



Label: UB48001

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Committee: Administration and Finance, Student Life

Draft: First

Authorizing a Specialized Increase in the University Center Fee for FY13

WHEREAS: The University Center, the heart of student activity since its completion in 1967, offers a wide variety of products, services, programs, and opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni while furthering the educational mission of the University of Houston; and

WHEREAS: As an auxiliary operation of the University of Houston, the University Center receives no funds from state appropriations and is financially responsible for all costs associated with general upkeep, maintenance, renovations, improvements, utilities for facilities, as well as an administrative charge on all expenses from the University Center budgets; and

WHEREAS: The University Center is in dire need of repairs and replacement for its mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in addition to updated and expanded facilities to provide a greater standard of excellence for a new generation of students; and

WHEREAS: The current University Center Fee is \$85 per student for each long semester (Fall and Spring) and \$42.50 per student per each term of summer sessions; and

WHEREAS: Students overwhelmingly supported a phased-in fee increase by over 77% in order to support a transformation of the current University Center into a new-millennium facility; and

WHEREAS: A second fee increase is required to finance the second phase of the UC Transformation, which includes both a comprehensive refit of HVAC and MEP systems as well as select renovation and updating of finishes, fixtures, and furnishing; and

WHEREAS: In order to preserve the vibrancy of the existing University Center complex as it faces partial renovation and construction of two additions in the first phase of the UC Transformation Project, the second phase of construction and renovation must occur; and

WHEREAS: The 46th Senate of the Student Government Association approved the first phase of the 2-phase UC Fee Increase to fund the UC Additions and select UC footprint renovations, raising the UC fee to its current level, with the intent to support further fee increases to complete the second phase of the project; and





WHEREAS: Present state law requires that each increase of the University Center fee requires approval from either a majority vote of the Student Government Association or the student body; and

WHEREAS: Each phase of bonding for the University Center Transformation Project must be partially supported by student fees and partially funded by Food Services in order to occur; and

WHEREAS: The UC2010 Student Referendum, passed in 2008, approved a UC Fee cap of \$160, while the proposed cap in this legislation is \$135, \$25 less per long semester, than the original approved fee cap; and

WHEREAS: The Texas Legislature approved with no dissent House Bill 2961, amending § 54.526 of the State of Texas V.T.C.A. Education Code to authorize an increase in the University Center Fee Ceiling to \$150.00, and the same bill was signed into law by Governor Perry on June 19th, 2009; and

WHEREAS: The Senates of the 45th, 46th, and 47th Student Government Association have already pledged their support of the UC Transformation Project and any subsequent fee increases to support the project, both vocally and through UB45007, enacted September 24th, 2008; UB46002, enacted September 30th, 2009; and UB46003, enacted January 27th, 2010.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the 48th Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Hereby Assembled **approve** the fee increase of \$50 to the University Center Fee, beginning in fall of 2012. The University Center Fee would not exceed \$135.00 per spring and fall semester, and \$67.50 per summer semester; and

That University Center and Administrative Services give two presentations per semester on the UC Transformation Project's budget, construction progress, and any specific information requested by a UHSGA Senator that has given at least a week's notification; and

That once an architect and a contractor have been chosen and contracted, any and all financial documents, polling, invoices, shipment manifests, and payments shall be posted to the UC Transformation Project website for student perusal within a month of the appropriate document's processing.


Reyes Ramirez
Speaker of the Senate


Michael Harding
President