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TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
LCTCS President

FROM: Dr. Emily Campbell
Chief Enrollment Management Officer

Joe Marin
Chief Operations Officer

DATE: November 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Student Referendum for South Louisiana Community College (SLCC)

FOR BOARD ACTION

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Student Government Association of South Louisiana Community College to conduct a referendum to assess a \$4.00 per credit hour student life fee each semester subject to a twelve hour cap of \$48.00. to appropriate approval for facilities. Subject

Background: The students at SLCC have expressed an interest in a student life center (student union). As a student led initiative, the Student Government Association at SLCC is proposing the referendum for the implementation of a student life fee that will provide essential resources to build a student life center (student union). The proposal is for a new student life center facility on the Lafayette campus and funding to create individual campus centers on external campuses.

Providing students with a student life center will serve as the catalyst for growth and help to build a vibrant student life experience. The center will aid in efforts to increase enrollment, improve persistence, retention, and completion rates. The revenue generated by the student life fee will be used to construct and maintain the student life center(s). The center(s) may include but are not limited to, cultural and educational enrichment activities, recreational and social activities, intramural athletics, and various student organizations.

In accordance with LCTCS Policy #2.012, South Louisiana Community College provides the following information about the proposed referendum:

Explanation of the reason of the referendum:

The purpose of the student life fee is to provide funds that will enable the development of a vibrant student life experience at South Louisiana Community College. Adding sporting activities and enhancing the calendar of activities and events will provide experiences for South Louisiana Community College students that enhance engagement, improve persistence and retention, and become a positive aspect of their college experience encouraging them to stay connected with South Louisiana Community College as alumni.

APPROVED

Signature and date: 12/11/19
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Exact language of the referendum as it will appear on a ballot:

The Student Government Association (SGA) of South Louisiana Community College proposes the implementation of a student self-assessed student life fee to provide funds that will enable the development of a student life center (student union) at each campus of South Louisiana Community College. This would be a mandatory fee charged at \$4.00 per credit hour, per semester. The timing of the implementation of this fee will be a decision made by the executive leadership of the College within the context of sound fiscal strategies. The revenue generated by the student life fee will be used to build and maintain a student life center for the benefit of the students.

I vote to approve the implementation of a Student Life Fee (Student Union) at SLCC: _____ Yes

I do not approve the implementation of a Student Life Fee (Student Union) at SLCC: _____ No

Explanation of efforts to educate students on the referendum issue:

The South Louisiana Community College SGA will educate the students through several different avenues about the goals of the proposed fee and the fiscal impact to the student. A two-month campaign will involve the SGA making classroom presentations, posting flyers around campus, and utilizing social media to educate the student body about the fee and its purpose.

Anticipated voter turnout:

The College anticipates a turnout of approximately 30% of the student body to vote on the referendum.

Fiscal impact of the referendum:

The implementation of a student life fee will generate approximately \$316,000 per year to support building the student life center.

Explanation of the appeal process for appealing the referendum results:

Appeals can be submitted to the Dean of Student Services within two weeks of the vote to determine if the vote was valid, with formal appeal to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to determine if a second vote is necessary.

Certification by the Chancellor for this item:

This referendum proposal has the approval and support of Dr. Natalie Harder, Chancellor of South Louisiana Community College.

History of Prior Actions: In April 2015, South Louisiana Community College sought, and the Board approved, a \$4.00 student activity fee. The purpose of the fee was to provide for major student activities and events; such as co-curricular programs, cultural events, student professional development, intramural sports, support to the student clubs and/or organizations, student discount program, local community service initiatives, and

traditional student-led campus events. South Louisiana Community College has never sought a student self-assessed fee to support a building, however.

Benefits to the System: Providing students with dedicated facilities for student engagement outside of the classroom will aid in efforts to increase enrollment and improve retention and completion rates. When a student is invested in his or her school, he or she is much more likely to stay until graduation.



Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Monty Sullivan

12-11-19

Date