

**University Union/Recreation and Wellness Center  
Proposal for an Alternative Consultation to Increase Student Fees  
Spring 2023**

The University Union (UU) and Recreation and Wellness Center (RAW) at Cal State, East Bay have a unique and close relationship with regard to their funding and management. Although UU and UU/RAW student fees are collected and managed separately, they actually comprise one fund. In recent years, less revenue and rising costs have led to continued reductions in the operating budgets supported by these fees and resulted in reduced building hours, staffing and services. An alternative consultation is proposed during the Spring of 2023 to increase UU and UU/RAW fees beginning Spring 2024.

**History**

**University Union Fee (UU)**

- 1985: UU opened after an extensive renovation project that converted the existing cafeteria building into a more traditional student union facility. At that time, the original UU fee was approved by students at \$22 per quarter.
- 2000: Students approved the construction of a second University Union building and increased the UU fee to the current level of \$55 per quarter (\$82.5 per semester)

**Recreation and Wellness Fee (UU/RAW)**

- 2007: The construction of the Recreation and Wellness Center was approved by students utilizing the equity of the University Union. A second fee was established to support the RAW (UU/RAW fee). This fee increased gradually during the years the RAW was constructed then once again after it opened in 2011.
- 2007/2008: \$25 per quarter
- 2008/2009: \$50 per quarter
- 2009/2010: \$55 per quarter
- 2014/15: \$65 per quarter, this is the current fee (\$97.50 per semester)

**Cost of Living Adjustment**

The documents establishing the authority to collect the UU and UU/RAW fees did not include an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). Therefore, although the cost of managing these buildings and the associated services has increased over the years, the fees have not. Recently, rising expenses have resulted in reduced hours of operation, a reduction of staff and fewer student assistants to meet the escalating costs. Also lacking are resources to address items such as maintenance and repair of the buildings, furniture, and equipment as well as maintaining adequate reserves. Recommended is the adoption of the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI).

**Alternative Consultation Objectives**

The objectives of the alternative consultation are:

- 1) to increase each fee to a level that will allow for the effective and efficient management and programming of the UU and RAW buildings and services;
- 2) to establish clearly that student focused programming is an allowable use of student fee revenue for the UU and RAW;
- 3) to authorize an annual COLA adjustment to ensure the revenues collected will keep up with increasing expenses over time. The HEPI (3-year average) would be applied as needed, following a financial review.

**Proposed Semester Fee Increase**

Beginning Spring of 2024:

- RAW fee increase from \$97.50 to \$147.50 (\$50 increase)
- University Union fee increase from \$82.50 to \$132.50 (\$50 increase)