

**Texas A&M University-Central Texas  
Student Affairs Advisory Committee  
MINUTES  
June 25, 2020  
11:00 am  
Virtual GoToMeeting**

*2019-2020 Members Present:*

Tiffany Craig, Student	Pedro Rivera-Rosario, Student	Garrett Smith, Staff
Victoria Compton, Student	Davyona Phillips, Student	Brandon Griggs, Chair
Kirstin Martinez, Student	Amanda Daniels, Student	

*Absent Members:*

Tammy Molina-Moore, Faculty

*Administrative Support:* Jamie Wiatrek

*Attachment:* Memo - Proposed Change: Charging of Campus Recreational Sports Fee

*Committee Charge:*

The Student Affairs Advisory Committee allows for students to formally give input and advice in the ongoing delivery of student support and campus life programs and to serve as the Student Services Advisory Fee Committee

**New Business**

1. Brandon Griggs explained the scope of the committee
  - a. Authority to study the type, amount, and expenditures of the following fees:
    - i. Student Health Fee
    - ii. Student Service Fee
    - iii. Campus Recreation Fee
    - iv. Student Union Building Fee – Not Charged
  - b. Make budgetary and fee recommendations to the President
2. New Recreational Sports Fee Proposal (Mr. Paul York)
  - a. Paul York presented to the committee a proposal (*see memo attached*) to restructure the Recreational Sports Fee to more appropriately support the original intent of the fee: to support student recreation and physical wellness, which will produce a greater sense of belonging and connection for students and provide resources to deliver the programs in a

more accessible format for both virtually and face-to-face students.

- b. Currently all students taking a face-to-face course are assessed the fee when they take a face-to-face course
- c. Proposal is to move to a contiguous county model by which all students living in Bell, Milam, Williamson, Burnet, Lampasas, Coryell, or McLennan counties will be assessed the recreational sports fee.
- d. This change will include approximately 77.3% of our student body (after waivers/exemptions).
- e. Reasons for the change
  - i. More appropriately reflect the ability to access
  - ii. Further expansion into virtual opportunities
  - iii. Better attract and engage younger student populations
  - iv. Alignment with the A&M System Members – the committee was shown how each A&M System Campus is assessing their fee. Most are using the contiguous county model or within a specific mile radius (*See attached memo*)
- f. If approved, the change will be implemented for the Fall 2020 semester
- g. VOTE: Brandon Griggs called for a motion to adopt the proposal of restructuring the Recreational Sports Fee. Davyona P. motioned, Kirstin M. 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

3. Adjourn at 12:15 pm



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 13, 2020  
**Subject:** Proposed Change: Charging of Campus Recreational Sports Fee

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**To:** Dr. Brandon Griggs  
*Chair, Student Affairs Advisory Committee*  
*Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs*

**From:** Mr. Paul York  
*Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Deputy Title IX Coordinator*

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Campus Recreation at TAMUCT is exclusively funded through the campus recreation fee. The fee is currently structured to be charged to students taking face-to-face classes at a flat rate of \$100 per long semester and \$50 for an entire summer. This was done in order to cover the majority of students without charging individuals who were completely online due to geography and distance. Each semester, we encounter students who are taking only online courses and want to make use of the office's programming and resources and therefore elect to pay the fee.

Prior to, and throughout, our campus response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we initiated planning for the future of campus recreation at the institution. One immediate step we took was toward offering more online-centered recreational gaming opportunities to respond students' needs, mirror the movement within higher education, and to respond to concerns of belonging and continued connection to the institution. In the 2018 Hanover Report for Non-Returning Students, most students indicated they felt slightly to not at all connected to A&M-Central Texas. Providing recreational activities in new modalities will allow us greater access to reach students, including younger student populations – our fastest growing student population – and a population of students who may soon be reconsidering the distance they travel to attend post-secondary education. Online-centered recreational gaming has seen an economic and academic explosion in higher education and has been shown to be an important connection between the academic affairs and student affairs. Additionally, we have expanded our online offerings to reach the online student. The expansion has included online video game play through popular massive multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPGs) emphasizing teamwork and communication, online fitness content and “how to” yoga videos, exploration of recreational e-sports, use of electronic platforms (e.g. Twitch, YouTube, Discord) to provide greater creative and community to students who desire access into the evenings and online, etc. However, we currently charge the Recreational Sports Fee to face-to-face students only and do not have the financial infrastructure to support initiatives



online/virtually and face-to-face. This method is not consistent throughout the A&M System.

Currently, the predominant model for charging the Recreational Sports Fee within A&M System is to charge all students within a specific radius, most commonly within 100-miles or to all students regardless of location. Examples include:

**TAMUCC:** All students are charged and students who live outside a 100-mile radius may apply for a waiver of “local” fees.

**TAMU:** Currently, students are charged who live within a 100-mile radius; however, they are proposing a contiguous county model instead of a radius model.

**TAMUG:** Currently, students are charged who live within a 100-mile radius; however, they are proposing a contiguous county model instead of a radius model.

**TAMUK:** Currently, students are charged who live within a 50-mile radius; however, they are proposing a contiguous county model instead of a radius model.

**TAMUI:** Currently, all students, with the exception of those identified as strictly an online student in an online program, are charged the fee.

**TSU:** All students living in contiguous counties to the campus they are assigned are charged the fee, regardless of delivery or format.

**WTAMU:** Charged to all students and students may request a waiver. Beginning in Fall 2021, a distance education fee will be charged, which will include the costs of the recreational sports fee to support those programs.

**TAMUT:** Charged to all students regardless of location.

**TAMUSA:** Charged to all students not identified as only online in an online program.

*Note: Other Texas A&M System Institutions did not respond to this request for information.*

Therefore, we are proposing restructuring our Recreational Sports Fee to more appropriately support the original intent of the fee: to support student recreation and physical wellness, which will produce a greater sense of belonging and connection for students and provide resources to deliver these programs in a more accessible format – both virtually and face-to-face. We propose a contiguous county model by which students living in Bell, Milam, Williamson, Burnet, Lampasas, Coryell, or McLennan counties will be assessed the campus recreation fee. This will include approximately 96% of our student body; however, after including tuition waivers/exemptions, the total student population to be charge is approximately 77.3%. This will allow greater focus on meeting student needs and remain consistent with current and proposed Recreational Sports Fee and offerings within the Texas A&M System.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paul York at extension 5877.

Thank you.