrian Fee	-	3.00	3.00
Band Fee	9.00	11.00	2.00
Theatre Fee	2.00	5.00	3.00
Powerlifting Fee	-	1.50	1.50
Total	21.25	35.50	14.25

The proposed fees would be used for the following described purposes:

Organization Fee:

This fee assists organizations in funding on-campus events, attending leadership conferences, and funding organization start-up expenses. The organization fund is currently unable to assist several organizations because of limited funding combined with the rising cost of travel and operational expenses.

SGA Fee:

This fee funds the general operations of the McNeese Student Government Association including programs, supplies, staff, and support of student initiatives.

Equestrian Fee:

The new revenue will assist the McNeese Equestrian Team with funding for team operations including uniforms, supplies, and travel to regional and national competitions.

Band Fee:

This fee funds the general operations of the Pride of McNeese Marching Band including uniforms, programs, supplies, staff, and travel expenses.

Theatre Fee:

This fee funds the general operations of the McNeese Theatre program for students including set building materials, travel, workshop events, and guest staff who train students.

New Powerlifting Fee:

The new revenue will assist the McNeese Powerlifting Club with funding for team operations including equipment such as belts, knee sleeves, shoes, singlets, and socks. Additionally, the fee will contribute to purchasing gym equipment such as banners, platforms, bars, weights, racks, and benches. Funding will also be used for regional meet fees.

A student election is anticipated to be held in fall 2025. Students would consider and vote on each fee separately. Approved fees would be assessed beginning with the spring 2026 semester and each would begin at zero credit hours.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request for approval to allow for a student referendum for new and increased student self-assessed fees.*



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

WADE ROUSSE, PhD

Via Electronic Transmittal Only

April 1, 2025

President Richard J. Gallot, Jr.
University of Louisiana System
1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-300
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear President Gallot:

McNeese State University requests consideration and approval of the following to be placed on the agenda for the April 24, 2025 meeting of the Board of Supervisors:

Student Fee Legislation for Fee Increases and New Fees

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wade Rousse, PhD
President

Attachment



4205 Ryan Street | Lake Charles, LA 70605 | Student Government Association Legislative Office

P: (337)660-6058

www.mcneese.edu

March 31, 2025

President Rousse,

The Student Senate of the Student Government Association at McNeese State University has passed the following fee increases:

- A. Organization Fund Fee Increase from \$4.00 to \$6.00
- B. SGA Fee Increase from \$6.25 to \$9.00
- C. Equestrian Fee Increase from \$0.00 to \$3.00
- D. Band Fee Increase from \$9.00 to \$11.00
- E. Theatre Fee Increase from \$2.00 to \$5.00
- F. Powerlifting Fee Increase from \$0.00 to \$1.50

Please consider this letter as our official request for your approval. If approved by your office, we ask that all documents and supporting information be presented to President Rick Gallot of the University of Louisiana Systems to appear on the April 24 agenda for approval of student referendum by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors.

If supplemental information is needed, I will provide it in a timely manner.

Best,

Nathan Blanchard

Nathan Blanchard | Speaker of the Senate
Ethan Boom | Speaker Pro Tempore
Alicia Powell | Legislative Clerk
Noah Speights | Seargent at Arms

**Eighty Fifth
Student Senate**

Of

McNeese State University

*AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION
OF*

Two Thousand and Twenty-Five

Spring Session 2025 – B. - 6

ENROLLED

February 12th, 2025

AUTHORED BY:

Senator Blanchard

A Bill

*To increase the fee for the McNeese State University
Student Government Association Organization Fund
from \$4.00 to \$6.00 that shall be collected from all
registered students of McNeese State University in both
the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic
years.*

WHEREAS, the McNeese State University Organization Fund assists organizations in funding on campus events, attending leadership conferences, and funding organization startup costs; and

WHEREAS, all recognized McNeese State University Organizations may request funds from the McNeese State University Organization Fund; and

WHEREAS, McNeese State University Organization Fund requests must be reviewed by the McNeese Student Government Association Finance and Budget Committee. The Finance and Budget Committee reviews all Organization Fund Requests and makes recommendations for fairness and budget retention; and

WHEREAS, The McNeese State University Organization Fund is currently unable to assist many organizations due to limited funding. For the reasons listed above, and to remain beneficial to McNeese State University's multiple organizations, the McNeese State University Student Government Association is respectfully requesting that the \$4.00 per semester/per student be increased to \$6.00 per semester/per student for the Organization Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The McNeese State University Student Government Association requests a fee increase for the McNeese State University Student Government Association Organization Fund from \$4.00 to \$6.00 that shall be collected from all registered students of McNeese State University in both the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic years. McNeese's Student Government Association makes this ask in good faith and with the promise that the fee will be used to fairly assist organizations with the hosting of on campus events and the partial funding of off campus events, in accordance with the Organization

Fund guidelines and the discretion of the Student
Government Association Senate.

APPROVED:

Nathan Blanchard

Drew Brown

NATHAN BLANCHARD

DREW BROWN

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

PRESIDENT

DATE: 02/24/25

DATE: 2-24-25

Glenn Anderson

GLENN ANDERSON

TREASURER

DATE: 2-24-25

**Eighty Fifth
Student Senate**

Of

McNeese State University

*AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION
OF*

Two Thousand and Twenty-Five

Spring Session 2025 – B - 7

ENROLLED

February 12th, 2025

AUTHORED BY:

Speaker Blanchard

A Bill

*To request a fee increase for McNeese's Student
Government Association from \$6.25 to \$9.00 that shall
be collected from all registered students of McNeese
State University in both the Fall and Spring semesters of
the following and subsequent academic years.*

WHEREAS, the McNeese Student Government Association serves as the voice of the student body. The McNeese Student Government Association seeks to represent the interests of McNeese State University students in all capacities; and

WHEREAS, The McNeese Student Government Association assists in funding multiple Student Event Programs for the betterment of McNeese such as: McNeese's Veteran's Day Assembly, McNeese's Homecoming and Spring Court, McNeese's SGA/SLC Day, McNeese's Amnesty Day, the McNeese Annual Multi-Cultural Fair, and other various Student Event Programs; and

WHEREAS, McNeese Student Government Association members serve on multiple McNeese Academic Affairs Committees such as: Commencement Committee, Course Materials and Bookstore Committee, General Education Assessment Council, Grade Appeals Committee, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Campus Development Committee, Traffic Control Committee, Academic Integrity and Conduct Committee, and Withdrawal Appeals Committee; and

WHEREAS, McNeese Student Government Association currently has the second lowest fee within the University of Louisiana System at \$6.25 per semester, per student; and

WHEREAS, McNeese Student Government Association currently has the second lowest semesterly budget within the University of Louisiana System estimated at \$39,018.75; and

WHEREAS, The McNeese State University Student Government Association is currently unable to fund Student Events and Programs that it was once able to. For the reasons listed above, and to remain beneficial to

McNeese State University's Student Body, the McNeese State University Student Government Association is respectfully requesting that the \$6.25 per semester, per student be increased to \$9.00 per semester, per student.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The McNeese Student Government Association requests a fee increase from \$6.25 to \$9.00 that shall be collected from all registered students of McNeese State University in both the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic years. McNeese's Student Government Association makes this request in good faith and with the promise that the fee will be used to provide the students of McNeese State University with student engagement opportunities, campus events, and improved representation.

APPROVED:

Nathan Blanchard

Drew Brown

NATHAN BLANCHARD

DREW BROWN

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

PRESIDENT

DATE: 02/24/25

DATE: 2-24-26

Glenn Anderson

GLENN ANDERSON

TREASURER

DATE: 2-24-25

**Eighty Fifth
Student Senate**

Of

McNeese State University

*AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION
OF*

Two Thousand and Twenty-Five

Spring Session 2025 – B. - 13

ENROLLED

February 19th, 2025

AUTHORED BY:

Senator Smith

A Bill

*To create a new fee of \$3 dollars for The McNeese
Equestrian Team that shall be collected from all
registered students of McNeese State University in both
the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic
years.*

WHEREAS, the McNeese Equestrian Team is a competitive team-oriented sports club. It is an English horseback riding club, specializing in show jumping in a team environment. It is governed under the national organization, Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association. This club practices weekly on team owned and donated horses at The Stables at LeBocage and competes at roughly 5 competitions over the Fall and Spring semesters with the potential of qualifying for Regionals and Nationals.

WHEREAS, members of the McNeese Equestrian Team have been active since Spring of 2018, qualifying for Zones competition in Savannah, Georgia in their first full competition year, and growing to 11 members by Fall of 2025.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Equestrian Team have, and will travel to competitions in San Marcos, TX, Austin, TX, Baton Rouge, LA, and Houston, TX throughout Fall and Spring gathering points for National competition in South Carolina.

WHEREAS, all current members of The McNeese Equestrian Team are ready and able to travel and compete at all scheduled competitions, representing McNeese State University among the Texas, Louisiana, (Zones), and South Carolina (Nationals) areas.

WHEREAS, the current members of The McNeese Equestrian Team will be responsible for attending all competitions in an attempt to earn all points possible for National qualifications.

WHEREAS, this venture would encourage new member involvement and represent McNeese State University on a National level, allowing The McNeese Equestrian team to travel to all possible shows with all possible competitors.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Equestrian Team has paid \$88,141.16 this year for all their current events, of which \$1,155 have come from fundraisers to help pay. They also charge members \$300 per semester to compete. Even with this though, members still had to pay \$86,986.16 out of pocket, which is roughly \$7,907.83 per member.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Equestrian Team uses money on things such as housing, registration fees, food, feed for the horses, horse maintenance, horse tack, and uniforms.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, The McNeese Equestrian Team requests a new fee of \$3 from all registered students of McNeese State University in both the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic years. The McNeese Equestrian Team makes this ask in good faith and promises the fee will be used to support their team's progress to improve and grow as the future progresses.

APPROVED:

Nathan Blanchard

Drew Brown

NATHAN BLANCHARD

DREW BROWN

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

PRESIDENT

DATE: 02/28/2025

DATE: 3-5-2025

Glenn Anderson

GLENN ANDERSON

TREASURER

DATE: 3-5-2025

**Eighty Fifth
Student Senate**

Of

McNeese State University

*AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION
OF*

Two Thousand and Twenty-Five

Spring Session 2025 – B. - 20

ENROLLED

March 19th, 2025

AUTHORED BY:

Senator Wesley Littleton

A Bill

*To request a fee increase for McNeese State University
Bands from \$9.00 to \$11.00 that shall be collected from
all registered students of McNeese State University in
both the Fall and Spring semesters of the following
academic years.*

WHEREAS, The McNeese Band program is the heartbeat of McNeese State University. The McNeese Band program is a highly visible group of students participating in several events across campus.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Bands is responsible for funding multiple ensembles for the betterment of its students and McNeese State University such as: The Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, The Pride of McNeese Cowboy Marching Band, Jazz Band, and the Courtside Cowboys.

WHEREAS, McNeese Bands are comprised of around 200 students and Degree candidates from every college at Mcneese State University. Making it the largest Organization at McNeese State University

WHEREAS, McNeese Bands serves as a major recruiting body traveling to schools to represent McNeese State University. As well as hosting workshops and events including: The McNeese regional Honor Band, The Louisiana Music Educators Association State Marching Band Championship, The Lake Charles Toyota Gulf Cost Marching Band Championship, the LMEA District 5 Honor Band, and The LMEA District 5 Band Assessment.

WHEREAS, The McNeese State University Bands are currently unable to fund and educate in the capacity that it once was able to do. For the reasons listed above, and to remain a program of excellence and achievement, the McNeese State University Band Programs are respectfully requesting that the fee of \$9.00 per semester/per student be increased to \$11.00 per semester/per student.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The McNeese State University Bands requests a fee increase from \$9.00 to \$11.00 that shall be collected from all registered students at McNeese State University in both the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic years. McNeese's Bands makes this request in good faith and with the promise that the fee will be used to provide its students with greater opportunities for the future.

APPROVED:



NATHAN BLANCHARD

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: 03/27/2025



DREW BROWN

PRESIDENT

DATE: 3-31-25



GLENN ANDERSON

TREASURER

DATE: 3-31-25

**Eighty Fifth
Student Senate**

Of

McNeese State University

*AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION
OF*

Two Thousand and Twenty-Five

Spring Session 2025 – B. - 22

ENROLLED

March 19th, 2025

AUTHORED BY:

Senator Wesley Littleton

A Bill

*To request a fee increase for McNeese State Theatre Program from \$2.00 to \$5.00
that shall be collected from all registered students of McNeese State University in
both the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic years.*

WHEREAS, The McNeese Theatre Program is a rising organization on campus,
with goals of bettering its students, community, and McNeese State University.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Theatre Program is financially responsible for supplying building materials, travel, workshop events, and paying for guest staff to work with students.

WHEREAS, McNeese Theatre is comprised of around 25 students and multiple colleges. Expecting to grow with continued expressed interest from high schools in the region.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Theatre Program serves as a recruiting body traveling to schools to represent McNeese State University. As well as hosting and attending events including: The Louisiana Thespian Festival, The Kennedy Center for American College Theatre, Calcasieu Theatre Arts, and workshops with Broadway cast members.

WHEREAS, This increase in funding will allow the Theatre Program to increase travel and overall presence on campus and the community. Leading to an increase in enrollment for McNeese State University.

WHEREAS, The McNeese State University Theatre Program is currently unable to fund and educate in the capacity that it aspires to do. For the reasons listed above, and to remain a program of excellence and achievement, the McNeese State University Theatre Program is respectfully requesting that the fee of \$2.00 per semester/per student be increased to \$5.00 per semester/per student.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The McNeese State University Theatre requests a fee increase from \$2.00 to \$5.00 that shall be collected from all registered students at McNeese State University in both the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic years. McNeese's Bands makes this request in good faith and with the promise that the fee will be used to provide its students with greater opportunities for the future.

APPROVED:

Nathan Blanchard

NATHAN BLANCHARD

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: 03/27/2025

Drew Brown

DREW BROWN

PRESIDENT

DATE: 3-31-25

Glenn Anderson

GLENN ANDERSON

TREASURER

DATE: 3-31-25

**Eighty Fifth
Student Senate**

Of

McNeese State University

*AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION
OF*

Two Thousand and Twenty-Five

Spring Session 2025 – B. - 24

ENROLLED

March 19th, 2025

AUTHORED BY:

Senator Wilson

A Bill

*To create a new fee of \$1.50 dollars for The McNeese
Powerlifting Team that shall be collected from all
registered students of McNeese State University in both
the Fall and Spring semesters of the following academic
years.*

WHEREAS, the McNeese Powerlifting Team fee shall be to provide an opportunity for members to travel and compete in the intercollegiate powerlifting competitions in Louisiana and Texas as well as the collegiate powerlifting nationals which are held yearly across the country. As well as maintaining a winning powerlifting program.

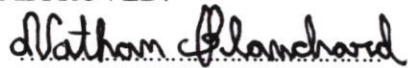
WHEREAS, the McNeese Powerlifting Team fee shall be to provide funds for equipment to host open, collegiate, and regional meets at McNeese State university or the Burton Coliseum. As well as cover lifter's equipment such as belts, knee sleeves, shoes, singlets, and socks per lifter. To host meets teams needs around \$4,000 in gym equipment such as banners, platforms, bars, weights, racks, and benches. The set of lifter equipment listed above is estimated to be estimated at \$280 per lifter.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Powerlifting Team fee shall be to cover the cost of USAPL memberships per lifter (\$70), team registration per year (\$200), meet registration (\$80) per lifter. Each member competes 4 times a year. Shall be to cover team shirts, socks, and shoes with the McNeese approved team logo and team advertising banners for when the team travels and hosts events.

WHEREAS, The McNeese Powerlifting Team fee shall aid McNeese Powerlifting Team with their struggles in providing opportunities due to travel expenses, registration fees, proper equipment to host meets, and lack of proper gym equipment to improve lifters.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, The McNeese Powerlifting team has immense potential and is currently establishing connections with the local powerlifting community representing the McNeese brand and are trying to bring another great program to the University. With the funds provided, the team could establish themselves with prestige to interest high schoolers across Southwest Louisiana to enroll in the University and team. The Powerlifting team respectfully asks to increase the fee to \$1.50 and promises that all funds provided will go towards events and equipment for members.

APPROVED:



NATHAN BLANCHARD

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: 03/27/2025



DREW BROWN

PRESIDENT

DATE: 3-31-25



GLENN ANDERSON

TREASURER

DATE: 3-31-25