



“Redirection and Reaffirmation of the Non-Academic Building Fee”

Proposed Motion: Redirect Non-Academic Building Fee for continuing needs of the student union (Viking Union) and its activity facilities and programs and reaffirm that such a fee may be increased or decreased by the AS Board in any year and is intended to continue indefinitely for this purpose.

Sponsor: Alexander LaVallee, AS VP for Business & Operations

Persons of Contact: Alexander LaVallee, Linda Beckman

Guest Speaker: Linda Beckman, Enrollment & Student Services Division
Director of Budget and Administration

Date: 10/24/2017

Background & Context

In May 1991 the WWU Associated Students Board of Directors imposed a voluntary student fee in the amount of \$10 per quarter to provide for renovation of the Viking Union. Collection of this fee provided funds for initial planning and design as well as funding toward bond debt payment. As planning of that renovation continued, the project scope and cost estimates were developed. The AS Board of Directors and the WWU Board of Trustees increased the fee to \$30 in 1997 and pledged it to bonds at a \$35 level beginning Winter 2000. The fee has covered bond debt payments as well as maintenance and operations of the Viking Union. The AS Board of Directors and WWU Board of Trustees have approved increases to the fee to keep pace with inflation and cover maintenance and operations budgets. The fee is currently set at \$45 per quarter.

A bond refunding in 2015 resulted in \$110,000 average debt service savings per year, reducing the amount of the fee needed for bond payments. The remaining outstanding bonds will be paid off in 2026. In order to utilize the \$110,000 per year savings for the Multicultural Center as well as continue the Non-Academic Building Fee for continuing needs of the union and activities spaces into the future, the AS Board needs to take this action to redirect and reaffirm the fee.

Summary of Proposal

The Non-Academic Building Fee in support of the Viking Union (VU) is a voluntary fee pursuant to RCW 28B.10.610 (the “VU Fee”). The VU Fee is currently imposed at \$45 per quarter for full time students. In 2015 a refinancing of existing bonds resulted in annual debt service savings of approximately \$110,000 per year.

After 2026 a portion of the fee currently used to pay debt service on bonds for the Viking Union will no longer be needed for that purpose. By this action, the AS Board is redirecting and reaffirming this Non-Academic Building Fee (a voluntary student fee) for continuing needs of the student union/activity facilities and programs. Such fee may be increased by the AS Board in any year and is intended to continue indefinitely for this purpose.

Fiscal Impacts

No impact that would result in a change from current fiscal status.

Rationale

The Viking Union continually strives to enhance the Western Experience through supporting student leadership, campus involvement and creative expression, and by providing services and events in its venues. In order for the Viking Union to continue operations and strategic growth, the Non-Academic Building Fee must persist.

