

**A S P S U**

**Student Fee  
Funding**

# Tuition at PSU

At Portland State University, the tuition and fees that each student pays is broken down into six major categories:

- Instructional Fees
- Health Fees
- Technology Fees
- Resource Fees
- Building Fees
- Incidental Fees (Student Fees)

A portion of the money collected from students to operate Portland State University is allocated by student representatives on the SFC . The purpose of Incidental Fees (Student Fees) is to fund programs and activities which, in addition to the traditional academic elements of the University, further the cultural, educational and physical development of the students at large.

# Student Fees at PSU

Incidental Fees, or Student Fees, are used to fund the following:

- Athletic Activities
- Smith Memorial Student Union
- Educational Activities
- Services for Students

The Student Fee at Portland State University is currently **\$202** per term for full-time students. For this year, the SFC allocated approximately \$10.6 million to about 99 programs and services throughout the University, including seven new student groups. Additionally, the SFC gave large budget increases to many active groups on campus.

# Oregon Law

Oregon law mandates student control of student fees.

- Oregon Revised Statutes (351.070-3-d)
  - “The State Board of Higher Education may, for each institution under it’s control: ...Prescribe incidental fees for programs under the supervision or control of the board found by the board, upon its own motion or upon recommendation of the recognized student government of the institution concerned, to be advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students.”
- Oregon Administrative Rule (580-010-0090)
  - Lays out rules for student participation in not only the allocation of the fee revenue, but also in creating Guidelines and Procedures for the allocations. Includes a detailed “Hearings Board” process if the SFC and the University President fail to reach agreement on allocations.

# The SFC is composed of:

- A Chair, elected at large by the student body. The Chair may vote on items before the SFC.
- Six voting members
  - Five members elected at large by the student body
  - One member appointed by the ASPSU President.
  - Only these six members may make and second motions.
- Two non-voting consultants (advisors), to advise members in all hearings and deliberations.

# Responsibilities of the SFC

In accordance with OAR 580-010-0090, Section 2, the Student Fee Committee has the authority and responsibility to:

1. Analyze and appraise budget requests;
2. Analyze and appraise rollover and reserve requests;
3. Conduct budget investigations;
4. Match Program requests for funding with available resources;
5. Recommend to the University President the budgets for those Programs to be funded by Student Fees after obtaining as broad a base of student participation as possible; and
6. Recommend the level of Student Fees required to fund the proposed budget.

# Liaisons

Each SFC member serves as a liaison to funded programs. The liaison assignments are based on the SALP clusters.

- Academic
- Service & Advocacy
- Fine & Performing Arts
- Multicultural
- Recreation
- Publications & Other Programs
- Student Government, Student Union & Childcare

Liaisons are expected to:

- Meet with each assigned Program regularly, as well as attend a Program's meeting or event once in the Fall & Spring.
- Become familiarized with assigned Programs and review their current operating budgets
- Provide information regarding all aspects of the Student Fee process throughout the year to assigned Programs, making effort to ensure receipt and comprehension of information;
- Act as the official contact to the SFC for assigned Programs
- Provide unbiased, factual information about assigned Programs to the rest of the SFC as needed.

# The Timeline

[http://aspsu.pdx.edu/docs/sfc/sfc\\_timeline.php](http://aspsu.pdx.edu/docs/sfc/sfc_timeline.php)

- **Rollover/Overage Hearings – October**
- **Budget School – October 15, 17 & 19**
- **Budget Deadline – November 20**
- **Budget Sign-off Due – December 7**
- **Initial Budget Hearings – Jan 7-29**
- **Initial Deliberations – Jan 9 - 30**
- **Appeal Hearings – February 18-21**
- **Appeal Deliberations – February 25-29**
- **Final Allocations Released – February 29**

# The annual Budget Process

The SFC has an annual budget process. Below is the general process the average Program can expect to see.

- **Step 1: Attend Budget School**—This is required for all SFC Programs, as well as any programs wishing to receive Student Fees. It is an annual event where coordinators learn how to use the Online Budgeting System.
- **Step 2: Create a budget**—Using the Online Budgeting System, Programs create a budget reflective of their organization's goals/mission that includes expected revenues, operating expenses and payroll for the next fiscal year. Also included in the budget are a questionnaire, the Program's constitution and job descriptions for any paid positions.
- **Step 3: Attend Budget Hearings**—Programs are required to attend a budget hearing, where the SFC asks questions about the submitted budget and questionnaire.
- **Step 4: Figures Released**—The SFC will deliberate and release initial allocations. If Programs wish to appeal the allocations, they can submit the specific amounts being appealed, and come to Appeal Hearings. After the Appeal Hearings and deliberations process, the final allocations will be released and sent on to the ASPSU Senate and University President for approval.

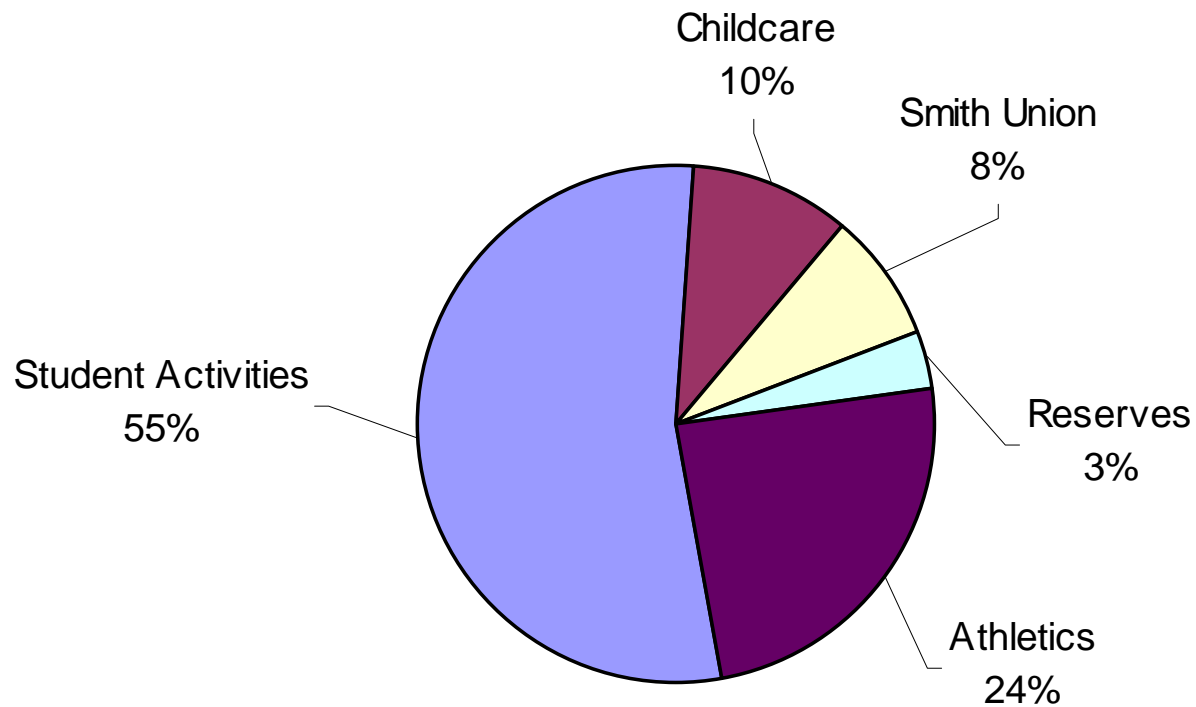
# Budget Contents

Each budget request contains:

- The Program's statement of goals & objectives
- A statement of activities or services the Program provides
- Job descriptions for paid positions
- A constitution, bylaws or other governing documents
- An itemized operating budget
- A break-down of anticipated revenues

# FY08 Breakdown

## FY08 SFC Allocations



\*Detailed budgets can be found online at <https://sa.pdx.edu/budgets>

# Regular Meetings

- Outside of the annual budget process, the SFC meets regularly to hear Discretionary and Designated Reserve Requests, as well as any relevant situations that we would like to discuss as a Committee.
  - Fall & Spring, we typically meet every week.
  - Winter & Summer, we typically meet every 2-3 weeks.
- Discretionary Reserve – Intended for one-time, unforeseen expenses. Only SFC groups may request funds from this reserve.
- Programs wishing to request funds from the Discretionary Reserve, contact the SFC Chair to be placed on the agenda for an SFC meeting.

# Attacks on Student Fees

Student control of Student Fees is often attacked. The attacks are seen at three different levels.

- **Organization led attacks**

- Outside organizations have funded a number of lawsuits that challenge the constitutionality of student fees, including *Southworth vs. The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents*, and lobby for legislative attacks.

- **Legislative attacks**

- Various legislation has been introduced over the years that attempts to limit how student fees are spent, or eliminates the student fee altogether. So far, we have been successful in defeating such legislation, but there are new bills that pop up almost every session.

- **Court attacks**

- The most famous court attack was *Southworth vs. The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents*. Southworth, a student, felt that his first amendment rights were violated because he was being forced to financially support groups he disagreed with politically, and that the groups were not “germane” to the university’s mission. Southworth won the initial case and the first appeal. University of Wisconsin appealed to the Supreme Court, which unanimously upheld the University’s right to charge a mandatory student fee, as the range of activities funded contributes to the educational mission of universities.

# Defending student control of student fees

- Student fees are part of the educational mission of the university
  - Provides education and training not available inside the classroom
  - Internships, events, student governments and other organizations allow students to expand their learning through action and organizing
- Student fees are controlled by students, locally through democratic systems
  - Locally controlled process governed by democratically elected students
  - All student group and activity budget are closely scrutinized to give quality programs to the University community
- Student fees support a marketplace of ideas
  - A true education comes from exposure to a full spectrum of ideas
  - Student fees provide an open forum to hear all ideas and speech
  - They protect free speech on campus by supporting all student groups and their ideas