

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

University: Florida State University

Date	
University Board of Trustees approval date:	March 2, 2012
Proposed fall implementation date (year):	2013
Description	
New fee title:	Student Green Fee
Amount of new fee (per credit hour if applicable):	\$0.50
Proposed new fee as a percentage of tuition: ¹	0.26% (in-state undergraduate); 0.12% (in-state graduate)
Purpose	
Describe the purpose to be served or accomplished with this fee:	
<p>The Student Green Fee (SGF) is an initiative to give students at Florida State University the power to establish a small fee to support sustainable initiatives and projects on their campus. The proposed \$.50 per credit hour fee would help support efficiency, conservation, and sustainability-related projects (water, energy, waste, alternative transportation, food, etc.) that reduce Florida State University's energy costs, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and waste.</p>	
Demonstrable Student-Based Need / Involvement	
Describe the student-based need for the fee that is currently not being met through existing services, operations, or another fee:	
<p>FSU's guiding documents and complementary operational plans lay out goals for improved sustainability across the university. We are currently in the process of developing a climate action plan and strategic plan for sustainability that would further address how the goals can be met through collaboration across campus.</p> <p>Projects funded from the Student Green Fee can support increased student education and awareness of the planning and implementation of sustainability-related infrastructure and/or address specific needs that may have been value-engineered out of projects in the past. The Student Green Fee will allow FSU to work toward our goals while reducing the burden of cost on any one department.</p>	
Describe the process used to assure substantial student input or involvement:	
<p>Students at Florida State University began working on the Student Green Energy Fee in 2007, renaming it the Student Green Fee in 2012. The fee was passed in 2008 as a non-binding referendum, in 2010 and 2011 as a binding referendum, and most recently gained the support of over 61% of the student population in the spring 2012 ballot.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Student Green Fee must be approved by the student body as well as by the University Board of 	

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(24)(b).

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Trustees. A referendum of the student body must be conducted by Student Government and must be approved by a majority of the students participating in the referendum. The referendum question must explain the purpose of the fee and the proposed amount of the fee. FSU has conducted four referendums (2008, 2010, 2011, and 2012), all of which passed; the most recent referendum passing with 61% of students in approval.

2. At least half the SGF committee will consist of students who are interviewed and selected by the Student Sustainability Initiative of the Student Government Association. Faculty and staff members shall submit a letter of interest and will be selected by the University President or designee.
3. The Student Green Fee will be assessed at \$0.50 per credit hour. This amount must coincide with the amount proposed in the referendum described in paragraph 1. The amount of this fee may be changed only if approved by a student body referendum conducted by the Student Government.

After the Student Green Fee has been implemented for three years, Student Government shall conduct a referendum to assess the student body's interest in continuing the fee. If a majority of students decide to discontinue the fee, the fee will not be collected, and any remaining revenue will be dispensed by the Student Green Fee committee within two fiscal years after this referendum. In the event of termination of the fee after it is called for by the student body, the fee may be reestablished no sooner than one year after the referendum through the process described in paragraph 1. If a majority of students vote to continue the fee, the fee shall be continued.

Student Impact

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

The proposed fee would add a nominal increase to a student's tuition rate: 0.26% of in-state undergraduate student rate, and 0.12% of the in-state graduate student rate (based on 2011-2012 tuition). The cost for a student earning 30 credit hours per year is \$15.00.

The fee shall not be included in any award under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program established pursuant to ss.1009.53-1009.538.

Restrictions / Limitations

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

The proposed fee and structure of the Student Green Fee has numerous checks in place to help ensure responsible use of the generated funds.

1. Funds will be expended only for projects that:
 - Demonstrate an immediate application to reducing operational costs, waste, and or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
 - Show alignment with the FSU Strategic Plan, Campus Master Plan, and/or Energy Savings Plan
 - Submit all relevant University paperwork (space requests, event permits, etc)
 - Identify project management teams with detailed contact information
 - Submit a statement of commitment from benefitting unit who will maintain the project
 - Develop metrics on how project success will be measured
 - Submit a proposed timeline for the project, including end dates
 - Demonstrate a contribution to student learning

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2. The creation of the Student Green Fee Committee (SGFC) also provides conditions to ensure responsible implementation of the fund and supported projects. At least half the SGF committee will consist of students who are selected by the Student Sustainability Initiative of the Student Government Association. Faculty and staff members will be selected by the University President or designee. A representative from the Office of Sustainability will serve as the committee chair. This committee of faculty, staff, and students will report annually to the Florida State University President and Board of Trustees.
3. The Student Green Fee would sunset every three years, encouraging all students to review the success of the fee. The fee shall be discontinued if the student body shows disapproval in the referendum.
4. Any changes to the amount of the fee must also be approved by the study body in a referendum conducted by Student Government.

Revenues / Expenditures

Annual estimated revenue to be collected:	\$544,227 (based on 2011-2012 state-funded credit hours)
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Describe the service or operation to be implemented and estimated expenditures (attach operating budget expenditure form).

Examples of projects from other schools that have implemented green fees include (but are not limited to):

- Alternative transportation programs (bike sharing)
- Energy conservation & efficiency projects (motion-sensor lighting, building weatherization)
- Alternative energy projects (solar panels/trees/docks)
- Water conservation & efficiency projects (drip irrigation, low-flow fixtures)
- Alternative fuels for campus fleets
- Building renovations in support of LEED or Energy Star certification (sunscreens over windows)
- Green roofs (vegetated or high reflectivity)
- Increased recycling
- Expansion of sustainable food practices
- Overall education & awareness campaigns (interactive educational displays, signage)

Accountability Measures

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

The Student Green Fee would support projects that promote sustainability at Florida State University that increase energy and water efficiency, promote natural resource conservation, and reduce the school's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste, and energy costs.

While the University Strategic Plan, Campus Master Plan, Energy Savings Plan, and STARS all identify strategic priorities and goals related to sustainability, specific success metrics of projects implemented through the Student Green Fee will be monitored through our data collection and monthly or annual reporting structures:

Success from energy/water conservation and efficiency projects will be reflected in reduced consumption and cost per user or square foot.

Success from waste reduction and recycling projects will be reflected in increased waste diversion rates and increased amounts of materials collected and sold through our recycling markets.

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Success from projects that focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions will be reflected during the Climate Action Plan update and re-calculation cycle.

Success from other projects can be captured as an increase in LEED or STARS points during data collection cycles.

Additional metrics can be added over time as the program evolves.

Other Information

On February 15, 2012, the 64th Senate Student Senate of the FSU Student Government Association unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Student Green Fund initiative, and requests that the FSU Board of Trustees approves the implementation of the Student Green Fund for the benefit of our student body and overall university (see supporting documentation – Senate resolution).

Similar fees have been implemented on over 40 campuses around the country, and three in the state of Florida: University of South Florida, New College of Florida, and the University of West Florida.

Since 2007, the Student Green Fee has been promoted and worked on by multiple campus organizations including, Florida PIRG at FSU, Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions at FSU (IDEAS at FSU), Student Sustainability Initiative (SSI), Environmental Service Program (ESP), Florida YES Coalition and numerous Florida State University students.

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

Fee Title: Student Green Fund

	² Estimated Actual 2012-13 -----	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	\$ -	544,227
Interest Revenue - Current Year	-	-
Interest Revenue - From Carryforward Ba	-	-
Total Receipts / Revenues:	\$ -	\$ 544,227
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ -	\$ -
Other Personal Services	-	-
Expenses	-	544,227
Operating Capital Outlay	-	-
Student Financial Assistance	-	-
Expended From Carryforward Balance	-	-
¹ Other Category Expenditures:	-	-
Total Expenditures:	\$ -	\$ 544,227
Ending Balance Available:	\$ -	\$ -

¹Provide details for "Other Categories" used.

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

To be attached to new or increased fee requests or block tuition proposals.

For block tuition proposals only the incremental revenue should be reported.