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LOUISIANA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
LCTCS President

FROM: Dr. Paul Carlsen 
Chief Content Officer

SUBJECT: Student Referendum for Nunez Community College

DATE: 04/05/2017

FOR BOARD ACTION

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Student Government Association of Nunez Community College to conduct a referendum to assess a \$3 per credit hour student activity fee on all students each semester, capped at 12 credit hours per semester, effective for the 2017 summer term.

Background: The majority of students at Nunez Community College have expressed interest in creating student engagement activities (such as karaoke nights, talent shows, etc.), intercollegiate athletics programs, and intramural athletic programs. The Student Government Association (SGA) of Nunez recognizes the current fiscal realities prevent Nunez from utilizing state dollars to support these activities, and have petitioned college leaders about establishing a self-assessed, \$3 per credit hour student activity fee to support these activities.

This is a student led initiative. As such, Nunez's SGA will educate the student body about the proposed referendum, the goals of the proposed fee, and the fiscal impact to the students. The campaign will be led by officers of the SGA and will include a plan of sharing information via the college's website and social media outlets. Information will also be communicated via student email, Canvas, and LoLA. The referendum will be discussed at SGA meetings, and a special information session for students may be held if deemed necessary. All votes on the proposed referendum will be collected in May 2017.

Per LCTCS Policy #2.012, colleges must obtain approval from the Board prior to holding a formal referendum with financial implications. The Board approves whether a referendum vote can happen, and the student body of Nunez will decide whether the proposed fee will actually be assessed. Nunez has provided all materials required by LCTCS Policy #2.012.

Ballot Language: The ballot language will be as follows:

Do you approve of the creation of a \$3.00 per credit hour student activity fee to provide means for intercollegiate and intramural athletic activities, as well other extracurricular events?

If approved, this fee will provide financial support for the current proposed intercollegiate team (Pelican Baseball) to compete in Region 23 of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Additionally, the fee will support at least one female gender-specific sport (if interest exists), along with intramural activities and events such as 3-on-3 basketball, flag football, softball, home run derbies, volleyball tournaments, karaoke nights, talent shows, and much more.

The fee will be charged to all Nunez Community College students excluding dual enrolled students and will be assessed during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The fees collected will be managed by the Nunez Community College Office of Student Affairs.

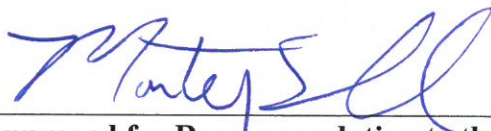
_____ YES, I support the \$3.00 per credit hour student activity fee.

_____ NO, I do not support the \$3.00 per credit hour student activity fee.

History of Prior Actions: N/A

Fiscal Impact: The new student activity fee will generate an anticipated \$80,000 per year in new resources to support new student engagement activities, intercollegiate athletics programs, and intramural athletic programs.

Benefits to the System: If ultimately approved by the student body, this student activity fee will provide Nunez students with an opportunity to support new student engagement activities, intercollegiate athletics programs, and intramural athletic programs with restricted student fees.



Approved for Recommendation to the Board
Dr. Monty Sullivan, President

Date

Nunez Community College

Referendum for "Student Activity Fee"

Request for approval from LCTCS Board of Supervisors

1. Explanation of the reason for the referendum:

Collegiate athletic programs and student activities offer a host of benefits to students, the College, and the broader community. However, a challenging fiscal environment in Louisiana is threatening to bring an end to these programs. The majority of students at Nunez Community College have expressed interest in creating additional student activities to include an intercollegiate and intramural athletics programs, and a variety of other student-sponsored activities as evidenced in a student survey distributed and analyzed in February 2017 (see results included). For many students, the inclusion of additional student activities will provide a more complete college experience and will create a sense of community which may not have been present.

Most Nunez students have other personal and job responsibilities that prohibit them from spending additional time on campus. As a commuter campus, we do not offer on-campus housing, and this further isolates student from one another. However, athletic events or other non-collegiate activities such as Karaoke Night or a talent show may be the perfect opportunity to bring students, faculty, and community residents together. Sports offer an educational opportunity to students, providing life lessons on the field that they may not be able to discover in the classroom. Hard work, persistence, and good sportsmanship are the fundamental values underscored by athletics, which remain present in students' personal and professional lives long after their time at Nunez comes to an end.

Understanding that budgets are tightening in significant ways, the Student Government Association (SGA) and many Fall 2016 students at Nunez approached College leaders about holding a referendum that seeks to approve a self-assessed student activity fee. These student leaders understand that in addition to benefitting the college and community, sports and extra-curricular activities at Nunez also provide a host of advantages to the students. These advantages include more time for student athletes to play rather than non-participation at a university, possible scholarship opportunities for student athletes, quality athletic programs combined with excellent coaching that promote talent development, opportunities for transfer to a four-year university to continue playing and earn a bachelor's degree, and opportunities for enhanced engagement through sporting activities provided via the intramural program.

At this time, there is no student activity fee assessed at Nunez Community College. In order to provide Nunez students with diverse, high quality, educational sporting and extra-curricular opportunities, the SGA requests an opportunity to hold a student referendum on the implementation of a \$3.00 per credit hour student activity fee to be assessed on all students each fall, spring, and summer term. Following the current cap on tuition at 12 credit hours, the student activity fee would also be capped.

In short, our recovery from Katrina is in the past. It is time for Nunez to move forward with student opportunities in campus.

The College's administration believes that providing students with these kinds of engagement opportunities outside of the classroom will aid in efforts to increase enrollment while improving retention and graduation rates.

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

Ballot Language

Student Activity Fee

Do you approve of the creation of a \$3.00 per credit hour student activity fee to provide means for intercollegiate and intramural athletic activities, as well other extracurricular events?

If approved, this fee will provide financial support for the current proposed intercollegiate team (Pelican Baseball) to compete in Region 23 of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Additionally, the fee will support at least one female gender-specific sport (if interest exists), along with intramural activities and events such as 3-on-3 basketball, flag football, softball home run derbies, volleyball tournaments, karaoke nights, talent shows, and much more.

The fee will be charged to all Nunez Community College students excluding dual enrolled students and will be assessed during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The fees collected will be managed by the Nunez Community College Office of Student Affairs.

_____ YES, I support the \$3.00 per credit hour student activity fee.

_____ NO, I do not support the \$3.00 per credit hour student activity fee.

3. Explanation of efforts to educate students on the referendum issue:

The Student Government Association will educate the student body about the referendum, the goals of the proposed fee, and the fiscal impact to the students. The campaign will be led by the officers of the Student Government Association and include a plan of sharing information via the College's website and social media outlets. Information will also be communicated via student email, Canvas, and LoLA. The referendum will be discussed at SGA meetings, and a special information session for students may be held if deemed necessary.

4. Anticipated voter turnout:

Every effort will be made to collect votes in May 2017 from a majority of the current student body (excluding the dual enrolled students).

5. Fiscal impact of the referendum:

The student activity fee will generate approximately \$80,000 per year in additional resources to support intercollegiate and intramural athletics, a variety of student activities, and the engagement, retention, and graduation of Nunez students. In addition, the community stakeholders of Nunez Community College have pledged financial support of this endeavor. Specifically, Valero Refining (located in Chalmette, Louisiana) has recently met with the Chancellor several times to discuss possible support of a future baseball program.

6. Explanation of the appeal process for appealing the referendum result:

Appeals can be submitted to the Dean of Student Affairs within two weeks of the vote to determine if the vote was valid, with final appeal to the Chancellor to determine if a second vote is necessary.

7. Certification by the Chancellor indicating support of the item:

The referendum proposal has the full approval and support of Nunez Community College Chancellor, Dr. Thomas R. Warner. He believes that the inclusion of intercollegiate and intramural athletics, along with student activities, will enhance the college experience and bring more students to Nunez. He understands that athletic programs are an integral part of the education Nunez offers because they teach students the enduring values of challenge and response, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and the experience of competition.

In February 2017, Nunez students (excluding dual enrolled students) completed a survey regarding student activity opportunities on campus. The results are attached and reflect an overwhelming support of student activities and the implementation of a student-generated student activity fee.

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q1 Name (optional):

Answered: 284 Skipped: 107

Student Activity Interest Survey

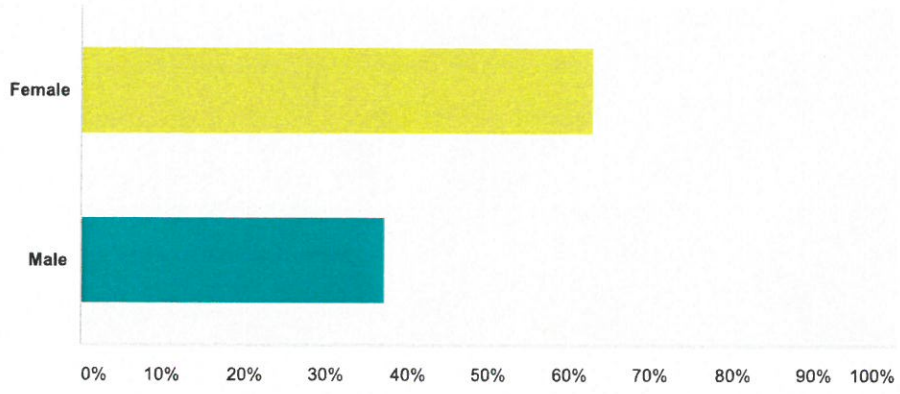
Q2 LoLA Number (for verification purposes only):

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q3 Gender (Optional)

Answered: 379 Skipped: 12

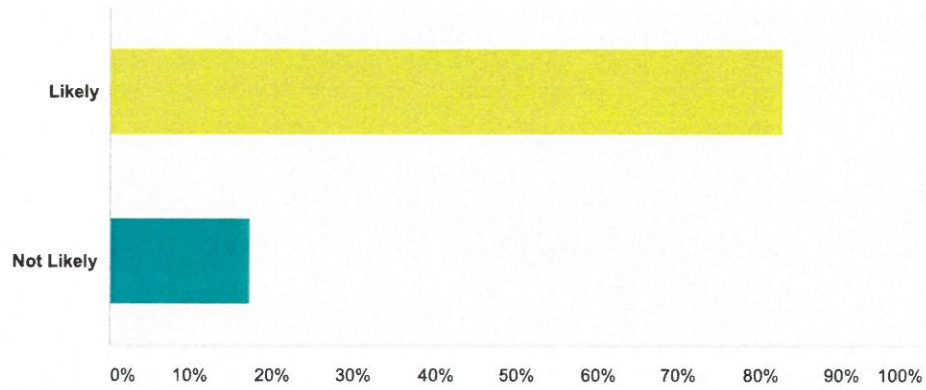


Answer Choices	Responses	
Female	62.80%	238
Male	37.20%	141
Total		379

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q4 If Nunez Community College increased efforts to offer more student activities on campus, how likely are you to participate?

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0

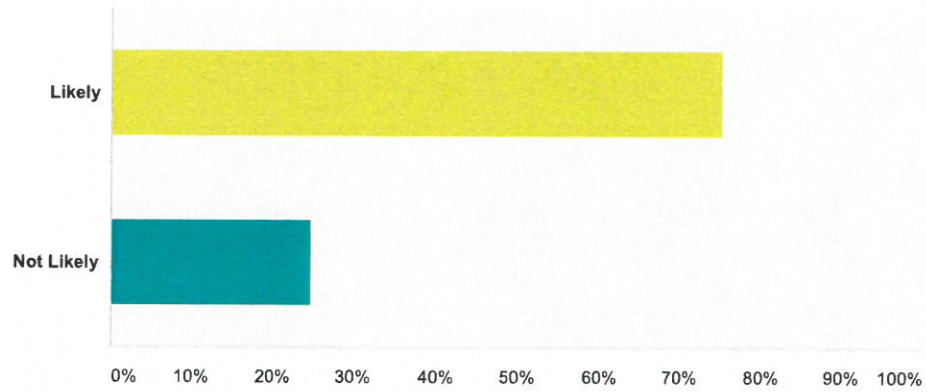


Answer Choices	Responses	
Likely	82.61%	323
Not Likely	17.39%	68
Total		391

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q5 How likely are you to participate in athletic, fitness or sports activities at Nunez Community College?

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0

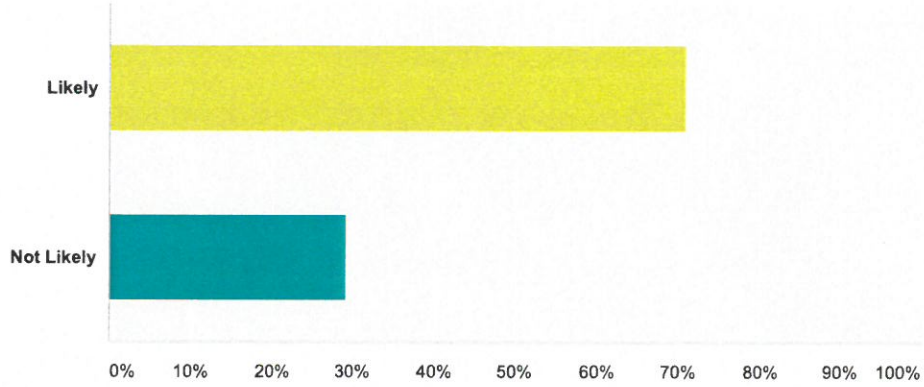


Answer Choices	Responses
Likely	75.19% 294
Not Likely	24.81% 97
Total	391

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q6 If Nunez Community College offered Intramural Sports (recreation/leisure, not competitive), how likely are you to participate?

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0

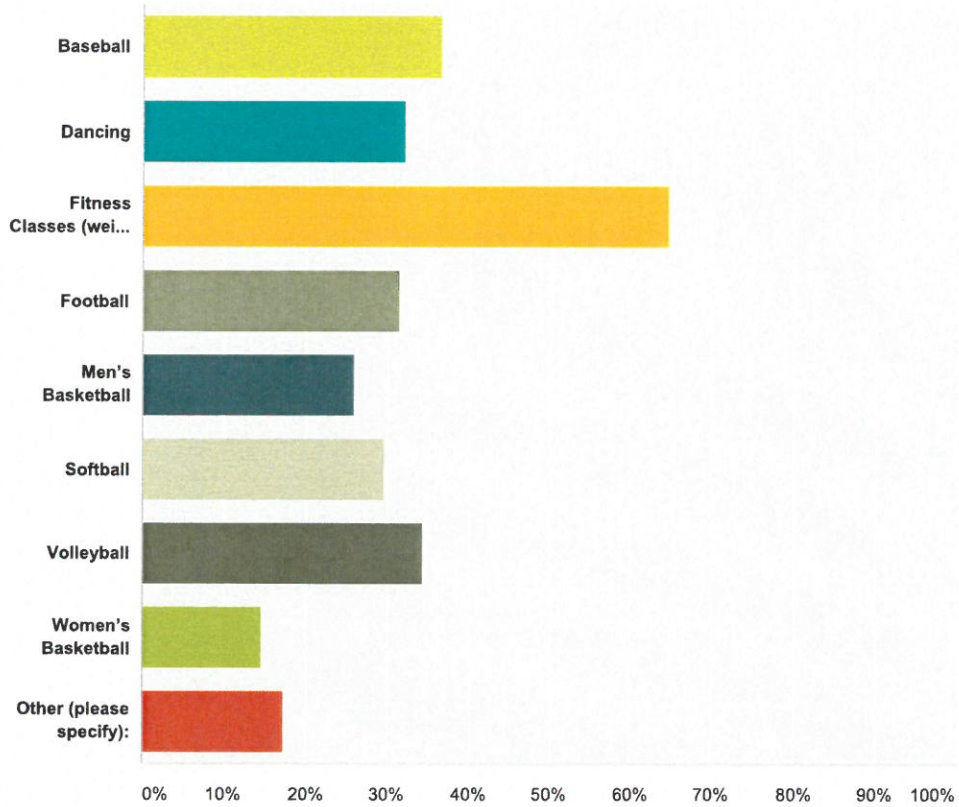


Answer Choices	Responses	
Likely	70.84%	277
Not Likely	29.16%	114
Total		391

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q7 If Nunez Community College offered Intramural Sports (recreation/leisure, not competitive), please check off all sports activities you may be interested in:

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0



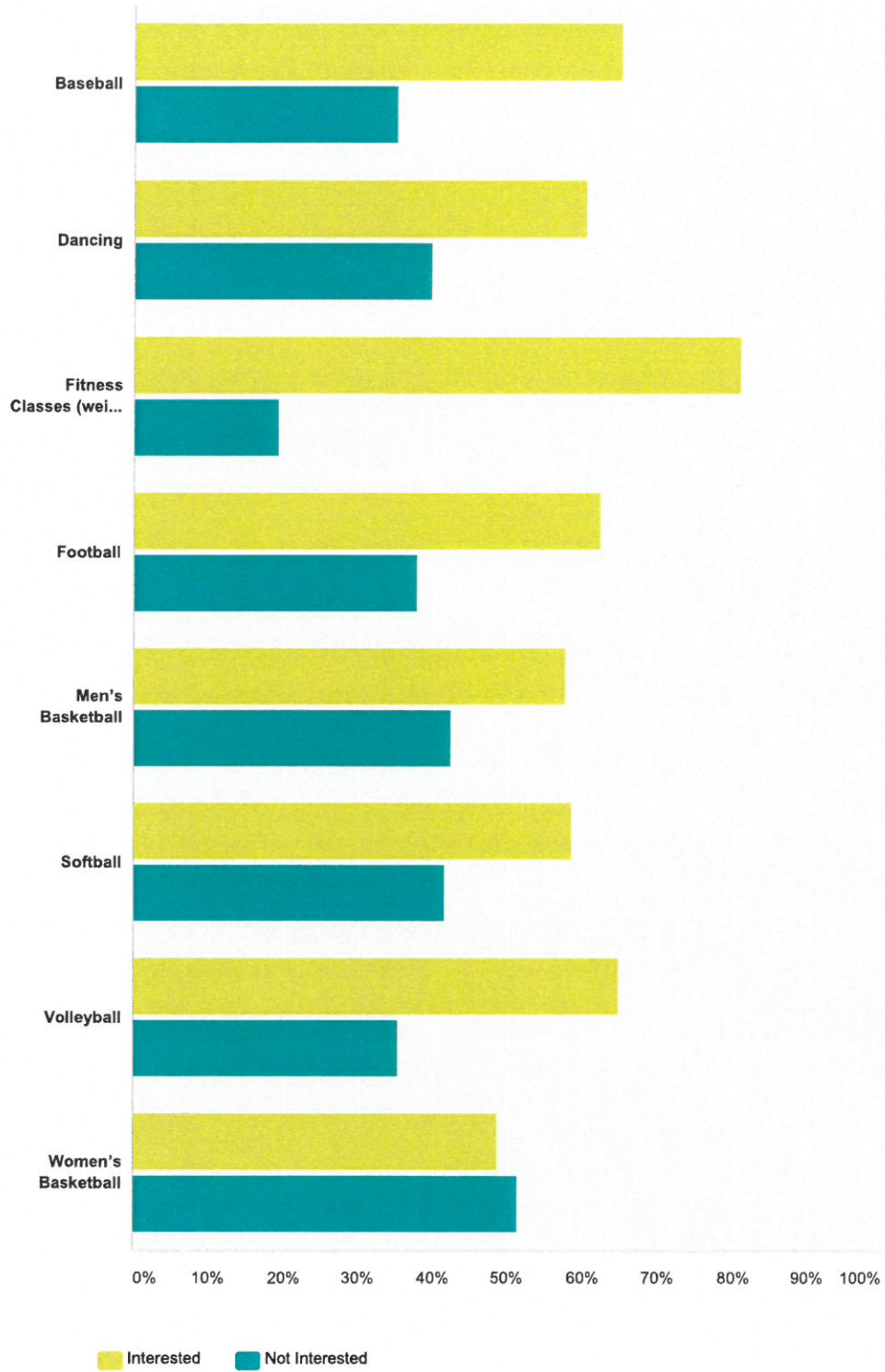
Answer Choices	Responses	
Baseball	36.57%	143
Dancing	32.23%	126
Fitness Classes (weight lifting, yoga, nutrition, etc.)	64.71%	253
Football	31.46%	123
Men's Basketball	25.83%	101
Softball	29.67%	116
Volleyball	34.53%	135
Women's Basketball	14.58%	57
Other (please specify):	17.39%	68
Total Respondents: 391		

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q8 If Nunez Community College offered intercollegiate athletics, would you be interested in attending these sporting events?

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0

Student Activity Interest Survey



	Interested	Not Interested	Total
Baseball	64.92% 211	35.08% 114	325
Dancing	60.42% 174	39.58% 114	288

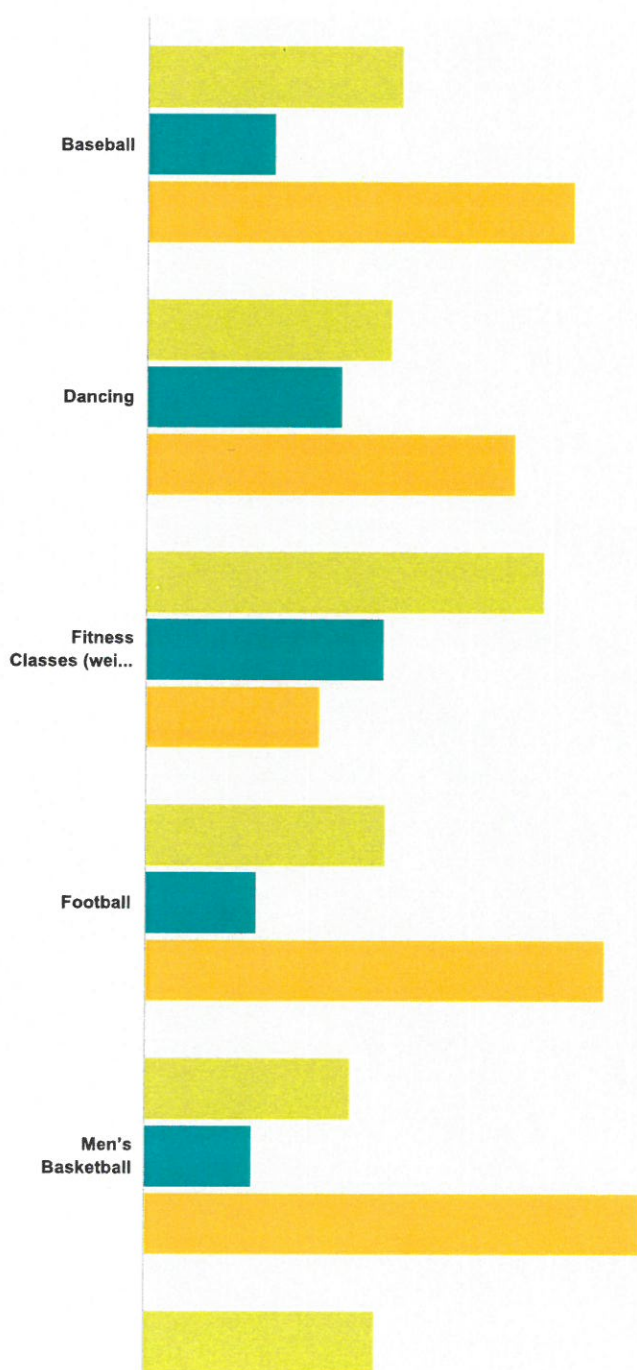
Student Activity Interest Survey

Fitness Classes (weight lifting, yoga, etc.)	80.88% 275	19.12% 65	340
Football	62.30% 190	37.70% 115	305
Men's Basketball	57.53% 172	42.47% 127	299
Softball	58.54% 168	41.46% 119	287
Volleyball	64.63% 190	35.37% 104	294
Women's Basketball	48.59% 121	51.41% 128	249

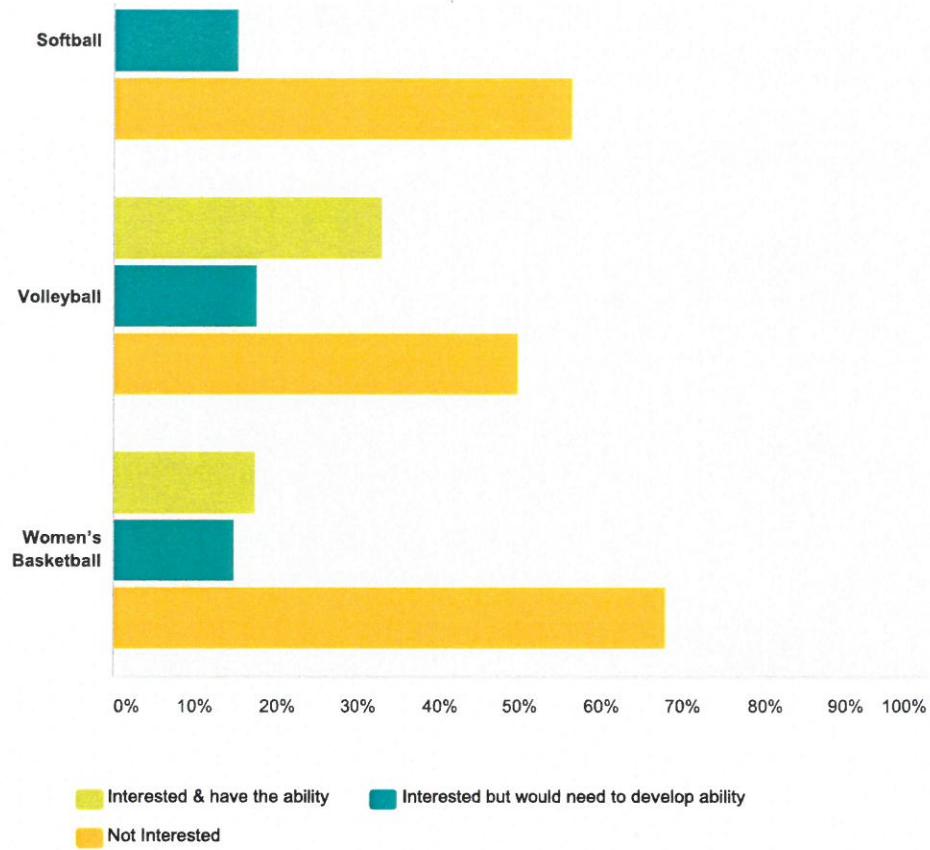
Student Activity Interest Survey

Q9 If Nunez Community College offered intercollegiate sports, supported by the National Junior College Association, would you be interested in participating? Check the level or levels at which you would be interested in participating in intercollegiate sports.

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0



Student Activity Interest Survey

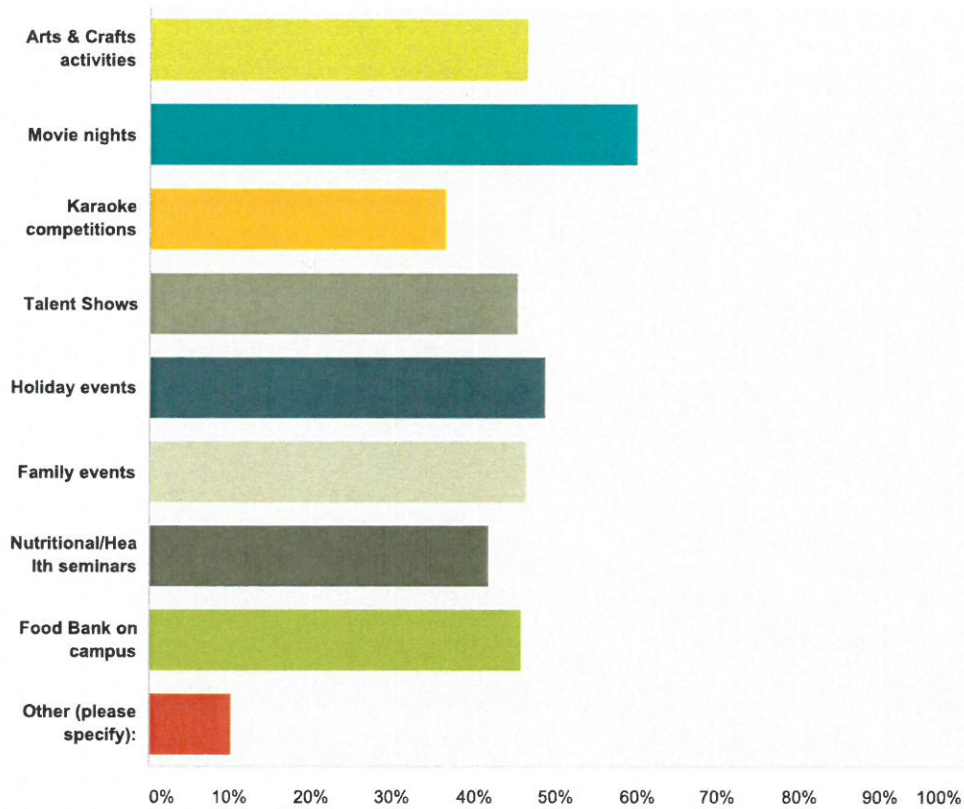


	Interested & have the ability	Interested but would need to develop ability	Not Interested	Total
Baseball	31.50% 103	15.90% 52	52.60% 172	327
Dancing	30.34% 88	24.14% 70	45.52% 132	290
Fitness Classes (weight lifting, yoga, etc.)	48.98% 168	29.45% 101	21.57% 74	343
Football	29.63% 88	13.80% 41	56.57% 168	297
Men's Basketball	25.51% 75	13.27% 39	61.22% 180	294
Softball	28.52% 81	15.14% 43	56.34% 160	284
Volleyball	32.88% 96	17.47% 51	49.66% 145	292
Women's Basketball	17.42% 46	14.77% 39	67.80% 179	264

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q10 Other than athletic and fitness class opportunities, what specific student activities would you like to see offered at Nunez Community College? (check all that apply)

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0

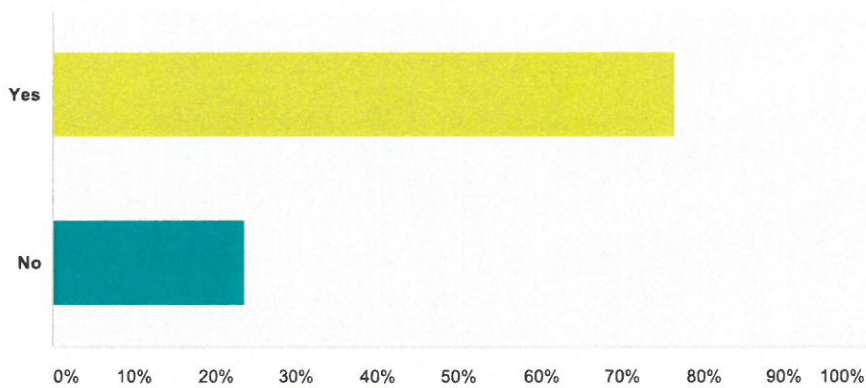


Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Arts & Crafts activities	46.29%	181
Movie nights	59.85%	234
Karaoke competitions	36.57%	143
Talent Shows	45.27%	177
Holiday events	48.59%	190
Family events	46.29%	181
Nutritional/Health seminars	41.69%	163
Food Bank on campus	45.78%	179
Other (please specify):	10.23%	40
Total Respondents: 391		

Student Activity Interest Survey

Q11 In the Fall 2016, several students expressed an interest in starting a Baseball Team at Nunez Community College. Due to state budget cuts, Nunez is not allowed to use institutional funds to support this endeavor. Would you be willing to approve a Student Activity fee to support efforts to improve student life at Nunez Community College to include the creation of intercollegiate teams at Nunez (if interests exists), as well as increasing opportunities for students to engage in activities on campus (assessed at \$2.00/credit hour per semester that would be added to student bills in LoLA but covered by financial aid and/or scholarship funds)?

Answered: 391 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76.47%	299
No	23.53%	92
Total		391