



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.**

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

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**TO:** Ashley Lankford, SGA President  
**FROM:** Dee Dee Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs  
**DATE:** September 20, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Student Activity Fee

Each year the institution presents to the Institutions of Higher Learning all tuition and fees to be approved for the following year. This request is submitted in Spring semester and should include any new fees or increases in fees. Last year during this process several schools including Ole Miss and Mississippi State requested an increase in the Student Activity Fee. I am requesting that the Student Government Association review our current student activity fee amount and make any recommendations for an increase and how this increase will be allocated. Due to the increase in student activities and events on campus and the increase in costs associated with programming such as food and vendors, I believe an increase is justified and warranted at this time. For your review and discussion please find attached a copy of the FY 2023 Student Activity Fee Rate Increase Requested Submitted from Institutions.

Thank you for your consideration and review of our Student Activity Fees. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**FY 2023 Student Activity Fee Rate Increase  
Requests  
Submitted from Institutions**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL FEBRUARY 2022**

### **REQUEST**

Alcorn State University requests an increase in the student activity fee from \$15.00 per student, per semester to \$50 per student, per semester. This is an increase of \$35.00 per student, per semester from the current fee to be used for the purpose of providing robust student development opportunities for our students to include an allocation of program funding for our registered student organizations. We are requesting this increase effective Fall 2022.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Alcorn State University is situated in rural Lorman, Mississippi, 45 miles south of Vicksburg and 40 miles north of Natchez. Alcorn is approximately 80 miles south from the state capital, Jackson. The rural and secluded nature of this beautiful campus requires strategic and intentional efforts to create positive experiences for students on campus that provide them with a social sense of belonging, personal development, and the conditions for their academic success. In alignment with our university goal to be student-centered and offer students an “engaging, transformative learning and living environment, empowering them to become globally competitive, socially and environmentally sensitive, and technologically competent leaders,” in March 2017 with student support, Alcorn State University was approved to impose a \$15.00 activity fee per student, per semester. Activities funded by the student activity fee enhance campus life, promote student academic and personal success, and uphold and support the mission of Alcorn State University.

Building on our vision to develop diverse students into globally competitive leaders, the University created the Assistant Vice-President for Student Engagement and Dean of Students position to lead the student development strategic priority for the University. The incumbent provides a comprehensive living and learning environment that challenges student to be engaged, global citizens. This position was filled in August 2020 and immediately tasked to restructure the unit, creating a new Office for Student Development within the Division of Student Affairs. The restructure placed the departments of Career Services, Student Engagement, Student Conduct, and the Student Union under the auspices of the Office for Student Development which was charged with creating robust student development and engagement experiences for students that contribute to their academic and personal development, prepare them for career endeavors, and connect them to the Alcorn campus community, culture, and experience.

The integration of the student activity fee into the tuition structure in 2017 has increased our ability to provide students with engaging social activities, personal development experiences, and meaningful connections to the campus community. However, the fee does not stretch far enough for us to support student involvement through comprehensive student development initiatives to include the work of the Office for Student Engagement and student organization programming. We are therefore seeking to increase the student activity fee to \$50 per student, per semester to foster positive student development and increase the number of co-curricular learning opportunities for students.

While much has been done on the amount of fee we currently receive, The Office for Student Development requires additional funding from the student activity fee to offer students comprehensive engagement and development opportunities that prepare them to compete in the global economy. There are three main areas that the additional funds will support:

*Student Development Programs-* The Office of Student Development has planned a series of experiences to enhance student development in the areas of Leadership, Community Engagement, and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI). These programs include:

- Student Leadership Development programs designed to introduce students to the leadership skills and practices that will make them the most competitive in our global workforce.
- Cultural Immersion opportunities through day and overnight trips to learn about the rich African American culture that surrounds them and how to be confident in their traditions, history, and race.
- Alternative Winter and Spring Break Volunteer Opportunities to expose students to communities and cultures different from their own, developing their sense of citizenship, community, and appreciation for diversity.
- Speaker Series that will offer students opportunities to hear from industry and thought leaders around that world that encourage student mental health and well-being.
- Diversity Education Initiatives to include celebrations for Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Women's History Month, Male leadership Summit, and LGBTQ Ally training and support.
- Personal Development opportunities to assist students with building their personal brand and aligning their career aspirations with the interpersonal skills and workplace behaviors and characteristics that will make them successful in their life after Alcorn.

*Student Activities Events-* The Office of Student Development has designed social opportunities to provide students with a sense of belonging and community. These programs include:

- Novelty acts that provide fun experiences for students to make things, build items, or participate in activities. Such events include roller skating, build-a-bear, paint ball, distress stations, coffee house events, and more.
- Concerts and Comedy Acts during Welcome Week, Homecoming and the spring Bravefest to support campus traditions and community.

*Registered Student Organization Programming-* The Office of Student Development will support the holistic development and growth of our student organizations through funding for programming, activities, and events that student organization leaders can apply for. Such opportunities will also introduce additional leadership and budget training sessions for student leaders and create a sense of shared responsibility for cultivating a campus environment that is inclusive through the responsible use of student fee funding. Funding student organizations is essential to the campus experience for several reasons:

- Funding for student organizations will increase student organization membership and allow for a greater percentage of the student body to become involved.

**Mississippi State University – REQUEST TO INCREASE STUDENT ACTIVITIES FEE (FIRST READ)**

**Agenda Item Request:** Mississippi State University requests permission to increase the Student Activities Fee (SAF) to better support registered student organizations, improve University Recreation, and increase student life programming for the purpose of facilitating a stronger sense of belonging for students at MSU and to improve overall student well-being.

Specifically, MSU requests permission to increase the current \$5.00 per semester Student Activities Fee applicable to all Starkville campus students during the Fall and Spring semesters to \$25.00 per semester for the Fall and Spring semesters. Students will not be charged the fee during the Summer or other intersession terms. The Student Activity Fee currently generates approximately \$180,000 annually.

This was a Student Association initiative requested by the Student Association President. On October 5th, a campus wide student poll was taken with a final vote tally of 4,261-1,398, a 75.29% affirmation rate. Additionally, a Student Association Senate resolution was passed on November 11th, reaffirming Student Association's support for greater funding for student activities

The Student Activity Fee will be distributed to support registered student organization activities through the Student Association's appropriations process; to support University Recreation improvements; and to increase campus-wide programming.

**Estimated Revenue:** Based on the Fall 2021 enrollment of 18,172 Starkville campus students and Spring 2021 enrollment of 16,778 Starkville campus students, MSU projects this increased fee to generate approximately \$700,000 of new revenue annually.

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY:  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES FEE CHANGE  
PROPOSAL**

February 23, 2022

### **Planned Use of Supplemental Funding from Fee**

The Student Activity Fee (SAF) will maintain its current three categories of eligible funding and expand the large-scale programming category. This expansion will allocate funds with the specific intention to support student-body wide programming. In doing so, the SAF would support its own programming to allow for further outreach of the fund. Such programming could include, but is not limited to, educational speakers, concerts, research symposiums, or other engaging involvement activities. This expansion will allow for the SAF to reach the individual students, specifically those not directly involved in a registered student organization (RSO). Further, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) funding available per RSO per semester will be expanded from a \$2,000 to a \$5,000 allocation per RSO to further promote inclusive programming and DEI efforts on campus.

### **Regulations of the Fee**

- Viewpoint neutral criteria for evaluating funding proposals should only consider factors that are NOT tied to viewpoints such as fiscal responsibility, procurement policy compliance, relevance to mission, and level of services provided.
- To ensure that the funding is used to its fullest potential, the funds incurred from the Student Activity Fee must strictly be supplemental and not the sole purpose of funds received. The fee should not become a replacement funding source under any circumstance.
- The funds from the Student Activity Fee will be allocated to various student organizations and student programs to further support the efforts and passions of our diverse student body. For example, at the University of Mississippi, we will be able to help support over 350 different student organizations that could apply for appropriations from these funds. All student organizations are eligible for funding assuming they are in good fiscal and judicial standing with the university, have attended a funding orientation, and have been registered with the Gertrude C. Ford Ole Miss Student Union for at least thirty days.
- The Associated Student Body (ASB) is not eligible for funding through the Student Activity Fee to ensure fair and proper stewardship of resources.
- Students will not be charged the fee during the summer semester or any intersession terms.
- This fee will be embedded into tuition for the Fall and Spring Semesters.
- All funding is subject to guidelines from the University of Mississippi and State of Mississippi Procurement services.

### Potential New Impacts of the Student Activity Fee

- The increase of the Student Activity Fee will allow for additional funds that benefit more registered student organizations and expand the reach of the Student Activity Fee.
- Give student organizations the power to positively affect the student experience outside of the classroom. Student organizations have the unique ability to supplement, assist, and influence a student’s collegiate experience. After classes, students go to organization meetings, organization events, or experience organizational programming. The Student Activity Fee increase will help organizations provide more positive and enriching experiences for students outside of the classroom.
- An increased SAF will inspire organizations to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion programming such as events, speakers, conferences, or training. By increasing the allocation for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts per student organization, this will in turn inspire organizations to provide more creative, innovative, and engaging programming that emphasizes celebrating and supporting diversity and inclusion on the University of Mississippi’s campus and within their organization.
- An increased SAF will foster events or programming directed at the entire student-body. By opening programming efforts or supporting other collaborative efforts targeted towards the entire student population of the university, the Student Activity Fee will become a direct force in each student’s collegiate experience. The SAF would host programming for students not previously involved, likely increasing student participation, and ideally encouraging them to get involved with student organizations.

### University of Mississippi Associated Student Body Referendum

A referendum will be taken from the University of Mississippi on March 8, 2022. This referendum will be worded as follows: “The Student Activity Fee (SAF) is a fee assessed to students that allows all registered student organizations except the Associated Student Body (ASB) to fund programming. Would you like to change the Student Activity Fee to \$2 per credit hour in order to preserve the Student Activity Fee for future use by all registered organizations other than the Associated Student Body?” After voting, the results of the vote will be provided.

### Student Activity Fees From Peers in the SEC

*Using Data Gathered during Fall 2021*

*In descending order based on dollar amount per semester*

<b>Universities of the Southeastern Conference</b>	<b>SAF per semester</b>
Auburn	\$873
Vanderbilt	\$715
Tennessee	\$519