

ACTION ITEM #5

WSU Pullman, Student Transit Fee Increase (Stacy Pearson/Bill Gardner)

May 5, 2017

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: WSU Pullman, Student Transit Fee Increase

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents approve an increase in the Student Transit Fee for the Pullman campus of \$5 per semester for all students enrolled in 7 credits or more, and \$2.50 per semester for all students enrolled in less than 7 credits, beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year; and

Further, that the Board of Regents delegate authority to the President or designee to approve and implement increases in the Student Transit Fee once per academic year, beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, by up to five percent (5%), provided the following conditions have been met: (1) the increase has been recommended by the Transit Advisory Group (TAG), and (2) the increase has been approved by students in accordance with RCW 28B.15.610 (Voluntary Fees of Students).

SUBMITTED BY: Stacy Pearson, Vice President for Finance and Administration

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: TAG was established in 2003 to provide oversight and a student voice to the use of transit fee funds. Student leaders serving on TAG for 2016-2017 include five undergraduate students and one graduate student.

Ridership on the local transit system has remained strong each year since the inception of the student transit fee in Fall 2003, creating demand for additional capacity and new services. Many routes in the transit system have reached capacity in ridership.

TAG reviewed the financial feasibility of maintaining existing service levels and also reviewed several financial scenarios that would increase service levels. TAG determined that to maintain service levels, the student transit fee would need to be increased by \$5 per semester. It is estimated that the proposed \$5 fee increase would

raise an additional \$200,000 in transit funding. Additionally, the annual increase up to 5% would help prevent large increases in the transit fee in future years by off-setting annual increases in the cost of operating the transit system.

The current Student Transit Fee is \$27.74 per semester for full-time students and \$14.42 per semester for part-time students. This initiative would increase that to \$32.74 and \$16.92 per semester for full-time and part-time students respectively for the 2017-18 academic year.

Following the recommendation of TAG, the ASWSU Senate passed a referendum at its meeting on February 8, 2017, and the GPSA Senate passed a resolution at its meeting on February 13, 2017, to put a ballot measure before students calling for an increase in the Student Transit Fee.

The students approved the transit fee proposal by majority vote in the March general student election. The GPSA election was March 6-9, 2017, and the ASWSU election was March 7-8, 2017. Results of the voting are as follows:

ASWSU:	Yes – 1,987	No – 1,643
GPSA:	Yes – 350	No – 165

It is requested that the Board of Regents approve this increase in the transit fee. If the proposed fee is not approved, significant reductions in transit service would need to take effect as early as the 2017/2018 academic year.

The availability of public transportation is an important alternative that helps students avoid the costs of operating and parking a motor vehicle, reduces the university's carbon footprint, and helps the university community avoid traffic congestion and negative impacts on air quality. It also helps students avoid driving during times of inclement weather and adverse driving conditions. Last year, well over 1 million rides were provided to WSU students.

Under authority of RCW 28B.15.610 (Voluntary fees of students), students are authorized to create or increase voluntary student fees for each academic year when passed by a majority vote of the student government or its equivalent, or referendum presented to the student body or such other process that has been adopted under this section.

BOARD OF REGENTS

Delegation of Authority to Approve WSU Pullman Student Transit Fee Increase

Resolution #170505-560

WHEREAS, RCW 28B.30.095, RCW 28B.30.100, and RCW 28B.30.150 vest the governance and management of Washington State University (WSU) in the Board of Regents of WSU; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents is authorized by RCW 28B.10.528 to delegate to the President of WSU or designees powers and duties vested in or imposed upon the Board of Regents by law and to enable the President or designees to act on behalf of the Board of Regents in matters relating to the administration and governance of WSU; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents finds it necessary, desirable, and expedient to delegate authority to the President of WSU and designees to act for the Board of Regents in matters pertaining to the establishment of certain student fees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents approve an increase in the Student Transit Fee for the Pullman campus of \$5 per semester for all students enrolled in 7 credits or more, and \$2.50 per semester for all students enrolled in less than 7 credits, beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year and further, that the Board of Regents delegate authority to the President or designee to approve and implement increases in the Student Transit Fee once per academic year, beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, by up to five percent (5%), provided the following conditions have been met: (1) the increase has been recommended by the Transit Advisory Group (TAG), and (2) the increase has been approved by students in accordance with RCW 28B.15.610 (Voluntary Fees of Students).

DATED this 5th day of May, 2017.

Chair, Board of Regents

Secretary, Board of Regents