

## Q & A for Student Fee Proposal

1. State legislature extended free bus fare, why are we paying for transit fee?

The State is using ARPA funds (federal COVID support) to offer free bus rides for the public. However, the State did not allocate ARPA funding to UConn for this purpose. The University is still required to pay the State annually for the UPass program which covers both bus and train services throughout Connecticut. In addition, UConn must also pay WRTD for the bus services provided on campus. These expenses are all paid from the Transit fee revenue.

2. Why do we pay for services we don't even use? Can we have a choice to opt-out of certain fees if we don't use the service?

No, a student cannot opt-out of mandatory student fees; they are part of the cost of attendance. Mandatory fees support services available to all members of the student community on the campuses where they study.

3. Please explain how the SHaW services are funded when:

- a. All they did was refer me to an outside behavioral health group;

Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) offers solution-focused brief individual therapy to support students in managing their mental health concerns. For students who are seeking or would benefit from more intensive treatment, SHaW offers assistance in connecting them to appropriate local providers who have experience in working with college students.

- b. I have been turned away from medical services;

I'm not sure of the individual circumstance, but SHaW provides medical services to all graduate and undergraduate students enrolled at UConn's Storrs campus. Services that are not urgent or immediate in nature, may require an appointment.

- c. I was told there is an 18 month wait to access mental health services;

In 2021-2022, SHaW Mental Health services had an average wait time of 2 days from student's initial call to first appointment. For students with urgent needs, same day access is available. SHaW does not have an 18 month wait time for any of our services.

- d. It gets reimbursed by insurance when we visit, and we pay a co-pay regardless; and

The Student Health and Wellness fee is used to provide campus-wide programs and initiatives, including public health functions, that support student well-being and student success. UConn's Student Health and Wellness Fee also offsets the costs for medical and mental health services, as well as health promotion and wellness activities.

The Student Health and Wellness Fee is not considered health insurance. Health insurance, and the required copay, is charged for fee-for-service healthcare services, such as some of the medical and behavioral health visits, x-rays, lab tests, medical equipment, medications, and some vaccinations.

If insurance was not billed, the Student Health and Wellness fee would need to be increased to cover the expenses that are currently billed to insurance. For more information on the fee structure and insurance, please visit the SHaW website Fees and Insurance section.

e. It stopped COVID & Flu vaccines and are referring people to CVS?

I'm not sure of the individual circumstance, but SHaW provides free COVID-19 vaccines and boosters as well as free flu shots to our Storrs-based graduate and undergraduate students. COVID vaccines/boosters and flu shots are available by appointment. In addition, SHaW provided numerous COVID-19 vaccine/booster and flu clinics throughout the fall semester. The next flu clinic is scheduled for December 6th.

To schedule an individual appointment for your COVID vaccine, booster or flu shot or to sign-up for the flu clinic during the academic semester, visit the SHaW patient portal.

For more information on any of the SHaW-related questions, please visit the [SHaW Website](#).

4. Why don't Grad students have access to all the services, dorms etc.?

Graduate students have access to all the services for which they pay fees, e.g., the Student Recreation Center, discounted (or free) tickets to Jorgensen and athletic events, Student Health and Wellness (including mental health services), and the Center for Career Development. Residential Life provides a limited amount of housing for graduate students. Only graduate students who live in University-provided housing pay residential fees.

5. What warrants a \$300 increase to the Visa processing fee?

The Visa Compliance fee funds staff who provide regulatory visa support, guidance and programming to UConn international students. This increase of \$150 per semester will sustain the current level of support with the goal of providing needed additional support to the group of students that utilize this service. This fee has not increased since its initial implementation in 2017.

6. Between Husky Book Bundle & increased fees, that's about \$900 more than previous semester....That's a huge hike

The Husky Book Bundle is an opt-out program that allows students to receive required course materials for all classes for a flat fee of \$285, regardless of how much each individual textbook or digital access would cost to rent or purchase separately. The rental cost is applied to the student's account at the same time tuition is charged but is not due until day #11 of the semester. In the program, the bookstore provides each student with a convenient package before the first day of classes with physical books, and digital materials are automatically populated to students' courses in HuskyCT. The program is expected to save students as much as 50% on average over a la carte purchase of the same materials. Below is the annual cost of attendance percentage increase excluding the Husky Book Bundle:

### Cost of Attendance - Annual Percentage Change Excluding Husky Book Bundle

Undergrad Storrs	In-State	Out-of-State
Total, Commuting Student	4.8%	2.2%
Total, Dormitory Student	3.9%	2.3%

Undergrad Regional	In-State	Out-of-State
Total, Commuting Student	4.9%	2.1%

Graduate	In-State	Out-of-State
Total, Commuting Student	4.4%	2.2%
Total, Dormitory Student	3.7%	2.3%

7. Elaborate on where all the funds come from to pay things outside of tuition. Are students picking up 100% of the costs?

The University generates revenues from various sources, the largest being Tuition, State Support, and Auxiliaries (housing, dining, athletics). Below is a breakdown of revenues by source:

#### **FY23 Operating Budget Sources of Funds**

State Support	28%
Tuition	30%
Fees (including mandatory)	9%
Grants and Contacts	7%
Auxiliary Enterprises	12%
Research	10%
Other (including foundation)	4%
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	100%

8. Why are students with a tuition waiver still charged fees?

In the case of Graduate Assistants, tuition and fee waivers are negotiated during the normal collective bargaining process. Other waivers are statutory, such as the waiver for veterans, or Board of Trustee approved, such as those for employees and their dependents. Student fees are not waived except in these circumstances.

9. How does the University decide which areas will face budget cuts to avoid regular increases in fees/tuition?

The University relies strongly on the various domain experts to decide which activities are more or less important and to determine what services might be sacrificed to make room for regular cost increases. The Budget Office estimates the gap between projected revenues and expenditures. In consultation with the President and Provost, the Budget Office then provide targets for each unit to reduce their expenditures as needed. The unit leaders then determine how they will meet their target. Some units will do so by not refilling personnel vacancies. Others will meet rescission targets without reducing staff or services. Still others will have no choice but to reduce services to meet their budget target. This decentralized approach to reducing costs is appropriate for such a large and diverse organization.

10. You've shown historical % increase rates for dining and housing but have conveniently left out the other rates you propose to increase.

Historical Rate Increases - GUF UG Storrs					
Fiscal Year	GUF (other)	SHaW	Student Recreation	Total	Increase
FY13	\$1,776			\$1,776	2.99%
FY14	\$1,848			\$1,848	4.05%
FY15	\$1,914			\$1,914	3.57%
FY16	\$1,914			\$1,914	0.00%
FY17	\$1,914			\$1,914	0.00%
FY18	\$1,914			\$1,914	0.00%
FY19	\$1,334	\$580		\$1,914	0.00%
FY20	\$1,380	\$580	\$500	\$2,460	28.53%
FY21	\$1,380	\$580	\$500	\$2,460	0.00%
FY22	\$1,380	\$636	\$500	\$2,516	2.28%
FY23	\$1,474	\$686	\$500	\$2,660	5.72%
FY24 Proposed	\$1,570	\$776	\$500	\$2,846	6.99%

Other Institutional Fees - UG Storrs					
Fiscal Year	IMF	Tech Fee	Transit Fee	Total	Increase
FY13	\$454	\$120	\$100	\$674	2.99%
FY14	\$468	\$150	\$110	\$728	8.01%
FY15	\$468	\$150	\$120	\$738	1.37%
FY16	\$468	\$150	\$120	\$738	0.00%
FY17	\$468	\$150	\$120	\$738	0.00%
FY18	\$468	\$150	\$120	\$738	0.00%
FY19	\$468	\$150	\$160	\$778	5.42%
FY20	\$468	\$150	\$160	\$778	0.00%
FY21	\$468	\$150	\$160	\$778	0.00%
FY22	\$468	\$150	\$168	\$786	1.03%
FY23	\$558	\$174	\$178	\$910	15.78%
FY24	\$618	\$184	\$194	\$996	9.45%

11. How much of our money is going to pay for the new \$48m hockey arena?

The arena is being paid for by multiple funding sources, including proceeds from the sale of real estate, Athletic revenues, gifts, and revenue bonds. Gifts and revenue bonds make up most of the funding.

12. What percentage of costs covered in part by student fees does the University cover?

Programming and services paid for by fees, such as GUF, are ancillary to the university's educational mission. They must generate a portion of their operating revenue through fees. Sometimes, the fee does not cover the total cost of these programs and services and is subsidized by the University. After accounting for new revenues generated by the proposed fee increases, the University will still be providing central funds in the amount of \$13.5M to support these programs.

13. I heard discussions that funding from the state might decrease. Is that the case?

Yes, this is what we have been told by the state's Office of Policy and Management (OPM), which manages the state's budget.

14. Why can't the endowment at the Foundation be used to cover these fees?

The majority of funds donated to the Foundation are designated by the donor for specific purposes. None of those funds can be used to cover these fees. However, a significant portion of funds at the Foundation are utilized for student scholarships.