

**State University System
Florida Board of Governors
Request to Implement a New Fee - Regulation 7.003(24)**

University: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU)

Date	
Univ. BOT approval date:	November 1, 2012
Proposed fall implementation date (year):	Fall 2013
Description	
New fee title:	Student Green Fund
Amount of new fee (per credit hour if applicable):	0.50
Proposed new fee as a percentage of tuition: ¹	In-state tuition 0.12% Out-of State tuition 0.035%
Purpose	
<p>Describe the purpose to be served or accomplished with this fee: The Student Green Fund will support energy efficiency and renewable energy at Florida A&M University through educational, structural, research, or service-learning projects to improve the sustainability and environmental literacy of the greater FAMU community (that is, the Tallahassee campus, satellite campuses, and other off-campus facilities).</p>	
Demonstrable Student-Based Need / Involvement	
<p>Describe the student-based need for the fee that is currently not being met through existing services, operations, or another fee: The Student Green Fund is part of a statewide initiative among institutions in the Florida State University System that allows students to show their commitment toward creating a more sustainable environment for themselves and the world in which they live. Students at other FSUS schools have or are in the process of implementing similar funds. Energy costs typically are a university's 2nd largest expense behind personnel. The Student Green Fund would represent FAMU students' dedication to keeping the cost of a college education lower while at the same time being good stewards of the environment. According to The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (aashe.org), a college's commitment to the environment has become a major reason why students choose a university. For the past two years, FAMU has been the only HBCU named to The Princeton Review's list of top green colleges. The existence of a Student Green Fund will enhance FAMU's reputation and provide students with a powerful voice in affecting the environment.</p>	
<p>Describe the process used to assure substantial student input or involvement: Midway through the 2011-2012 school year, the SGA Senate passed a bill to hold a referendum to determine the student body's interest in a green fund. On Feb. 21, 2012, 72% of</p>	

¹ If a student is required to pay this fee as a part of registration for a course, the fee shall not exceed 10 percent of tuition. See Regulation 7.003(23) (b).

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the students voting in campus elections supported the following resolution, modeled after that used by other FSUS institutions, to establish a Student Green Energy Fund:

“Would you support a small per-credit-hour student renewable energy fee between \$0.25 and \$1.00, which could only be used for energy efficiency and renewable energy on campus?”

To solicit support for the fund, members of the FAMU Green Coalition reached out to students in SGA, the Environmental Sciences Student Organization (ESSO), Greek organizations, the Royal Court, and many other student groups on campus. The campaign theme was “Two quarters can make a LOT of change,” which emphasized the intent to start the fund with a contribution of 50 cents per credit hour. Through discussions with other students, we decided to expand the range of projects to be supported to include education, research, and service-learning activities that addressed the concepts of “energy efficiency and renewable energy” in the broadest terms. Following the lead of Florida State University, which is also in the process of creating a green fund, we decided to modify the name of the fund slightly to “Green Student Fund.” A 12-member oversight committee, consisting of seven student members, three faculty members, and two staff members, will solicit, evaluate and select proposals; monitor expenditures; and report on measurable impacts. The Student Green Fund will sunset every three years, and a student referendum election will be automatically called to determine if the Student Green Fund should be maintained, increased, or abolished. If abolished, the Student Green Fund may be re-established in the same manner of its original establishment after at least one year has passed.

Student Impact

Explain the financial impact of the fee on students, including those with financial need:

The proposed Student Green Fund is a nominal fee to be assessed at an amount of 50 cents per credit hour in its initial implementation. A student enrolled in 30 credit hours per academic year (full-time undergraduate enrollment leading to graduation in four years) would be assessed at a maximum of \$15 per year. The per-credit-hour fee is 0.12% of undergraduate tuition (using 12 hours as a full-time student). The fee is covered by financial aid but will not be included in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program. The financial impact of the fee will be minimal for students.

Restrictions / Limitations

Identify any proposed restrictions, limitations, or conditions to be placed on the new fee:

All funds collected through the Student Green Fund must be used to support an educational, structural, research, or service-learning project to improve the energy efficiency, sustainability, or environmental literacy of the greater FAMU community.

The SGFC will be overseen by the Office of Construction and Facilities Management (OCFM). The SGFC will report its work to the Associate Vice President for Construction and Facilities Management, who will, in turn, report to the President. Should an Office of Sustainability be

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established, responsibility for overseeing the SGFC will move to that office. The new director of the Office of Sustainability will report to the Associate Vice President for Construction and Facilities Management, who will, in turn, report to the President. The SGFC will maintain regular communication with the Environment and Sustainability Council, the Student Government Association, the Faculty Senate, the FAMU Green Coalition, and the Environmental Sciences Student Organization (ESSO) - all of which will have members on the SGFC - to make sure all groups are working in accord.

The SGFC will send out a Request for Proposals (RFP) periodically. However, proposals will be accepted and funded, as possible, throughout the year. Any student, faculty, or staff member may initiate a proposal, which must include a budget, measurable objectives, and timeline for completion. Proposals will be reviewed by the SGFC, with input from the Office of Construction and Facilities Management (OCFM) and any other experts deemed appropriate by the SGFC. Short-listed applicants will be asked to present their proposals to the SGFC before the committee selects which proposals to fund.

Each successful grantee must submit a written report to the SGFC at the half-way point and within two weeks of the completion of the project. Depending upon how much money is in the SGF, grants will be awarded in any unit from \$500 to the maximum available. Any unused funds will be rolled over into the next year's budget, which will allow the possibility of supporting larger projects. Projects will be selected based on their potential impact on the greater FAMU community, the likelihood of successful completion, and available funds. A quorum of members must vote on any proposal, and at least half of the voting members must be students.

Every three years, the SGA Senate will set the amount of the fee (not to exceed a maximum of \$1 per credit hour) and conduct a binding student referendum in conjunction with the SGA Elections to allow students to vote on the assessment of the Student Green Fund. If abolished, the Student Green Fund may be re-established in the same manner of its original establishment after at least one year has passed.

Revenues / Expenditures

Annual estimated revenue to be collected:	\$142,056
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Describe the service or operation to be implemented and estimated expenditures (attach operating budget expenditure form).

The estimated number of credit hours for lower and upper division, graduate, and law school students at FAMU for 2013-2014 is 284,112. This would generate about \$142,056 the first year for such projects as reducing energy costs and lowering greenhouse gas emissions on campus, with the potential for a high rate of return on investment, as well. Funded projects might range from \$500 to \$100,000 or more. Any unspent funds in a given year will be maintained in the Student Green Fund account for use in subsequent years.

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Potential projects include:

- Greenhouse gas/energy audit
- Solar panel-covered parking lots to help generate electric power
- Filtered water-bottle refilling stations
- Solar umbrellas for recharging laptops, cell phones, etc.
- Geo-thermal heating/cooling systems
- Weatherization of older buildings
- Motion-controlled light sensors for all classrooms, offices, bathrooms
- Construction and monitoring of a sustainable green energy residence, which could serve as a living/learning laboratory for sustainable technology education
- Student garden

Up to 10 percent of the funds generated annually by the Student Green Fund will be used to hire someone to manage the receipt and disbursement of money within the Student Green Fund. This person may already be an employee at FAMU or may be hired specifically for this purpose. (See attached budget.)

Accountability Measures

Indicate how the university will monitor the success of the new fee. Provide specific performance metrics that will be used.

Specific project selection criteria will be established to aid the committee in its efforts to select capital projects and program initiatives that will provide best value and maximize the effect of monies generated by the Student Green Fund. Additionally, specific performance metrics will be identified on a project-by-project basis for use in measuring the effectiveness of each project. For example, if the university selects the solar panel-covered parking lot project or any of the other energy-related projects for implementation, success will be measured by confirming actual dollar reduction in energy costs from the previous period of performance. Recycling projects will be measured by cubic yards and pounds of raw materials saved from landfill disposal and documented by landfill receipts. Student involvement would be monitored by assessing the number of students who participate in events, activities and projects supported by Student Green Fund grants – and so on.

The SGFC will compile an annual report and submit it at the end of each fiscal year to the Associate Vice President for Construction and Facilities Management, with copies sent to the President, the Board of Trustees, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Student Government Association, the Dean of Students, the Faculty Senate, the Environment and Sustainability Council, the FAMU Green Coalition, and the Environmental Sciences Student Organization. The report will provide a recap of prior year projects and highlight possible projects for the upcoming year.

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FAMU is seeking authority to implement the Student Green Fund beginning fall 2013. BOG approval will be followed by a binding student referendum every three years thereafter, which will allow students the opportunity to vote on the fee assessment and fee level, which will be suggested by SGA.

Other Information

The SGFC will consist of 12 members: seven students, three faculty members, and two staff members. Should an Office of Sustainability be created, the director of that office will serve as a nonvoting staff support person for the SGFC.

Of the seven students, five will be nominated by SGA (one of these students must serve as the liaison to SGA; the others will be selected from among FAMU students in good standing who respond to a call for membership). In addition, one student will be selected by the FAMU Green Coalition, and one will be selected by ESSO. From among these seven student members, the University President and SGA President will jointly select one student to serve as the nonvoting chair of the SGFC. The remaining six students will have full voting privileges. All student members will serve one-year terms but may reapply for additional terms. All SGA nominees will be approved by the SGA President. Should a vacancy occur midterm, the designated body (SGA, FGC, ESSO) will select replacements, accordingly.

The Faculty Senate (FS) will oversee the nomination of three faculty members by putting out a call for membership; one faculty slot will be reserved for a member of the ESC. The faculty members will serve staggered three-year terms. Initially, one member will serve one year, one will serve two years, and one will serve three years until the replacement rotation is set. A faculty member may serve two consecutive terms of three years.

The Office of Construction and Facilities Management will oversee the nomination of two staff members by putting out a call for membership. The staff members will serve staggered three-year terms. Initially, one staff member will serve a two-year term and one will serve a three-year term until the replacement rotation is set. A staff member may reapply for additional terms.

The University President will approve the final selection of faculty and staff members. Should a faculty or staff vacancy occur midterm, the designated unit (FS, OCFM) will solicit applications for replacement members and make a recommendation to the University President, who will select replacements.

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Available Balances
Florida A&M University
Fiscal Year 2012-2013 and 2013-14

Fee Title: Student Green Energy Fee (Proposed)

	² Estimated Actual 2012-13	³ Estimated 2013-14

<u>Balance Forward from Prior Periods</u>		
Balance Forward	-\$	-\$
Less: Prior-Year Encumbrances	-	-
Beginning Balance Available:	-\$	-\$
<u>Receipts / Revenues</u>		
Fee Collections	-\$	\$142,056
Interest Revenue - Current Year	-	-
Interest Revenue - From Carryforward	-	-
Total Receipts / Revenues:	-\$	\$142,056
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Salaries & Benefits	-\$	-
Other Personal Services	-	\$14,206
Expenses	-	\$127,850
Operating Capital Outlay	-	-
Student Financial Assistance	-	-
Expended From Carryforward	-	-
Balance	-	-
¹ Other Category Expenditures:	-	-
Total Expenditures:	-\$	\$142,056
Ending Balance Available:	-\$	-\$

¹Provide details for "Other Categories" used.

²Column not needed if a request for a new fee.

³Based on estimate of 284,112 fundable credit hours at the initial fee level of \$0.50 per credit hour.