

NOTICE OF PROPOSED STUDENT HEALTH CENTER FEE ADJUSTMENT

The Student Health Center (SHC) will soon be asking the Student Fee Advisory Committee to recommend approval of an adjustment to the Student Health Services Fee. The proposed adjustment includes increasing the fee from \$82.50 to \$132.50 per semester effective Fall 2018 and tying the fee to the Milliman Medical Index to incrementally adjust for the increasing cost of healthcare in the future, if needed.

The current state of the SHC budget presents a deficit of over \$1.7 million. The deficit has been offset thus far by a reserve, which is now depleted and one-time temporary funding from the University. In the absence of these sources going forward, the SHC has no option but to increase its revenue by adjusting the fee. Failure to adopt this increase would result in dire budgetary circumstances, potentially resulting in substantial reduction of critical services to students including those of mental health care.

Similar to other California State University student health services, the SHC is a self-supporting entity with its primary source of revenue being the Student Health Services Fee. As such, the Center is responsible for covering all operating costs, including personnel salaries and benefits, contractual services, supplies and equipment, pharmaceuticals, facility maintenance and care, custodial services, and other general operating costs. In recent years, the SHC has substantially increased mental health services in response to the growing need for such services. The fee adjustment is essential for the Student Health Center in order to maintain its operations at the current level and further respond to the increasing need for services, in particular, mental health care. The existing non-indexed fee has not changed since 2006 while the cost of healthcare has risen exponentially along with the demand for services. Given these factors, maintaining a stable budget has become increasingly difficult and impossible going forward.

Our Student Health Center serves as a primary health care provider for many students whom otherwise do not have access to adequate healthcare, and it is important to note that despite this increase, the adjusted fee will still be among the lowest Health Services Fees in the CSU system. Furthermore, the cost of healthcare provided by the SHC is a value when compared to outside-where a visit to a clinician can easily cost \$150-\$500, and an emergency room visit substantially more. It is important to note, this proposed increase will be covered in most cases for eligible financial aid recipients.

As I am sure you will agree, maintaining health services for students is essential in supporting student wellness and personal and academic success. We, at the Student Health Center, are passionate about providing high quality, convenient and affordable health services to students and need your support to enable us to continue our service! We welcome your comments and suggestions and encourage you to participate in our upcoming health services survey. Our email address is wecare@calstatela.edu. Additional information and a link to our upcoming survey will be available through the Student Health website, www.calstatela.edu/studenthealthcenter.

Sincerely,

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Student Health Center