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SR-10-11-11 SCWC

Marshall University

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**STUDENT CONDUCT AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

SR-10-11-11 SCWC

Recommends that the Marshall University Faculty Senate endorse and support the Marshall University Student Government Association and Graduate Student Council efforts to allow part-time undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to utilize, on a pro-rated basis, the recreation center based on fees already paid

RATIONALE:

Part-time undergraduate and graduate students currently pay a recreation center fee of \$16.16 and \$21.75 per credit hour respectively. However, those students are unable to utilize the recreation center unless they pay the remainder of the fee up front or pay a one-time, non-accumulating user fee of \$6/visit that does not count towards membership. The Marshall University Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Council suggest a system which allows part-time students use of the recreation center on a pro-rated basis. See the attached proposal from the Student Government Association and Graduate Student Council.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: *Conn Brannon* DATE: 11/1/10

DISAPPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

READ: *[Signature]* DATE: 11/12/10

COMMENTS: _____



GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

The primary responsibility of the Marshall University Student Government Association and Graduate Student Council is to advocate for the student body by initiating administrative changes favorable to both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at our institution.

It is the opinion of the Student Government Association, the Graduate Student Council, the Freshmen Council, and the Faculty Senate's Student Conduct & Welfare Committee that the Recreation Center fee is structured unfairly, and is insensitive to all students who are registered below full-time status.

After deliberations with the student body, the university administration, and representation of the recreation center, we believe that all students should have access to the recreation center's facilities and services based upon the portion of the fee that they have already been assessed.

We, the Presidents of the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Council are requesting the assistance of the Marshall University Board of Governors to review the current recreation center fee, and make specific changes allowing all students to utilize the recreation center based upon the following information.

1. Part-time undergraduate and graduate students pay a portion of the recreation center fee based on the number of credits they are enrolled in the university; however, they receive no opportunity to utilize the facility unless the remaining portion of the fee is paid up front, or by paying a one-time, non-accumulating user fee of six dollars per visit that does not count towards membership.
2. Undergraduate students are paying approximately \$16.16 per credit hour if they are enrolled in coursework less than full time.
3. Graduate students are paying approximately \$21.75 per credit hour if they are enrolled in coursework less than full time.

We advocate for the fair and equal admission practices to the Marshall University Recreation Center, whereby part-time and graduate students would be granted user access to the facility, proportionally based on the fee assessed to these students.

From our deliberations with representation of the recreation center, the current system has proved inadequate and unable to track student entrance to and usage of the recreation center. Our recommendation, as a temporary solution until an appropriate system can be put in place would be to track part-time student usage with something as simple as a punch card that is the sole responsibility of the student it is issued to on a non-replaceable basis.

We feel that students who have the ability to utilize the recreation center and form a healthy lifestyle routine of using the facility will be more apt to continue their usage of the facility by paying the remaining balance of the membership fee after they have exhausted their usage allocation. This ultimately would increase the revenue going towards the Marshall University and Capstone Recreation Center bond agreement, as well as promote fair and equal practices in regard to the students of Marshall University.

Example:

A graduate student taking three credit hours on the Huntington campus is assessed a Recreation Center fee of \$65.25.

At the current time, this student would have to pay the remaining \$128.75 up front or a one-time, non-accumulating \$6 admission fee per visit in order to utilize the facility.

In accordance with our purpose, we advocate that this student be able to utilize the portion of the fee already assessed before having to pay any additional charges to utilize the recreation center.

Utilizing the current structure that allows any student to pay \$6 per visit, this student should be allotted 11 uses to utilize the recreation center throughout the semester that they paid the \$65.25 based upon their enrolled status.

After the student exhausts their allocated uses, they would be more apt to fulfill the remaining balance of the membership fee by paying the remaining balance of the membership fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick W. Murphy
SGA President

Jonathan F. James
GSC President

Edward Pride, IV
Board of Governors
Student Representative

Bullock, Bernice G

From: Brammer, Camilla A
Sent: Friday, November 05, 2010 7:11 AM
To: Bullock, Bernice G; Hensley, Steve W
Subject: FW: Part-Time Student Recreation Center Fee Question

Importance: High

Bernice and Steve,

Steve this is the reply that I received from the President regarding the fees at the rec center will you please pass this on to the committee.

Bernice will you please put this with the resolution that FS passed at the Oct. meeting and put it on the agenda so that I can tell the faculty the findings of President Kopp's inquiry.

I know that this is not the result that any of us hoped for but the information is valuable for future negotiations with the management of the rec center.
Cam

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From: Kopp, Stephen
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2010 2:33 PM
To: Brammer, Camilla A
Subject: Part-Time Student Recreation Center Fee Question

Good afternoon, Cam.

As a follow-up to the issue raised about the Recreation Center Fee and access to the facility by part-time students who are paying a prorated amount of the fee, we have met with Andrew Darling, who is the manager of the Recreation Center. We discussed practices followed by Centers Management at other similar facilities as well as potential approaches to address the issue raised recently. It was during these discussions that we discovered that some very important information had been omitted by students have been pursuing and advocating with regard to this matter. That pertinent information is as follows:

- All registered students (students with a valid student ID), regardless of full-time or part-time status are permitted full access to the Recreation Center during the first three weeks of the fall and spring semesters at no additional door charge for the part-time students. Full-time students do not receive any additional benefit but this benefit for part-time students is significant. The assertion that part-time students are not receiving any benefit for their partial payment of the Recreation Center Fee, therefore, is inaccurate. According to Andrew, it is after the initial three weeks when part-time students who have not paid the entire fee are told they either need to make up either the difference in the fee or pay the daily rate of \$6. It is at this point that these students raise objections.

- ▶ The daily rate of \$6/day for part-time students is discounted specifically for Marshall University students. This student rate is \$2 less than the daily fee charged to faculty and staff and \$4 less than the daily fee charged to alumni, associates and other non-university personnel. Again, the argument that no benefit is derived from the partial, prorated fee paid by part-time students is not valid. The differential rate charged to part-time students recognizes that these students have been charged a prorated portion of the fee.


We are examining approaches that can help foster greater student participation in the payment of the full fee rather than having them encounter a problem after the third week of each semester. According to Andrew, at least part of the issue is that part-time students appear to object to paying out-of-pocket to access the Recreation Center. As a result, we are exploring whether we have any options with regard to including the entire fee in the financial aid packages for these students. A more likely approach will be the possibility of setting up an installment plan for those part-time students who wish to pay the full Recreation Center Fee. This latter approach would require either a debit card or credit card approval by the student. Andrew is verifying with Centers Management that he could proceed with offering this option to part-time students.

The bottom line with respect to this issue is that no discernable or justifiable issue appears to exist. Part-time students do receive appreciable value for their prorated fee (some more than others) but access throughout the semester will require payment of the full fee in accordance with the bond covenants. If the installment plan for part-time students can be implemented, it should help part-time students who for financial reasons find it difficult to pay the remainder of the Recreation Center Fee upfront after the initial three weeks.

-Steve

Stephen J. Kopp, Ph.D.
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Bullock, Bernice G

From: Murphy, Patrick
Sent: Friday, November 05, 2010 1:57 PM
To: Brammer, Camilla A
Cc: Hensley, Steve W; Bullock, Bernice G
Subject: Rec Center Fee

Dr. Camilla Brammer,

I have been notified of the email message sent to you by Dr. Stephen J. Kopp, President of Marshall University. In that email he discusses the issue of the Recreation Center Fee. After reading this message, I find myself compelled to refute everything that was stated in the email and offer the student's arguments. At the center of this debate is the fundamental and undeniable truth that students are already paying far too much for tuition, fees and books and to continue to ask part-time students to pay more on top of those costs is unfair. Here are the issues with the President's response from the student body's point of view:

- There is no mention of graduate students in the email. Not only are part-time students being affected but graduate students are too. Their omission from the response shows a lack of respect and knowledge of the issue. Not to mention the injustice felt by faculty and staff who are taking classes at Marshall and who have to pay both tuition rec center fees and the monthly membership fee.
- The assertion that "very important information had been omitted by students" somehow intentionally or otherwise is impertinent. If they are granting full access to everyone for three weeks, then why does the university assess the fee before the three weeks are completed. Why take money from someone who has been granted full access to the facility?
- What about a student who has evidence that he had to pay the remainder of the fee before that three week period was through? This evidence can be presented if requested. Where is the advertisement by the rec center of this policy. This student was not informed while in person.
- Students who want to use the rec center should be able to utilize it at their convenience throughout the entire semester not during the first three weeks and then only after they have to pay more money. What about weeks 4-16 of the semester?
- The fact that part-time students have to pay a daily user fee is also insulting and disrespectful. They have already paid money. Why do they need to pay more. This \$6 fee doesn't even go towards the remaining balance of the part-time or graduate student. It just goes to the rec center. Just more money students are literally giving to the center.

Though I am extremely disappointed by the administration's response, here is some issues that we both agree on:

- Creating a payment plan
- Creating a system where students are fully informed when they make their payment online
- Possibly folding the fee into financial aid packages

The statement: "The bottom line with respect to this issue is that no discernable or justifiable issue appears to exist," shows an extreme disrespect towards the students of this university.

The sole purpose there is a rec center, the sole purpose there is a university, the sole purpose President Kopp has a job, the sole purpose the rec center is gainfully employed is because of students. And the moment that the administration and rec center realize this the better students at this university will be.

When you inform the full Faculty Senate of President Kopp's inquiry, please include my response as well. Thank you.

Patrick W. Murphy

Student Body President

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