

University of Mississippi

eGrove

---

Honors Theses

Honors College (Sally McDonnell Barksdale  
Honors College)

---

Spring 5-4-2022

## Increasing The Student Activity Fee

Alexandria Bea Mabry  
*University of Mississippi*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/hon\\_thesis](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/hon_thesis)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), and the [Social Influence and Political Communication Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mabry, Alexandria Bea, "Increasing The Student Activity Fee" (2022). *Honors Theses*. 2525.  
[https://egrove.olemiss.edu/hon\\_thesis/2525](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/hon_thesis/2525)

This Undergraduate Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors College (Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College) at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors Theses by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact [egrove@olemiss.edu](mailto:egrove@olemiss.edu).

INCREASING THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

By Alexandria Mabry

A thesis submitted to the faculty of The University of Mississippi in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

The University of Mississippi  
University, MS  
May 2022

Approved by

---

Advisor: Dr. Timothy Yenter

---

Reader: Dean Brent Marsh

---

Reader: Dean Ethel Scurlock

© 2022  
Alexandria Bea Mabry  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

# Table of Contents

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>SPRING, 2021</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>SUMMER, 2021</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>FALL, 2021</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<i>OBSTACLE ONE – CAMPAIGN LIMITATIONS</i> .....	19
<i>OBSTACLE TWO – LACK OF AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE</i> .....	20
<i>OBSTACLE THREE – AN EXPIRATION DATE ON THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE</i> .....	21
<b>SPRING, 2022</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>TABLE OF FIGURES</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>APPENDIX A</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>APPENDIX B</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>APPENDIX C</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>APPENDIX D</b> .....	<b>39</b>
<b>APPENDIX E</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>APPENDIX F</b> .....	<b>46</b>
<b>APPENDIX G</b> .....	<b>48</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I could not have attempted any of this without Gianna Schuetz. Thank you for sharing your passion with me and inspiring my own work with the SAF. Thank you to Katelin Hayward for convincing me to run for Treasurer, Valerie Rewa for always being there, Kate Purdom for reminding me to take some time for myself, and Jaycie Keylon for keeping me sane from the very beginning of my journey with the Treasury. Thank you to my fellow members of ASB, particularly executive council. None of this would have been possible without the endless support from the ASB advising team- Haley and Edward, thank you. Thank you, Meghan Dulaney, for being the first to write about the SAF. Huge thank you to Dr. Timothy Yenter who listened to this idea and took a chance with me. Thank you, Dean Marsh, for your assistance throughout my term and Dean Scurlock for being a part of this project. Thank you to Mrs. Amanda Smiley for the valuable advice and support, even though you didn't have to.

Thank you to all the friends who supported me, allowed me to come and speak to your organizations, and shared information with your own friends. This project would have never succeeded without people like you. Thank you to the comptrollers who served alongside me during my term. The SAF would be nothing without the work you all do. Thank you, Reid Bain, for your dedication and efforts, you truly went above and beyond. Emily- I am so excited to see where you take the treasury in the future, thank you for listening to my rambling advice.

Thank you, Georgiann McCullough, for not only designing the graphics for the campaign but for taking my constant feedback and concerns and turning them into something truly beautiful. Sophie Cantu- I will forever be indebted for your assistance this past year. This journey would not have been the same without your constant help and spirit; I am so grateful. William Takewell, you have been the greatest advisor anyone could dream of. Never has someone so unconditionally supported me and a crazy idea. Thank you for your advice, comforting words, and humor. Thank you to my family. In particular, thank you, Brydon, for moving my signs and letting me use your truck in each campaign. Without my family's support, I wouldn't have made it this far.

Finally, I want to thank the student organizations; this was all for you.

**Abstract**

The Student Activity Fee is a five-dollar fee paid by every graduate and undergraduate student at the University of Mississippi through their university tuition. The purpose of the Student Activity Fee is to support any efforts and passions of student organizations to allow them the financial freedom to host intentional programming for students or provide items needed for the function and success of that organization. The Student Activity Fee Fund was estimated to be depleted by Fall 2023. Therefore, in order to protect the Fund, a Student Activity Fee increase to two-dollars per credit hour was proposed to the student body of the University of Mississippi and passed in Spring 2022.

## **The Student Activity Fee**

The Student Activity Fee is a five-dollar fee paid by every graduate and undergraduate student at the University of Mississippi through their university tuition. Every other university in the Southeastern Conference, except the University of Alabama, charges students a similar fee of differing amounts. This fee is designed to be a fiscal resource for registered student organizations. These student organizations can request funds via the University of Mississippi's online portal called the ForUM. At the University of Mississippi, the student activity fee started in 2015 and was designed to be a first-come, first-serve source of funding for student organizations. Now, the Student Activity Fee is a guaranteed resource for student organizations. As an institutional fund, the Student Activity Fee is not without limitation and is subject to university regulations and the state of Mississippi procurement laws. Such laws and regulations include being tax-exempt, being unable to fund illegal or other prohibited items such as alcohol or weapons, and requiring extensive documentation for each purchase. Past these regulations, it can be used in any way a registered student organization needs from funding programming, educational speakers, or operational expenses.

The purpose of the Student Activity Fee is to support any efforts and passions of the group without requiring further fiscal commitment from the student organization members. This is to allow registered student organizations the financial freedom to host intentional programming for students and provide items to the student organization needed for the function and success of that organization. The intent of Student Activity Fee is to promote student success on campus by supporting student involvement. This idea of increased involvement leading to increased student success and engagement was based on

and supported by the student development theory, originally published in July 1984 by Alexander W. Astin, stating “the greater a student is involved in their college, the greater will be personal development and the amount of student learning” (Astin). The Student Activity Fee is meant to give student organizations the fiscal support they need to increase membership numbers of students; student involvement, leadership, and community service opportunities on campus; and finally, but not limited to, student retention rates.

The Student Activity Fee was enacted after approval from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board of Trustees. The IHL Board of Trustees is the “constitutional governing body responsible for policy and financial oversight of the eight public institutions of higher learning” (Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning). These responsibilities include approving the tuition and fees of their institutions of higher learning. As the Student Activity Fee is billed as a part of a student’s tuition statement, it is therefore also subject to approval by the IHL Board of Trustees. Upon the implementation of the Student Activity Fee, seven of the eight Mississippi public institutions of higher learning charged Student Activity Fees of five-dollars.

To be eligible to use the Student Activity Fee, a student organization’s President and Treasurer must attend a funding orientation hosted by the Associated Student Body Treasurer, be registered through the Office of the Dean of Students, be in good fiscal and judicial standing with both the University of Mississippi and the Associated Student Body, be an active organization for at least thirty days, and not possess any outstanding debts to the Office of the Dean of Students or the Associated Student Body. The Student Activity Fee Fund and all funding requests from student organizations are directly supervised by the treasurer of the Associated Student Body with support from the Associated Student



Body Treasury Department. So long as an organization has met these qualifications, and rarely does an organization not, they are eligible to utilize the student activity fee; the only limitation being that the Associated Student Body, as an entity, is unable to use funding from or access the Student Activity Fee. This exclusion of the Associated Student Body's eligibility to utilize Student Activity Fee funds is to ensure the fair and proper stewardship of resources.

Each week, the Associated Student Body Treasury Department meets to review funding requests. This group is headed by the elected Treasurer and compiled of Deputy Comptrollers of the Student Activity Fee, the Graduate Student Council Treasurer, a representative from the University of Mississippi procurement services, and the advisors to the Associated Student Body Treasurer. To review requests, a rubric rating the potential impact, stewardship, leadership development, community service, inclusiveness, and student involvement of each request is used to ensure proper use of the student activity fee. Note that each funding request does not need to meet each of the evaluation standards and that the rubric is used as a guide for the committee to fairly judge each request and potential use of the fund.

The Student Activity Fee Fund is split into three general categories. The first is the "Student Organization Allocation," accounting for 65% of the semesterly Student Activity Fee deposit and valued at six thousand dollars per registered student organization per semester. This is the most extensive and most commonly used category of funding and can support organizations through six different subcategories: organization open events, organization focused events, operational expenses, professional development, speaker fees, and promotional materials.

The next category of funding is the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programming” category, accounting for 20% of the semesterly deposit and valued at two thousand dollars per registered student organization per semester. This category of funding was added in January 2021 to fund programming or engagement opportunities that support diversity, equity, and inclusion within the registered student organization or for the University of Mississippi campus as a whole.

The final category of the Student Activity Fee is “Large Scale Programming” which accounts for 15% of the semesterly deposit. This category of funding was also added in January 2021 and serves as a competitive grant to supplement collaborating registered student organizations in creating meaningful, campus wide programming that is available to every student.

## **Spring, 2021**

The Associated Student Body Department of Treasury is overseen by an annually elected treasurer, who manages the two branches of the treasury, the internal and student activity fee accounts. The majority of the Associated Student Body treasurer's responsibilities involve overseeing the Student Activity Fee and helping registered student organizations access funds. This entails tracking requests, collecting documentation, coordinating purchase plans, and working directly with the procurement offices of the University.

In the spring of 2021, I ran for the office of and was elected the treasurer of the Associated Student Body after having served as a Deputy Comptroller of the Internal Budget. I took over an office that was held by the previous treasurer, Gianna Schuetz, for three consecutive terms. Under Ms. Schuetz's leadership, the Associated Student Body Treasury was fully dedicated to expanding usage of the Student Activity Fee. As previously mentioned, the Student Activity Fee was originally meant to be a first-come, first-served resource for student organizations. Even so, Ms. Schuetz believed that a resource funded by every single student should be equally available to every student. The Student Activity Fee fund was then shifted to a set allocation per student organization per semester and utilization of the Student Activity Fee increased by approximately 32% (ASB Treasury Department). With one goal achieved, a new obstacle came to light; the five-dollar per semester Student Activity Fee would not be able to sustain the increased utilization of the Student Activity Fee. According to Ms. Schuetz's estimates in the Spring of 2019, she calculated that the Student Activity Fee Fund would be completely depleted in

approximately five to six years. Ms. Schuetz pushed to increase the Student Activity Fee and along with her fellow executive members of the Associated Student Body, petitioned the Chancellor to take a proposal to change the Student Activity Fee to the Mississippi IHL Board of Trustees. However, they found that to increase the Student Activity Fee, a majority of students on a campus-wide ballot would have to vote in favor of the increase before the Board of Trustees would consider the change.

After much research, Ms. Schuetz proposed the “Raise it 5” campaign. This campaign aimed to raise student awareness of the Student Activity Fee and its extensive impacts on campus. As the Associated Student Body Treasurer, Ms. Schuetz was the most knowledgeable about the Student Activity Fee and planned to head the “Raise it 5” campaign. Campaign materials to promote “Raise it 5” were designed and purchased through the Associated Student Body, including stickers, signs, and other pieces of informational material. Further, the campaign was going to be staffed and stewarded by other members of the Associated Student Body, again due to their familiarity with the Student Activity Fee.

After many months of planning, Ms. Schuetz took to the Associated Student Body Senate to get the proposed change on the ballot. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, with unanimous approval, the Senate passed Resolution 19-1CW, putting the proposed Student Activity Fee on the general elections ballot which would go to the student body for vote on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (Appendix A). Following the Associated Student Body’s guidelines for campaigning, the “Raise it 5” campaign was set to launch on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at approximately 8 PM, following the conclusion of the certification meeting. However, a few hours before the campaign was set to launch, Ms. Schuetz was taken by

surprise and told by the serving Associated Student Body Attorney General and Judicial Chair that the Associated Student Body could not run or participate in a campaign. As the serving Treasurer, Ms. Schuetz was ineligible to lead the campaign. Additionally, nearly the entire campaign team was also deemed ineligible due to this stipulation. Finally, all campaign materials were no longer able to be used as they had been designed and purchased by the Associated Student Body. The “Raise it 5” campaign was destroyed; students would go to the polls and asked to vote, likely without any knowledge of what the Student Activity Fee was. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Fall 2019 General Elections ballot asked the question:

“The Student Activity Fee is currently a \$5.00 fee that is collected from each student at the beginning of each semester. The funds raised from the collection of the student activity fee are directly, and only, distributed to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). Do you favor raising this fee to a value of \$10.00 per student per semester?”

At 7 PM, voting closed and the results showed a resounding 63.93% of University of Mississippi students voted against the referendum, quickly squashing any hope still remaining of increasing the fund (Appendix B).

As I came into office in Spring of 2021, the impending depletion of the Student Activity Fee Fund continued to be a very real, daunting concern. During our officer transition period, Ms. Schuetz made sure to emphasize the value in another attempt at increasing the Student Activity Fee to ensure the survival of the fund. It was through these conversations that my love of the Student Activity Fee and its value was deepened and my own aspiration to change the Student Activity Fee was born. While the Student Activity

Fee Fund still had some years left before true alarms of total depletion needed to be raised, if I was unable to increase the Student Activity Fee, the fund would have to be limited to ensure its survival. The most likely solutions would be to decrease the allocation per student organization or to change back to a first-come, first-served model. Even so, the Student Activity Fee is a resource that was intended to be utilized; it was and is my personal belief that to limit a student organization's access to funds needed for their success would be a direct contradiction against the mission and purpose of the Student Activity Fee. When the Student Activity Fee was originally proposed and passed in 2015, it was with the intent to sponsor and encourage organizations on campus to become more involved on campus without having to worry about how they would pay for their proposed events (Appendix C). I continue in this passion with my belief that the Student Activity Fee should not be limited in its accessibility; meaning, any student organization should have the same opportunity to access and utilize funding from the Student Activity Fee, without limitation due to a fear of the allocation running out each semester. The Student Activity Fee was designed to be used- not to be hoarded or gatekept from the students funding its existence. Therefore, only one option remained; a mere two years later, I would have to attempt to raise the Student Activity Fee.

## Summer, 2021

One of my first official events serving as treasurer was attending a student government exchange of all the universities in the Southeastern Conference (SEC). During this time at the SEC exchange, I met with the other treasurers of the SEC schools and started comparing student activity fees between the universities. While very few treasurers could give me exact numbers off the top of their head, nearly every school gave me an estimate that made the student activity fee of the University of Mississippi comical in comparison (Table 1).

Table 1 - Approximate Student Activity Fees

<i>Universities of the Southeastern Conference</i>	<i>SAF per semester</i>
Auburn	\$873
Vanderbilt	\$500
Tennessee	\$500
Florida*	\$285.90
Missouri	\$125
Louisiana State University	\$125
Texas A&M	NA
University of South Carolina	\$87
Georgia	\$45
Arkansas*	\$39
Mississippi State University	\$5
University of Kentucky	NA
Alabama	NA
<b>University of Mississippi</b>	<b>\$5</b>

\*Assumes 15 Credit Hours

Further, the University of Mississippi boasted the most accessible Student Activity Fee of all the universities. The other treasurers described their respective funding processes and the majority required student organizations to compete against other organizations for

funding from the Student Activity Fee. Additionally, many required organizations to propose semesterly budgets to the student body senate at the beginning of each semester. At the University of Mississippi, our Student Activity Fee, even while being the lowest in the SEC, is guaranteed to every registered student organization (so long as we have funds) and available to organizations as they need through an ongoing funding process rather than only once a semester. This discovery of hosting the most available and yet lowest Student Activity Fee further fueled my aspiration to change our student activity fee.



## Fall, 2021

My first step was to prepare an argument that students would be unable to disagree with. I launched into heavy research and over the course of the next two months, I reached out to every SEC university and spoke with either their respective student governments, Office of Student Affairs (or similar office), or even Bursar's Office to determine the exact amounts each university charged for their equivalent of the Student Activity Fee (Table 2). After collecting this data, I possessed concrete numbers that allowed for more critical comparison.

Table 2 - Student Activity Fees as of Fall 2021

<i>Universities of the Southeastern Conference</i>	<i>SAF per semester</i>
Auburn	\$873
Vanderbilt	\$715
Tennessee	\$519
Florida*	\$285.90
Missouri	\$240
Louisiana State University	\$154.70
Texas A&M	\$106
University of South Carolina	\$87
Georgia	\$45
Arkansas*	\$39
Mississippi State University**	\$25
University of Kentucky	\$16.25
Alabama	NA
<b>University of Mississippi</b>	<b>\$5</b>

\*Assumes 15 Credit Hours

\*\*Pending IHL Approval

Even further, one must consider the enrollment size of each university. Remembering that the Student Activity Fee is assessed to each student per semester, the University of Mississippi further falls behind in the amount of respective Student Activity

Fee Funds as the second smallest student enrollment in the SEC (Table 3). The University of Mississippi’s Student Activity Fee deposit is approximately \$407,080 less than the next lowest deposit (University of Kentucky) and approximately \$27,907,897 less than the highest in the SEC (University of Tennessee).

Table 3 - Fall 2021 Student Activity Fee Estimated Deposit

<i>Universities of the Southeastern Conference</i>	<i>SAF per semester</i>	<i>Student Enrollment</i>	<i>Estimated SAF Deposit per semester</i>
Tennessee	\$519	53,983	\$28,017,177
Auburn	\$873	31,526	\$27,522,198
Florida*	\$285.90	60,613	\$17,329,257
Vanderbilt	\$715	13,537	\$9,678,955
Texas A&M	\$106	73,284	\$7,768,104
Missouri	\$240	31,412	\$7,538,880
Louisiana State University	\$154.70	35,914	\$5,555,896
University of South Carolina	\$87	51,853	\$4,511,211
Georgia	\$45	40,118	\$1,805,310
Arkansas*	\$39	29,068	\$1,133,652
Mississippi State University**	\$25	23,086	\$577,150
University of Kentucky	\$16.25	31,776	\$516,360
Alabama	NA	38,320	NA
<b>University of Mississippi</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>21,856</b>	<b>\$109,280</b>

\*Assumes 15 Credit Hours

\*\*Pending IHL Approval

During my research and planning, the student government of Mississippi State University, known as the Student Association, contacted me with questions regarding my design for the Student Activity Fee increase. Mississippi State University is a fellow member of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and at the time, also featured a five-dollar Student Activity Fee. While both Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi are subject to the same IHL regulations, we do not use our Student Activity Fees in the same way. Whereas only students/student organizations are able use the fund at the University of Mississippi, the Student Activity Fee of Mississippi

State University can sponsor university departments and facilities. I collaborated with their Student Association President and helped them to design their own campaign to change the Student Activity Fee. The Mississippi State University Student Association decided to propose a twenty-five-dollar Student Activity Fee and put it on the Fall 2021 ballot. With 75.29% of the student vote saying yes, this initiative was approved and is now pending IHL Board of Trustees approval (Appendix D). The proposed twenty-five-dollar Student Activity Fee is reflected in Tables 1 and 2.

Additionally, I expanded my research into all the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and collected numbers for their fees (Table 3). In 2015, seven of the eight Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning implemented a five-dollar Student Activity Fee. Now, only the University of Mississippi remains at five-dollars per semester.

*Table 4 - Mississippi IHL Student Activity Fees as of Fall 2021*

<i>Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning</i>	<i>SAF per semester</i>
Alcorn State University	\$15
Delta State University	\$25
Jackson State University	\$35
Mississippi University for Women	NA
Mississippi Valley State University	\$10
The University of Southern Mississippi	\$20
Mississippi State University*	\$25
<b>University of Mississippi</b>	<b>\$5</b>

\* Pending IHL Approval

Armed with both this information and my experience in carrying out the responsibilities of the office of Treasurer, I quickly discovered the obstacles in my path to changing the Student Activity Fee at the University of Mississippi. First, just as Ms. Schuetz before, because I was the current Associated Student Body Treasurer, I could not be involved in campaigns while in office. Second, the vast majority of the students at the

University of Mississippi did not know what the Student Activity Fee was and accordingly that they were even able to use it. Finally, at the current rate of spending, the Student Activity Fee would run out in approximately two and half years using conservative estimates.

### ***Obstacle One – Campaign Limitations***

As determined in the Fall, 2019 “Raise it 5” campaign attempt, any active member of the Associated Student Body is not permitted to campaign in student elections. Because of this, if I were to be involved in a campaign to raise the Student Activity Fee, I would have to step down as the Associated Student Body Treasurer. So instead, I spent the entirety of Summer and Fall 2021 working on a plan but taking no campaign action. I took action by designing and launching a campaign to spread information about the Student Activity Fee to organizations. The information campaign, which I will elaborate on in Obstacle Two below, consisted of only current information regarding the Student Activity Fee and did not violate any campaign or other Associated Student Body regulations. Further, the information campaign was designed with the sole intent to increase utilization of the Student Activity Fee.

If a proposed change to the Student Activity Fee were to ever go on the ballot, it would first have to pass through the Associated Student Body Senate. To do this, I would have to partner with Senators, who would in turn write a referendum and take it to the Senate floor with myself alongside them. If approved, the proposal would go on the elections ballot, and, if I were to be involved with the campaign, I would have to take a leave of absence as Treasurer. Further, no other active member of the Associated Student

Body would be permitted to help me with the potential campaign, including my Treasury Department or the senators who helped to write the referendum.

***Obstacle Two – Lack of Awareness and Utilization of the Student Activity Fee***

My primary goal as Treasurer was to increase awareness and utilization of the Student Activity Fee. Regardless of whether the Student Activity Fee was ever brought to a student vote again, the fund was not being utilized by enough student organizations. As of Fall 2021, the University of Mississippi was host to about 350 registered student organizations. This number of student organizations is comparatively small considering a total enrollment of 21,856 students (University of Mississippi News). Further, during the Fall 2021 semester, only about 15% of registered student organizations utilized the fee (ASB Treasury Department). In fact, during my initial talks with students, the vast majority did not know what the Student Activity Fee was nor that they were currently paying it. A fee that was being paid for by all students yet accessed by a small subgroup of the student body was a further contradiction to the mission of the Student Activity Fee.

The goal behind the information campaign was to educate students on the student activity fee with the intention that should the Student Activity Fee ever go to a vote, they would be familiar with the topic and knowledgeable about what the Student Activity Fee could do. At no point during this information campaign was a change proposed to the Student Activity Fee. To design the information campaign, I partnered with the Associated Student Body Director of Public Relations. Finally, I enacted a social media regulation stating that any social media post by a registered student organization for an event or material funded with the Student Activity Fee must include the hashtag “#YourSAF.” This new regulation was similar to previously existing regulations requiring the student activity

fee funding logo on any advertising for events and was well received by the student organizations.

***Obstacle Three – An Expiration Date on the Student Activity Fee***

The Student Activity Fee is like any other fiscal resource in that it is not without limits. As previously mentioned, the Student Activity Fee was originally designed to be a first-come, first-serve resource for student organizations. Yet, in an attempt to both increase access and awareness to the fee as well as align closer to the mission and purpose of the Student Activity Fee, it was opened as a guaranteed allocation for each student organization (assuming the availability of funds) shortly after its implementation. As previously mentioned, Ms. Schuetz, during her own term, had estimated the Student Activity Fee would be completely depleted anywhere from 2024 to 2025.

After I took office, I wanted to confirm those estimates for myself. As the Student Activity Fee is assessed per student, I would need to know both current and estimated future enrollment numbers for the university. To do this, I contacted the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management for the University of Mississippi, Mr. Eduardo Prieto, who was able to meet with me and give me estimated growth of student enrollment for the coming years. Mr. Prieto and his office estimated the current 1% growth in student enrollment per year would be accurate for the next few years. Taking this information, I now had to set up an equation. I worked with Dr. Joshua Hendrickson, the chair of the Department of Economics of the University of Mississippi, to create an equation that would incorporate both the current Student Activity Fee Fund as well as consider possible future growth. We created the equation below to solve for T, or time where fund equals zero:

$$X(1.01)^T - S(1.03)^T = 0$$

Where  $X$  is the deposit, 1.01 shows student growth,  $S$  is the spending per year, and 1.03 shows growth in spending. Using the previous six years of spending data, I determined a conservative 3% growth in spending per year assuming no changes in spending patterns (Table 5) (ASB Treasury Department).

Table 5 - SAF Spending Since Creation

	2016	2017	2018	2019**	2020**	2021	2022*
<b>SAF Spending</b>	\$134,716.21	\$188,058.34	\$248,397.51	\$162,879.26	\$89,002.47	\$115,984.80	\$171,109.01
<b>Percent Increase from previous year</b>	NA	39.6%	32.1%	Decrease likely due to campus shut down	Decrease likely due to campus shut down	30% (Not significant to compare to shut down campus)	47.5%

\*as of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

\*\*Impact due to COVID-19 shutting down programming

Additionally, I used a 1% growth in student enrollment based on the recommendation from Mr. Prieto. Using the previous equation, the new estimate of total depletion of the Student Activity Fee Fund would be Fall 2023 (Table 6).

Table 6 - \$5 SAF Depletion Estimation

Year	SAF Fund	SAF Fund + Prev. Reserves	SAF Spending	Remaining Reserves
Fall 2021	\$93,340	\$67,824	\$120,000	\$41,164
Fall 2022	\$94273.4	\$135,437	\$123,600	\$11,837
Fall 2023	\$95,216.134	\$107,054	\$127,308	\$ -20,254

## Spring, 2022

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the information campaign was ready, I reached out to every single registered student organization on campus to tell them what the Student Activity Fee was, and how they could be using the fee. Alongside my Treasury Department, I emailed 391 registered student organizations and university departments. Along with the information given in the email, I offered to meet with and present information on the Student Activity Fee in person or via Zoom to each organization. The information campaign was a huge success. When comparing data from the approximate midterm date for each semester (October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022), there is a 52% increase in the funds disbursed and a 25% increase in the number of student organizations who utilized the fund (Table 7) (ASB Treasury Department).

Table 7 - SAF Utilization by Midterms 2021/2022

	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Percent Increase
<i>Number of RSOs that Utilized the Fund</i>	36	45	25%
<i>Total Funds Disbursed</i>	\$53,954.96	\$82,232.15	52.4%

At this point, a campaign to change the Student Activity Fee was rapidly becoming a reality and my goal was to focus on direct, grassroots effort from the student organizations. The only element that remained was to determine an amount for the new Student Activity Fee. After speaking with Ms. Schuetz and Treasurers of other SEC schools, analyzing our own patterns, and further research, the proposed amount for the new Student Activity Fee was set at two-dollar per credit hour. This amount was based on the assumption that students taking full course loads are likely to be on campus more often and therefore likely more involved on campus. Further, a per credit hour fee would be more



representative for part-time students. Using the same equation from Table 6, a change to two-dollars per credit hour would allow for an exponential increase to the Student Activity Fee Fund and the potential impacts of it (Table 8). Additionally, if the two-dollar per credit hour proposal were to pass, the University of Mississippi would still be third to last in Student Activity Fees among the SEC (Table 9). Finally, changing the Student Activity Fee to two-dollars per credit hour would result in only a 0.55% increase in cost of attendance for in-state students and 0.19% for nonresidents (Table 10) (Office of Financial Aid, University of Mississippi).

Table 8 - \$2 per credit SAF Depletion Estimate

Year	SAF Fund	SAF Fund + Prev. Reserves	SAF Spending	Remaining Reserves
Fall 2021	\$93,340	\$67,824	\$120,000	\$41,164
Fall 2022	\$565,640.4	\$606,804	\$123,600	\$483,204
Fall 2023	\$571,296.8	\$1,054,501	\$127,308	\$ 927,193

Table 9 - SAF Around the SEC ft. Proposed Change

<i>Universities of the Southeastern Conference</i>	<i>SAF per semester</i>
Auburn	\$873
Vanderbilt	\$715
Tennessee	\$519
Florida*	\$285.90
Missouri	\$240
Louisiana State University	\$154.70
Texas A&M	\$106
University of South Carolina	\$87
Georgia	\$45
Arkansas*	\$39
<b>Proposed University of Mississippi*</b>	<b>\$30*</b>
Mississippi State University**	\$25
University of Kentucky	\$16.25
<b>Current University of Mississippi</b>	<b>\$5</b>

\*Assumes 15 Credit Hours

\*\*Pending IHL Approval

Table 10 - University of Mississippi Cost of Attendance

	<i>Current Undergraduate COA</i>	<i>Proposed Undergraduate COA</i>	<i>Percent Increase</i>
<i>Tuition</i>	\$8,934	\$8,934	—
<i>Capital Improvements Fee</i>	\$100	\$100	—
<i>Student Activity Fee</i>	\$10	\$60*	—
<b>Total In-State</b>	<b>\$9,044</b>	<b>\$9,094</b>	<b>0.55%</b>
<i>Additional Fee for Nonresidents</i>	\$16,842	\$16,842	—
<b>Total Out-of-State</b>	<b>\$25,886</b>	<b>\$25,936</b>	<b>0.19%</b>

Using Proposed Cost of Attendance 2022-2023 from OLEMISS.EDU

\*Proposed SAF using assumed average of 15 hours enrolled Fall and Spring semesters

As seen in Table 8, a two-dollar per credit Student Activity Fee would allow for a healthy reserve. However, as mentioned previously, the Student Activity Fee Fund was designed to be utilized. Therefore, with an increase in available funds should be an increase in allocation. Should the Student Activity Fee increase be approved, I planned to increase the allocations. Specifically, I hoped to expand the large-scale programming category to support student-body wide programming. This would allow for the Student Activity Fee to support its own programming and further reach students not yet involved in an organization, but still required to pay towards the fund. An example of this would be the Riley Green concert planned for April 9, 2022, and funded by the Student Activity Fee. Further, I planned to expand the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) allocation from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per semester per organization to further promote DEI efforts on campus.

With an amount set, I reached out to Associated Student Body Senator Mason Greenwald to begin writing a referendum. Senator Greenwald partnered with Senators Lila Osman, Teal Salloum, and Alex Nabors to write a referendum to get the proposal to a student vote. At this same time, I was working with Dr. Brent Marsh, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students of the University of Mississippi, to write a proposal to the Mississippi IHL Board of Trustees (Appendix E). Recall that any change to the Student Activity Fee would have to be approved by the Mississippi IHL Board of Trustees if the students supported the referendum. To meet the IHL deadline to get our proposal on their meeting agenda, we had to write and submit the proposal before a student vote could even take place. From there, alongside Senators Greenwald and Osman, I petitioned the Senate to put the proposed Student Activity Fee change to a student vote; on February 22, 2022,

the referendum was unanimously approved by the Associated Student Body Senate to be put on the Spring 2022 ASB elections ballot set for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Appendix F).

Now that the change was going to be on the ballot, in order to be involved in the campaign in any fashion, I had to step down; on February 22, 2022 at 11:59PM, I took a leave of absence from my role as the Associated Student Body Treasurer until March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the day after the election. This campaign was no longer solely my passion, and alongside me resigned five comptrollers of the Student Activity Fee, joining Georgiann, who had resigned the month prior to design the infographics and stickers for the campaign. Just as with the “Raise it 5” campaign, I had stickers, signs, and other campaign material, only this time funded by my personal funds. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 8 PM, the campaign period began and my team and I launched into action.

Over the span of the next twelve days, we tabled outside the Union each weekday of the campaign period from nine in the morning to four in the afternoon. I personally met with eight different student organizations and my team met with over fifteen student organizations encompassing over 1,500 students. I emailed every student organization on campus again, texted every person in my contacts list, and individually spoke with each student organization who had utilized the fund in the Spring 2022 semester, encouraging them to campaign for the Student Activity Fee themselves; as student organizations are the ones who can use the fee, they stood to benefit the most from an increase to the fund. I spoke with Gracie Farquhar, who wrote an article that was published by the Daily Mississippian, the University’s student run newspaper about the Student Activity Fee and the potential impact that would result from an increase to the fund (Farquhar).

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the student body of the University of Mississippi voted for Associated Student Body executive officers and senators; at the top of that ballot read the question:

“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?”

With 79.42% of the vote, the new Student Activity Fee was approved (Appendix G).

## **Conclusion**

Now that the student body voted to change the Student Activity Fee, on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 in Jackson, Mississippi, I will go before the Mississippi IHL Board of Trustees to petition them to accept my proposal to increase the Student Activity Fee. Over the past year of my time serving my University as its Associated Student Body Treasurer, nearly every moment was dedicated to increasing awareness of the Student Activity Fee and hopefully increasing it to protect the fund and expand its funding opportunities.

I have learned a great deal from my time serving as the Associated Student Body Treasurer, but even more from the Student Activity Fee Campaign. I have met students from all over the world and learned about so many cultures and varying backgrounds of students on this campus. The University of Mississippi is a deeply intertwined web of human experiences, both at the collegiate and administrative level. This project taught me the value that comes from appealing to students to advocate on their own for something that would not only benefit them, but the future generations of students to come. As the oldest sibling in my own family, I have a younger brother who is a current sophomore and two sisters likely to come to the University of Mississippi in the future. I, like many other students and administrators, wanted the Student Activity Fee to be a resource for them when they were on campus. Now, with an increased Student Activity Fee, it has become self-sustaining and will far outlast my own tenure at this university, providing for hundreds if not thousands of future students who will create their own organizations and programming.

Within the span of two weeks post-election, nearly ten new student organizations have utilized the fund; currently, the fund is \$2,989 away from total depletion, beating the

Fall 2023 estimate by nearly two years (ASB Treasury Department). Pending IHL approval, the Student Activity Fee of the University of Mississippi will remain a guaranteed resource for student organizations and expand even further to support the students on campus. I am grateful to have been a part of it.

# Table of Figures

TABLE 1 - APPROXIMATE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES .....	14
TABLE 2 - STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AS OF FALL 2021.....	16
TABLE 3 - FALL 2021 STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE ESTIMATED DEPOSIT .....	17
TABLE 4 - MISSISSIPPI IHL STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES AS OF FALL 2021 .....	18
TABLE 5 - SAF SPENDING SINCE CREATION .....	22
TABLE 6 - \$5 SAF DEPLETION ESTIMATION.....	22
TABLE 7 - SAF UTILIZATION BY MIDTERMS 2021/2022 .....	23
TABLE 8 - \$2 PER CREDIT SAF DEPLETION ESTIMATE .....	25
TABLE 9 - SAF AROUND THE SEC FT. PROPOSED CHANGE .....	25
TABLE 10 - UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI COST OF ATTENDANCE.....	25



## References

- ASB Treasury Department. *Fall 2021 SAF Meeting Logs*. SAF Usage Data. University, MS, 2021.
- . *SAF Spending Since 2015*. Data. University, MS, 2022.
- . *Spring 2022 SAF Meeting Logs*. SAF Usage. University, MS, 2022.
- Astin, Alexander W. "Student Involvement: A Developmental Theory for Higher Education." *Journal of College Student Development* (1999): 518-529.
- Farquhar, Gracie. *ASB proposed activity fee increase*. University, MS, 3 March 2022. Print Article.
- Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. *Institutions of Higher Learning*. n.d. 27 March 2022.
- Office of Financial Aid, University of Mississippi. *Cost of Attendance 2022-2023*. n.d. 2022.
- University of Mississippi News. *Explosive Growth in Freshman Class Boosts UM Enrollment*. 2 November 2021. 27 March 2022.

# Appendix A

Resolution 19-1CW

Senator Michael Messina, Sponsored  
Committee on Student Life  
Senator Morgan Atkins, Panhellenic  
Committee on Student Life  
Senator Jack Furla, Political  
Committee on Infrastructure  
Treasurer Gianna Schuetz  
President Barron Mayfield

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE TO DEMAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HOLD A REFERENDUM VOTE OF THE STUDENT BODY – BY WAY OF THE MyOleMiss VOTING INTERFACE, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2019, FROM 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM – TO ASK: The student activity fee is currently a \$5.00 fee that is collected from each student at the beginning of each semester. The funds raised from the collection of the student activity fee are directly, and only, distributed to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). Do you favor raising this fee to a value of \$10.00 per student per semester?

WHEREAS, the Associated Student Body President and Treasurer would like to know if the students support raising the fee before taking it to the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board;

WHEREAS, a referendum will be the most effective way of determining the student’s opinion on the issue;  
AND

WHEREAS, each year since the implementation of the fee the amount requested by Registered Student Organizations has increased;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE DEMANDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HOLD A REFERENDUM VOTE OF THE STUDENT BODY TO ASK: The student activity fee is currently a \$5.00 fee that is collected from each student at the beginning of each semester. The funds raised from the collection of the student activity fee are directly, and only, distributed to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). Do you favor raising this fee to a value of \$10.00 per student per semester?

_____	_____	_____
Committee	Committee Chair	Date
_____	_____	_____
Date of Introduction	Action of Student Senate	Clerk Initials

Acknowledgement of Student Body Elected Vice President:

_____	_____
Charlotte Shackelford	Date
ASB Vice President	

Approval of Associated Student Body Elected President:

## Appendix B

The University of Mississippi – Associated Student Body

# **2019 Fall General Election**

VOTER TURNOUT: 6,443

## **HOMECOMING ELECTIONS – RESULTS**

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/REFERENDUM - RESULTS**

**REFERENDUM: Increase of the Student Activity Fee (SAF)  
DO YOU FAVOR RAISING THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE TO A  
VALUE OF \$10.00 PER STUDENT PER SEMESTER?**

Answer	Number of Votes	Percentage
YES	2123	36.06%
NO	3764	63.93%

#### **Campus Favorites-Male**

Candidate Name	Number of Votes	Percentage
Terrell, Colton	4084	19.56%
Blaylock, Parker	4032	19.32%
Freeman, Barrett	3938	18.87%
Haggard, Denver	3854	18.46%
Walker, Dugan	3835	18.37%
Other	1126	5.39%

#### **Campus Favorites-Female**

Candidate Name	Number of Votes	Percentage
Treadwell, Scout	2201	10.05%
Cooper, Cady	1686	7.7%
Boudreaux, Anna Catherine	1530	6.98%
Davis, Katie	1364	6.22%
Dwyer, Chloé	1349	6.16%
Barksdale, Jordan	1243	5.67%
Goggans, Avery	1201	5.48%
Caples, Mary Chosen	1178	5.37%
Peters, Meg	1162	5.3%



Appendix C

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY:  
STUDENT ACTIVITIES FEE PROPOSAL**  
February 18, 2015

### University of Mississippi Associated Student Body Referendum

No referendum was taken from the University of Mississippi.

### Public Universities with a Student Activities Fee

These are just a few schools we have found that have a successfully implemented Student Activities Fee.

University	% (if Applicable)	Student Activities Fee per Student
Vanderbilt University	1.30%	\$544 per semester
University of Georgia	4.10%	\$422 per semester
Virginia Commonwealth University	0.50%	\$176.50 per semester
University of Florida		\$146.10 per semester
University of Arkansas		\$123.30 per semester
University of Washington	0.40%	\$120 per semester
University of Missouri	2.00%	\$85.20 per semester
Louisiana State University		\$79.62 per semester
University of Tennessee		\$70.25 per semester
University of South Carolina		\$68.00 per semester
Clemson University		\$65 per semester
University of Memphis		\$60 per semester
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill		\$45.62 per semester
University of Kentucky		\$39.25 per semester
University of Central Florida	10.20%	\$10.79 per credit hour
<b>University of Mississippi (Proposed)</b>		<b>\$5.00 per semester</b>

### Proposed Tuition Rate FY 2015

	Approved FY 14-15 Rate	Proposed FY 15-16 Rate	Change from FY14 (\$)	Change from FY14 (%)
Resident Tuition	\$6,996	\$7,344	\$348	5.0%
Capital Improvements Fee	\$100	\$100	-	0%
Student Activity Fee	-	\$10	\$10	-
<b>Total Resident Tuition and Required Fees</b>	<b>\$7,096</b>	<b>\$7,454</b>	<b>\$358</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
Non-Resident Tuition	\$19,044	\$20,574	\$1,530	8.0%
Capital Improvements Fee	\$100	\$100	-	0%
Student Activity Fee	-	\$10	\$10	-
<b>Total Non-Resident Tuition and Required Fees</b>	<b>\$19,144</b>	<b>\$20,684</b>	<b>\$1,540</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

## Objective

*Student Activities Fee:* The purpose for implementing a Student Activity Fee is to provide an independent source of funding for student organizations to feed the vast areas of student interest on campus. The Student Activity Fee will serve as a source of supplemental funds in order to maintain a level of funding for student oriented services which is comparable to other public universities in the United States. This fee allows Mississippi public universities to join the majority of the other universities in our region in the push for continuation and expansion of student oriented organizations and services through secured funding.

## Planned Use of Supplement Funding from Fee

- Student Organization Appropriations – Currently, our student government is unable to provide for all the monetary needs of the many diverse student organizations on campus. Through additional funding from the student activities fee, students will have more opportunities to advance their student organizations and have a better experience at our university.
- Late Night Programming – Via various Issues and Concerns Committee reports, students show that they want one of the Student Government Association's main focuses to be bettering our late night programming events and concerts. This fee will allow for additional funds to go into more advanced events and big name concerts.
- Educational Speakers – Trending across the state right now is the idea of bringing more fun entertainment to our schools and less educational focused programs. With the help of these additional funds, our universities will be able to bring in both prominent artists and prominent educational speakers.

## Regulations of the Fee

- Viewpoint neutral criteria for evaluating funding proposals should only consider factors that are NOT tied to viewpoint such as fiscal responsibility, relevance to mission, and level of services provided.
- In order 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 under any circumstance.
- The funds acquired from this fee should go strictly towards enhancing a student's college experience and should not be used for purchases of student or faculty member travel, student or faculty member lodging or facilities under any circumstance. In order to enhance a student's college experience, these funds will be used for events, programs, and initiatives such as concerts, safe ride programs, and green initiatives.
- The funds from the Student Activities Fees will be allocated to various student organizations and 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 300 different student organizations that will apply for appropriations from these funds.
- The funds will be allocated by a board of Student Affairs Administrators and Student Association Members.
- Students will not be charged the fee during the summer semester.
- This fee will be embedded into tuition for the Spring and Fall Semesters.

## Fee Calculations

All numbers have been found from an OLEMISS.EDU or a MISSISSIPPI.EDU website.

- Fee amount per student: \$5.00 per semester, \$10 per year

### 2015-2016 Tuition Cost

	Without Fee	With Fee
Undergraduate In-State	\$7,344	\$7,354
Undergraduate Non-Resident	\$20,574	\$20,584

### Fee Revenue per Semester

	Number of Students (2014-2016)	Proposed Fee Revenue
Undergraduate Students	17,360	\$86,800
Graduate Students	2,752	\$13,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,112</b>	<b>\$100,560 per Semester</b>

### 2014-2015 Budget Funding

	Activities	Budget
ASB General Funding	Salaries	\$15,675
	Activities	\$46,268
ASB Senate Allocation Funding	Student Organization Allocations	\$63,817
<b>Total Current Budget</b>	-	<b>\$125,980</b>
<b>Proposed Fee Supplement</b>	-	<b>\$201,120</b>
<b>Proposed Total Budget</b>	-	<b>\$327,100</b>

## Impacts of the Student Activities Fee

- Provide funding for student organizations to increase membership and allow for a greater percent of the student body to become involved. Statistics show that increased student involvement often leads to increased success, both academically and personally.
- Increasing involvement should also lead to increased student retention rate at the university. By giving students more opportunities to become involved, students will have more means to build communities on campus, and by finding a niche within a larger university setting, students are more likely to be satisfied and stay at the university.
- Creating new events can lead to increased involvement from the immediate surrounding area and state. By involving more families in university functions, it aids to the recruitment of Mississippi youth and encourages them to stay in state for college, making us competitive to four year colleges outside of the state.
- Increased funding allows the University to increase leadership opportunities within programming and student government boards. This in turn helps to increase planning and programming opportunities for students, as well as help generate more future leaders to become distinguished alumni.
- An increase in funding can also help provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn leadership, teamwork, communication skills, as well as build a sense of community through bringing in speakers or funding organizational trips and events.
- An increase in funding could benefit students by providing more opportunities for community service. Student organizations are dedicated to giving back by enhancing the environment, tutoring their peers, arranging partnerships with local non-profits for fundraising events, and many more.
- Lastly, a universal benefit from funding more student organizations is to create a strong forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and to promote the discussion and debate of religion, values, etc.

## Appendix D



**President Keenum and CFO Zant,**

I am writing on behalf of the Mississippi State University Student Body requesting that the University move forward with plans to raise the Student Activity Fee from \$5.00 a semester to \$25.00 a semester. The Student Association stands firmly in support of this change. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, a campus wide poll demonstrated significant student support, 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 11<sup>th</sup>, reaffirming SA's support for greater funding for student activities.

Student Activities at MSU has outgrown its annual budget, and the increase in funding will allow student organizations to continue to sponsor events that better the student experience at MSU. Additionally, substantial portions of the increased fee are intended to support University Recreation, allowing them to pursue new projects that will enhance student life on campus.

The Student Association sought this change after careful consideration of the rapid growth of our student population, and the need for excellent recreation facilities and programs to promote the health and wellbeing of our student body. We are confident that the increased revenue from this fee will allow University Recreation to provide exactly that.

Please let us know how we can continue to support this effort, as we remain fully committed to the betterment of the student experience at Mississippi State University.

Sincerely,

Garrett Smith  
President  
MSU Student Association



Appendix E

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

February 23, 2022

## Objective

Student Activity Fee: The purpose of revising the Student Activity Fee structure is to better support registered student organizations in their mission to positively affect the student experience as well as support the individual student at the University of Mississippi through increased Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programming allocations and an expanded Large Scale Programming allocation to allow for further student-body wide programming.

## Current Use of Supplemental Funding from Fee

The Student Activity Fee is currently allocated towards three different categories of funding for student organizations:

- **Student Organization Allocations:** SAF funding for student organizations in this category is allocated to student organizations to support their programming and needs through:
  - Organization Open Events: events put on by the organization that are open for all students at the University of Mississippi to attend. These events engage and open access to all students.
  - Organization Focused Events: events put on by the organization that are only open to members of that organization.
  - Speaker Fees: external guests invited to educate, inform, or engage student organization members through an open or closed event.
  - Operational Expenses: items needed for the organization to function and best fulfill their mission.
  - Promotional Materials: any items that are needed by the organization to promote their organization such as apparel or marketing expenses.
  - Professional Development: conference fees, travel expenses, and lodging expenses for conferences that promote academic or professional development of student organization members.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programming:** Student Activity Fee funding for student organizations in this category supports events, workshops, conferences, or any programming that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion within the student organization or on the University of Mississippi campus. This is a source of funding that supports organizations developing creative and engaging opportunities to increase understanding and appreciation of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- **Large scale programming:** Student Activity Fee funding for student organizations in this category assists with leadership programs for student development, late night programs that provide structured involvement opportunities, and engaging campus programs open to all students. This will promote collaboration among organizations to bring meaningful programming to the University of Mississippi campus.

## **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.

## **Fee Calculations**

*Using Proposed Cost of Attendance 2022-2023 from OLEMISS.EDU*

*Proposed SAF using assumed average of 15 hours enrolled Fall and Spring semesters*

	<i>Current Undergraduate COA</i>	<i>Proposed Undergraduate COA</i>	<i>Percent Increase</i>
<i>Tuition</i>	\$8,934	\$8,934	—
<i>Capital Improvements Fee</i>	\$100	\$100	—
<i>Student Activity Fee</i>	\$10	\$60	—
<b><i>Total In-State</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,044</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,094</i></b>	<b><i>0.55%</i></b>
<i>Additional Fee for Nonresidents</i>	\$16,842	\$16,842	—
<b><i>Total Out-of-State</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,886</i></b>	<b><i>\$25,936</i></b>	<b><i>0.19%</i></b>

### **Current Impacts of the Student Activity Fee**

- Provides funding for student organizations that helps to increase membership and allow for a greater percent of the student body to become involved. Statistics show that increased student involvement often leads to increased success, both academically and personally.
- Increased involvement leads to increased student retention rates at the university. By giving students more opportunities to become involved, students have more means to build and support communities on campus. By finding a niche within a larger university setting, students are more likely to be satisfied and stay at the university.
- Creating new events leads to increased involvement from the immediate surrounding area and state. By involving more families in university functions, it aids in the recruitment of Mississippi youth and encourages them to stay in state for college, making us competitive to four-year colleges outside of the state.
- Funding allows the University to increase leadership opportunities within programming and student government boards. This in turn helps to increase planning and programming opportunities for students, as well as generates more future leaders to become distinguished alumni.
- Funding helps provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn leadership, teamwork, and communication skills, as well as build a sense of community through bringing in speakers or funding organizational trips and events.
- Funding benefits students by providing more opportunities for community service. Student organizations are dedicated to giving back by enhancing the environment, tutoring their peers, arranging partnerships with local non-profits for fundraising events, and more.
- Lastly, a universal benefit from funding more student organizations is the creation of a strong forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and to promote healthy discussion and debate of various viewpoints.

### 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*

<i>Universities of the Southeastern Conference</i>	<i>SAF per semester</i>
--	-------------------------

Auburn	\$873
Vanderbilt	\$715
Tennessee	\$519
Florida*	\$285.90
Missouri	\$240
Louisiana State University	\$154.70
Texas A&M	\$106
University of South Carolina	\$87
Georgia	\$45
Arkansas*	\$39
<b>Proposed University of Mississippi**</b>	<b>\$30*</b>
Mississippi State University**	\$25
University of Kentucky	\$16.25
<b>Current University of Mississippi</b>	<b>\$5</b>

*\*Assumes 15 Credit Hours*

*\*\*Pending IHL Approval*

## Appendix F

Senate Resolution 22-4

Senator Alex Nabors, College of Business Administration  
Chair of Committee on Academics and Administration  
Senator Mason Greenwald, At-Large  
Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement  
Senator Teal Salloum, IFC  
Athletics  
Senator Lila Osman, Sponsored  
President Pro Tempore  
Alex Mabry  
Treasurer

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE TO DEMAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HOLD A REFERENDUM VOTE OF THE STUDENT BODY BY WAY OF THE MyOleMiss VOTING INTERFACE, ON TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2022, FROM 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM – TO ASK: “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?”

WHEREAS, the Student Activity Fee (SAF) provides funding and support for all Registered Student Organizations (other than the Associated Student Body);

WHEREAS, at the current rate of spending, the SAF will run out in the Fall of 2023;

WHEREAS, if the SAF runs out of funding, the Associated Student Body will no longer be able to support and provide for Registered Student Organizations at the University of Mississippi;

WHEREAS, without SAF funding, Registered Student Organizations will be have to seek out alternative methods of funding or charge members higher dues to continue supporting their organization’s activities;

WHEREAS, A fellow Mississippi Institution of Higher Learning member, Mississippi State University, currently boasts a Twenty-Five Dollars per credit hour SAF;

WHEREAS, out of the entire Southeastern Conference, the University of Mississippi has the lowest Student Activity Fee placing fourteen out of fourteen;

WHEREAS, a referendum will be the most effective way of determining the student’s opinions on the issue and required in order to change the Student Activity Fee;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE DEMANDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HOLD A REFERENDUM VOTE OF THE STUDENT BODY BY WAY OF THE MyOleMiss VOTING INTERFACE, ON TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2022, FROM 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM – TO ASK: “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?”

_____	_____	_____
Committee	Committee Chair	Date
_____	_____	_____
Date of Introduction	Action of Student Senate	Clerk Signature

Acknowledgement of Senate Presiding Officer:

_____	_____
Vice President Richard Springer Senate Presiding Officer	Date

Approval of Associated Student Body Elected President:

_____	_____
Morgan Atkins ASB President	Date



## Appendix G

3/8/22, 7:00 PM

Student Elections

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/REFERENDUM - RESULTS

#### Student Activity Fee

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE (SAF) TO \$2 PER CREDIT HOUR IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE SAF FOR FUTURE USE BY ALL REGISTERED ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY?**

Answer	Number of Votes	Percentage
YES	1324	79.42%
NO	343	20.57%