

Memorandum

TO: Patsy Watkins, Chair
Faculty Senate

FROM: Craig Edmonston

THROUGH: Dr. Sharon Hunt

DATE: July 12, 2001

SUBJECT: HPER Membership Fee Increase

As you know, the students have approved an increase in the HPER Fee beginning this August. As a result of this increase, it is only fair to adjust the faculty/staff membership fees to an amount that is equitable to the amount being paid by students.

I am requesting the Staff Senate's consideration and input for the following HPER membership fee increases:

FEE	Current	Proposed
Faculty/Staff HPER Membership:	\$75.00 /year	\$150.00 /year
Faculty/Staff Family HPER Membership:	\$45.00 /year	\$75.00 /year
Alumni HPER Membership:	\$200.00 /year	\$240.00 /year
Full Size Locker Rental:	\$11.00 /semester	\$12.00 /semester
Towel Service:	\$5.00 /semester	\$8.00 /semester

Justification:

1. Beginning with the 2001 Fall Semester, the current HPER Fee for students will be \$3.28 per credit hour. The average student enrolled at the University of Arkansas will be paying \$45.92 per semester.

2. Since the HPER Fee will be collected by the credit hour, all students will have a membership to the HPER Building. In the past, only students taking 6 or more hours were automatically members. This new policy has the potential of increasing the HPER membership by more than 1,000 members.

3. The student fee has increased 155 percent, from \$18.00 to \$45.92 per semester. The proposed faculty/staff membership fee is only a 100 percent increase.
4. Membership to the HPER Building and participation in Intramural/Recreational Sports Program activities are completely voluntary. Only those faculty and staff members wishing to participate will be affected by the membership increases.
5. The price increase in faculty/staff memberships will not have a major impact on the 2,443 staff employees working for the University of Arkansas. Only 10.68 percent of the staff members have a HPER Membership.
6. The price increase in faculty/staff memberships will not have a major impact on the 965 faculty members working for the University of Arkansas. Only 33.16 percent of the faculty members have a HPER Membership.
7. The new cost for a faculty/staff membership will be \$150.00 per year. This is a great deal. Our cost is well below the market value of a similar membership at a local community fitness center. As an example, a corporate individual membership at the Fayetteville Athletic Club costs a minimum of \$648.00 per year plus an enrollment fee of \$50.00.
8. Since all students are now eligible to use the HPER Building regardless of the number of hours that they are taking, it is imperative that we protect the availability of the facility for students, faculty, and staff. Increasing the cost of faculty/staff family memberships is one way to protect the availability of the facility for individual members.
9. The \$30.00 increase (66.6 percent) in faculty/staff family memberships is also justifiable on the basis of the number of members per family. Faculty and staff will normally have more family members than a student.
10. The total cost for a faculty/staff member with a family will be \$225.00 per year. This is a great deal. Our cost is well below the market value of a similar membership at a local community fitness center. As an example, a family membership at the Fayetteville Athletic Club will cost a minimum of \$775.00 per year plus an enrollment fee of \$75.00.
11. Faculty/staff members who purchase an annual membership will receive a free small locker for the duration of the membership.
12. It is justifiable to increase alumni memberships from \$200.00 per year to \$240.00 per year (20 percent) on the basis of increased value of services over the next several years and comparison to the market value of the membership.

(Refer to justification #5) Increasing the cost of alumni memberships is also a way to protect the availability of the facility for university members.

13. The 9 percent increase request for a full locker is minimal. The increase to \$12.00 per semester simplifies the accounting system for the locker income. It will also help defray the costs related to maintaining the aging locker system.
14. The 60 percent increase in the towel service (\$5.00 per semester to \$8.00 per semester) is reflective of the increase in the cost of towels, locks, and laundry supplies. The current cost of a replacement towel or lock is approximately \$8.00. It will also help defray the costs related to maintaining the aging locker and laundry systems.
15. The income generated from the sale of memberships is used supplement the operational budget. More specifically it helps cover expense items such as: student wages, repair and maintenance of the facility and related equipment, replacement of facility operational equipment, purchase of new towels, locks, and lockers, and the purchase of laundry equipment and supplies.