SUBJECT: REVIEW PROPOSAL TO INCREASE STUDENT HEALTH FEES

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Review proposal to increase the Student Health Fee effective fall semester 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under Sections 1009.24,(10),(11),(13), Florida Statutes, the University is authorized to establish a separate Activity & Service, Health and Athletic fee. The 2010 Florida Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, HB 5201 which allows for a one time increase of these fees by 15 percent for the 2010-11 academic year. Prior legislation restricted the annual increase for these fees to a 5 percent increase per year. This restriction will be returned for the 2011-12 and subsequent fiscal years.

A Student Health Fee Committee was established and is recommending an increase of $1.17 per credit hour. The fee increase will allow the Health and Wellness Center to continue to enhance the delivery of quality health and wellness services on all campuses and to continue to address recommendations outlined in the 2007 American College Health Association Consultant Report and the 2009 International Associations of Counseling Services’ Representative Report.

In addition to enhancing the delivery of services, some of the revenues generated by the fee will help to address staffing and compensation issues in the University Counseling Center. Finally, funds will be used to address recommendations from the external reports that are critical to the University’s applications to receive national accreditation for the Student Health Services (2012) and Counseling Center (2014).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Fall 2010

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fee increase will generate approximately $575,982 for the fall and spring semesters; $682,043 annually.

Supporting Documentation: None

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A Student Health Fee increase would enhance funding needs for the following:

- Hire 3-5 Ph.D. Psychologists over the next five years to address the growing demand for psychological services in the Counseling Centers across all campuses.

- Bring current Psychologists’ salaries up to competitive/market value.

- Increase the number of hours the Psychiatrist is available to students and our Health and Wellness staff.

- Renovate the Boca Counseling Center.

- Add contracted mental health services for the Treasure Coast campus.

- Achieve National Accreditation for counseling services from the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS).

- Achieve National Accreditation for Student Health Services from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC).