

IUPUI Office of Student Account Services (OSAS) Announcement (July 2009)

This is a service notice issued on behalf of the IUPUI Office of Student Account Services, which includes the Office of the Bursar, Systems Analysis and Integration Team and Delinquent Account Services. We are providing this information to enhance our customer service at IUPUI.

NEW SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Based on the recommendation of an IUPUI campus-wide fee simplification committee (made up of students, faculty and staff) all previous mandatory fees effective with the Fall 2009 semester are now combined into one mandatory fee called the General Fee. The General Fee partially funds:

- technology and the ever-increasing student demand for computer capabilities, upgrading computer clusters, expanding the number of permanent student network accounts, consulting and upgrading the learning centers
- student life services which include the campus center, student newspaper, intramural sports, intercollegiate sports, the Undergraduate or Graduate Student Assembly (student government), student organizations, and many other student programs like health, childcare, leadership, etc. More info is available at <http://www.iupui.edu/~fees/>

The IUPUI fee simplification committee also recommended greater transparency in how funds are being spent. To that end, a process will be developed as we go into academic year 2010-11 that allows for students to understand how dollars have been spent in the past and to encourage their input as to where dollars should be invested to meet student needs going forward.

What does my General Fee do?

In order to support programs, services, and facilities that benefit all students at IUPUI each semester students are charged a fee. All students include every person enrolled in a credit bearing course – and may be graduate, undergraduate, full and/or part time.

Often these fees are mistaken for certain optional fees for which students may or may not choose. This fee is not optional and must be paid by all students.

All students enrolled at IUPUI, as is common with other universities, are charged student fees to fund student services, programs and facilities. All students are encouraged to utilize the full offering of services, programs, and facilities. It is however understood, that not all students will use or partake of the benefits and privileges of participating in this community equally. It is hoped that students will become familiar with available student services, programs, and facilities and through your college life you will avail yourself of these opportunities in order to contribute to your success at IUPUI.

It is our belief that learning occurs out of the classroom as well as in it, and there is overwhelming evidence based research to demonstrate that student learning is enhanced by student participation in activities which complement classroom involvement. For this reason, out-of-class activities are a part of the learning experience. We hope you will participate in student activities and use these activities as learning opportunities which can enhance and enrich your education

Does the General Fee support technology?

Effective July 1, 2009, responsibility for managing the allocation for technology support transitioned from schools to University Information Technology Services (UITS). Schools are working with UITS to develop three-year plans during which they are evaluating and identifying student IT facilities and services to transition to UITS.

The allocation to UITS from the General Fee is used by UITS for facilities and services that benefit all students on campus: Student Technology Centers (including at least eight new computing facilities made possible in 2009 by this transition), technology-based classrooms, IT consulting and user support; printing (within the new print allocation plan), new technology in informal learning spaces, updated info stations in high-traffic areas on campus, a rich media facility in University Library for students' multimedia and presentation needs, and IT training and workshops. In keeping with its agreements with IUPUI schools, UITS also administers funds to support school-based IT services that are in process of transitioning to other funding sources or to UITS during the three-year planning cycle.

UITS also provides a full range of other resources that serve students, faculty and staff at IUPUI. These include the high-speed campus network with wireless access, central web hosting, university-wide information systems, a rich selection of free and low-cost software for personal use, tools and support for instruction and research, and supercomputers for data analysis and visualization. The allocation to UITS from the General Fee does not go toward any UITS general funding for these services.

I never had mandatory fees before (all my classes were off campus). Why am I now being charged this new general fee?

The General Fee should not be considered a fee for service, but should be considered each student's investment in the out-of-classroom experience for all students affiliated with IUPUI. The services that are funded and will be funded from the general fee may support different student populations to varying degrees but are services that are fundamental in meeting the diverse needs of IUPUI students.

How can I avoid the general fee?

The General Fee is assessed to all students in one form or another. Medical and Dental students pay the General Fee through additional instructional fees.

How can I voice my opinion on this fee?

You can provide feedback online at <http://www.iupui.edu/~fees/feedback.html>

Both Vice Chancellor Karen Whitney and Vice Chancellor Dawn Rhodes are available for you to share your concerns. Also, there are both undergraduate and graduate student governments who serve as the voice of all students to university administration.

You state I will benefit from the reputation of the strong academic and student experience of the campus. Can you explain that benefit?

The stronger the IUPUI identity is the more valuable your affiliation with the campus whether you are a graduate or simply taking for credit courses for career advancement or personal development. The General Fee is one source of a continuous investment in the IUPUI identity that is specifically focused on out-of-classroom student experiences.