

## Student Fees

# WHAT ARE WE PAYING FOR?



**LABORATORY FEE**  
All students taking labs pay a fee ranging from \$2-30 for each laboratory course per semester. This pays for the equipment and facilities used during labs.

**TUITION**  
Currently, residents of Texas are charged \$28 for each credit hour they take. Non-residents are charged \$171 per credit hour.

**STUDENT SERVICE FEE**  
Students are charged \$8.25 per credit hour, with the maximum fee of \$99 each semester.

**HEALTH CENTER FEE**  
All students must pay this \$25 fee for operating, maintaining and equipping A.P. Beutel Health Center.

**GENERAL USE FEE**  
Students are charged \$12 per hour to cover expenses the University has for expansion, air conditioning and rehabilitation of facilities.

Description	Charges
Tuition-Resident	364.00
Laboratory Fee	30.00
Student Services Fee	99.00
General Use Fee	156.00
Health Center Fee	25.00
Student Center Complex Fee	24.00
Computer Access Fee	65.00
International Education Fee	1.00

**Note — these fees are for a student taking 13 hours**

**COMPUTER ACCESS FEE**  
All students pay \$5 per credit hour to pay for maintenance and expansion of academic computing facilities on campus.

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FEE**  
This \$1 fee is to support international education and related activities, such as the Study Abroad program.

**STUDENT CENTER COMPLEX FEE**  
This \$24 fee is required of all students for maintaining, improving and equipping the Student Center Complex.

By Amber Clark and Amy Collier  
THE BATTALION

Upon registering for classes, students are often overwhelmed by the long list of fees appearing on their fee statements. Current increases approved by the Board of Regents and the state legislature may add to this confusion, and students may complain they do not know where their money is going. The following is a breakdown of student fees and where our money goes.

**Tuition**

Currently, residents of Texas are charged \$28 for each credit hour they take. Non-residents are charged \$171 per credit hour.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, executive vice president of finance and administration, said the state legislature decided to increase the tuition to \$30 per credit hour several years ago. Gaston said the tuition for non-residents will be \$176 per credit hour. This was decided by a University Coordinating Board under the state legislature. Graduate students will pay \$60 per credit hour.

Although tuition is increasing, Gaston said college students in Texas are fortunate.

"The state of Texas has about the lowest tuition in the country," Philby said.

Terra Philby, a senior geography major, said she does not agree with the increased prices.

"I am very unhappy with the increase in out-of-state tuition," Philby said. "There is no reason stated as to why they are increasing tuition, except that we must be competitive with other universities."

Some student leaders feel their tuition increase is fair.

Toby Boenig, student body president, said he hopes the legislature will continue to place importance on the future of higher education and the increase will help to improve our education.

"Of course, as a student, I'm not happy about it," Boenig said. "But it's important that they (the legislature) fund us because we are the future of Texas."

Jeb Jones, a senior economics major, was a student senator for the past two years, and said he believes the increase in tuition is reasonable for a good education.

"I think we have to realize that Texas is a very inexpensive place to get a very good education," Jones said. "We'll still be considered one of the best buys. We really are getting a deal."

**Computer Access Fee**

All students pay \$5 per credit hour to pay for maintenance and expansion of academic computing facilities on campus.

Mary Anne Kornegy, who works with A&M's Computing Information Systems, said only 20,000 students use the computer services that are available.

The students that choose to use the computers have access to a variety of computer programs, printers and computer labs around campus, she said.

"In general, they get access to any of the main-frame computers on campus with that fee," Kornegy said.

**Student Services Fee**

Students are charged \$8.25 per credit hour, with the maximum fee of \$99 each semester.

Dr. Bill Kibler, assistant vice president of student affairs, said the majority of the budget of student service fees goes to programs in the Memorial Student Center, recreational sports, the student counseling services and the health center.

A smaller amount of the budget goes to a variety of other things on campus as well, Kibler said.

"We have a list of 24 different offices, departments or programs that are funded by student service fees," Kibler said.

The fee allows students to get free copies of The Battalion and reduced admission to many MSC programs. It also allows the services of the student legal adviser, the MSC, Student Counseling Service, Student Activities and the Department of Recreational Sports.

Kibler said there is a student proposal to increase student service fees by \$9.

Kibler said the increase is necessary to pay for growing operating expenses each recipient faces.

"The majority of the recipients will receive increases," Kibler said.

Liz Rayburn, vice president of public relations of the MSC, said she thinks the increase is fair because the services the MSC provides directly benefit students.

"I don't like fee increases, but I think this will be beneficial," Rayburn said. "The MSC offers quality programs that students can benefit from."

Besides covering programs in the MSC, Rayburn said other services the fee covers benefit students as well, and will only improve with an added budget.

**General Use Fee**

Students are charged \$12 per hour to cover expenses the University has for expansion, air conditioning and rehabilitation of facilities.

"It doesn't have to be devoted to buildings, but that's what we've done," Gaston said.

**Health Center Fee**

All students must pay this \$25 fee for operating, maintaining and equipping A.P. Beutel Health Center. It entitles students to use many of its services for free, not including surgical operations or charges for consultations with outside physicians requested by parents.

Dr. Kenneth R. Dirks, director of the Department of Student Health Services, said this \$25 fee is a reasonable price for what the health center provides.

"One visit downtown is \$45 and up for an initial

visit," Dirks said. "I think this is the best bargain in health care in the country."

The fee covers lab work, X-rays and EMS ambulance service. It also covers special programs for physical therapy and nutritional counseling, including weight control and diet programs.

Students are entitled to consultations with orthopedic specialists, general surgeons, urologists and ear, nose and throat specialists. They can also receive routine gynecological work and limited psychiatric treatment.

Dirks said the center is presently establishing a women's clinic to be operated Monday through Friday. Currently, gynecological work is only provided two hours a week.

For the past six years, \$15 of the student services fee has been contributed to the A.P. Beutel Health Center. With the approval of a referendum in student body elections, this money will be added to the Health Center Fee instead.

The state legislature has placed a \$25 cap on the amount a student pays for health services. With student approval of the referendum, the legislature must vote to raise the cap to \$40 in May. This new cap includes the original \$25 fee plus the \$15 transfer from the Student Services fee.

"I think it (the transfer) was a recognition by the student government that there was more money needed for the health center," Dirks said. "The current fees should be enough to take care of health services for the coming year."

Owen Ross, former president of the Residence Hall Association, said the transfer is necessary and benefits the students.

"The transfer gives students a better knowledge of where their money is going," Ross said. "Now they can see that they're really paying \$40 for services instead of \$25. I think this might actually encourage them to go since they're paying the money."

**Student Center Complex Fee**

This \$24 fee is required of all students for maintaining, improving and equipping the Student Center Complex.

Kibler said the Student Center Complex is comprised of the Rudder complex, Rudder Tower, the MSC and the Koldus Building.

The fee pays for the maintenance and renovations of these four buildings, Kibler said.

Kibler said this fee is not to be confused with the student services fee, which is purely to fund activities on campus.

**International Education Fee**

This \$1 fee is to support international education and related activities, such as the Study Abroad program.

"It is to provide scholarships to our international activities," Gaston said.

**Laboratory Fees**

All students taking labs pay a fee ranging from \$2-30 for each laboratory course per semester. This

pays for the equipment and facilities used during labs.

**Equipment Access Fees**

Equipment access fees were approved by the Board of Regents for the College of Architecture and the College of Geosciences and Maritime Studies. The fees are \$60 and \$50, respectively.

These fees, which are also charged to certain engineering and science courses, cover equipment purchases and maintenance costs.

**Parking fee increase**

The Board of Regents recently approved parking fee increases, which were proposed by the Finance and Audit Committee. The increases are as follows:

- Commuter: \$55 to \$75
- Reserved (staff): \$135 to \$200
- Night Permit: \$15 to \$35
- Summer: \$20 to \$55
- Garage roof: \$150 to \$200
- Garage priority: \$225 to \$270
- Zachry basement: \$225 to \$270
- Garage inside: \$200 to \$240
- Garage visitor: \$.50/hr to \$.60/hr

Gaston said the increases are necessary because there is a \$20 million plan to expand parking areas and improve lighting. Plans for a new parking garage are currently underway.

"Our parking is too low and hasn't been changed in years," Gaston said.

Some students are angered by the increased parking fee. Philby said she cannot understand the reason for the increase because parking is so limited.

"Why raise parking fees when there is nowhere to park?" Philby said. "It's too difficult to get parking anywhere on campus, so what is raising the fees going to do for us?"

Boenig said the parking increases are necessary because of the improvements students are demanding.

"We're trying to listen to the students and fix everything," Boenig said. "Unfortunately, we are going to have to pay for it."

Boenig said he has created the position of vice president for student finance to help monitor what students' opinions are on parking increases and to make sure increases do not skyrocket.

"We're trying to listen to more of what the students are saying," Boenig said. "With our budget constraints, it's hard."

**New Recreational Sport Fee**

A \$50 fee will be issued to pay specifically for the new sports complex located on West Campus. Kibler said the complex is scheduled to open in Fall 1995.

"The students have been paying for many years to support Rec Sports," Kibler said. "That will continue and the additional fee is just for the building."