

R.S22D002

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A REFERENDUM

This is a referendum to call for a vote on whether or not to pass the proposed Student Experience Fee.

The Athletics Department in consultation with a third-party organization, conducted a feasibility study which made clear the need for investment into new Athletic Programs, Marching Band, Student Activities, Retention Programs, Intramural/Club Programs, and Student Diversity Programs. The Student Experience Fee proposed herein would provide the funding necessary to invest in the aforementioned programs.

The Student Experience Fee shall be a perpetual fee of \$300 per semester for part-time students and \$400 per semester for full-time students and shall replace the current Athletics Fee.

The additional revenue received by the University of New Orleans Athletics Department shall be used to realize a University of New Orleans marching band, football program, women's soccer program, and women's golf program.

Revenue for the Student Experience Fee is estimated to generate \$4,067,584.25. This revenue shall be divided as follows: ninety percent (90%) of revenue shall be for Athletics, six percent (6%) of revenue shall be for Marching Band, one percent (1%) of revenue shall be for Student Activities, one percent (1%) of revenue shall be for Retention Programs, one percent (1%) of revenue shall be for Intermural/Club Programs, and one percent (1%) of revenue shall be for Student Diversity Programs.

The current set of fees are as follows: 1-3 hours: \$31.94, 4-6 hours: \$62.34, 7-9 hours: \$78.10, 10-11 hours: \$93.98, 12+ hours: \$100.00.

Under the current set of fees, revenue yielded in the fiscal year of 2020 by the University of New Orleans Athletics Department via student fees amounted to \$1,394,966.

In accordance with the University of New Orleans SGA Constitution, a referendum has been filed by the University of New Orleans Student Government Association Senate which, following its approval by the Senate will be brought before the relevant electorate on the homecoming ballot during the November 2022 election.

Whereas, The Student Government Association is vested with the authority to call for student referendums;

Whereas, The University of New Orleans constitution requires that the creation of or change to student fees requires a referendum vote to be enacted;

Whereas, The creation of a Student Experience Fee for the purpose of creating new athletics programs and funding student activities, retention, intramural programs, and diversity programs will be a subject widely discussed and debated amongst the student body;

Whereas, To ensure students have the opportunity to directly impact the outcome of this debate and give their full measure of attention to the issues surrounding the creation of a Student Experience Fee;

Whereas, University of New Orleans Athletics can promote student life, facilitate outreach in the New Orleans community, and boost enrollment with the creation of new athletics programs and increased funding to student activities, diversity, and retention programs with the additional funds provided by the proposed Student Experience Fee;

Whereas, To maintain the well-being of University of New Orleans Athletics, the Student Experience Fee must be applied;

Whereas, The Student Experience Fee allows for the University of New Orleans and its students to maintain a fully competitive Athletics Department;

Whereas, The current student experience fee structure is difficult to understand and varies greatly depending on hours of enrollment;

Whereas, The Department of Athletics has prepared language in accordance with the results of a commissioned Feasibility Study and a Student Focus Group Study and agreements with University Administration on a financing model;

Whereas, The Fall 2022 homecoming election would allow for a referendum vote without the need for a special election;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE THAT:

- I. A STUDENT WIDE REFERENDUM SHALL BE HELD DURING THE FALL 2022 HOMECOMING ELECTION WITH THE BALLOT LANGUAGE SPECIFIED IN THE “BALLOT LANGUAGE” SECTION OF THIS DOCUMENT;
- II. A STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL REPLACE THE CURRENT ATHLETICS FEE. IN ALL INSTANCES WHERE STANDING POLICIES REFER TO THE CURRENTLY APPLICABLE ATHLETICS FEE SHALL BE REPLACED WITH THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE;
- III. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, THE FEES ESTABLISHED BY THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL BE:
 - a. STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE TO BE INITIALLY ASSESSED AT THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300) PER SEMESTER FOR PART TIME STUDENTS AND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400) PER SEMESTER FOR FULL TIME STUDENTS;
 - b. STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL YIELD NINETY PERCENT (90%) OF ITS REVENUE PER SEMESTER FOR THE FUNDING OF ATHLETICS;
 - c. STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL YIELD SIX PERCENT (6%) OF ITS REVENUE PER SEMESTER FOR THE FUNDING OF MARCHING BAND;
 - d. STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL YIELD ONE PERCENT (1%) OF ITS REVENUE PER SEMESTER FOR THE FUNDING OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES;
 - e. STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL YIELD ONE PERCENT (1%) OF ITS REVENUE PER SEMESTER FOR THE FUNDING OF RETENTION PROGRAMS;

- f. STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL YIELD ONE PERCENT (1%) OF ITS REVENUE PER SEMESTER FOR THE FUNDING OF INTERMURAL/CLUB PROGRAMS;
 - g. STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL YIELD ONE PERCENT (1%) OF ITS REVENUE PER SEMESTER FOR THE FUNDING OF STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAMS;
- IV. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, ALL FEES ESTABLISHED BY THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL BE ALLOWED BY THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE EACH ACADEMIC YEAR BY ZERO (0%) TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) IN THE EVENT THAT THE UNIVERSITY RAISES TUITION GREATER THAN FIVE PERCENT (5%), THE DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH FEE ARE GRANTED THE POWER TO RAISE THEIR FEES UP TO THE PERCENTAGE OF THE TUITION INCREASE, BUT NO GREATER;
- V. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, ALL FUNDS GENERATED BY THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE SHALL BE USED, BUDGETED, AND ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO THE POLICIES GOVERNING THIS REFERENDUM;
- VI. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, ALL UNUSED STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE FUNDS SHALL BE ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO THE POLICIES GOVERNING THIS REFERENDUM IN THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR;
- VII. THE STUDENT SENATE SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE AS PROPOSED IN THE BALLOT LANGUAGE DETAILED BELOW.

Ballot Language

The University Administration is proposing the elimination of the “Athletics Fee” and the creation of a “Student Experience Fee” to fund the establishment and operation of a football program, a marching band, a women’s soccer program, and a women’s golf program; as well as, to increase funding to Student Activities Programs, Retention Programs, Student Diversity Programs and Intramural/Club Programs.

The current Athletics Fee structure and proposed Experience Fee are as follows:

	Athletics Fee	Student Experience Fee
Part-Time Students	1-3 Hours – \$31.94 4-6 Hours – \$62.34 7-9 Hours – \$78.10 10-11 Hours – \$93.98	\$300
Full Time Students	12+ Hours – \$100.00	\$400

These fees would go into effect starting during the [to be determined by University Administration] semester.


DO YOU SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEE TO GENERATE FUNDING FOR FOOTBALL, WOMEN’S SOCCER, WOMEN’S GOLF, MARCHING BAND, STUDENT ACTIVITIES, RETENTION PROGRAMS, INTRAMURAL/CLUB PROGRAMS, AND STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAMS?

Yes

No

Senate Action: _____

Vote: _____



Katherine Goldstein (Apr 7, 2022 16:10 CDT)

May 4, 2022

PRESIDING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

SG President's Action: _____


Amber Lemelle (May 4, 2022 16:05 CDT)

May 4, 2022

SGA PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

VETO OVERRIDE

Senate Action on Veto: _____

Vote: _____

PRESIDING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

DATE