

CHABOT-LAS POSITAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

March 20, 2012

Agenda Item: 5.6

Subject: Approval to Increase the Student Health Center Fee at Chabot and Las Positas Colleges

Background: The Assistant Vice Chancellor from the California Community College Systems Office issued a memorandum dated August 20, 2011 to support a one dollar increase in the student health fees, and that districts may begin charging a maximum fee of \$18.00 per semester and \$15.00 for summer session based on calculations by the Financial, Economic, and Demographic Unit in the Department of Finance.

With this being passed from the Chancellor's Office, it is proposed to increase the student health fee to both Chabot and Las Positas Colleges by raising the fee from \$14 to \$17 per semester, and from \$9 to \$15 for the summer session starting Summer 2012.

With the current economic conditions and budget cuts from state funding sources, increasing the mandatory student health services fee will allow Student Health Centers to continue providing accessible health and counseling needs to meet the high number of student demand for services. It will also help to continue supporting the health campus wellness and mental health programs, and to staff a coordinator position to provide the students in aiding health promotion and education on campus.

For students to enjoy and succeed during their academic career, early treatment to healthcare is vitally important. Disease prevention is more likely to occur when barriers like high costs are removed and a preventive approach to healthcare is adopted. All enrolled students are provided affordable, convenient access to primary health care through Student Health & Wellness Services.

The Student Health Centers at both colleges are consistently highly used and rated by students. Over 10,000 students annually use the Student Health Center at Chabot College and nearly 5,000 students at Las Positas College. Over 3,000 students annually utilized front desk services by providing them free over-the-counter medications, band-aids and first aid treatment. With the absence of medical insurance coverage from the majority of our student population, it accounts for much of the heavy student demand for on-campus health services.

Health care costs and health care insurance costs have increased at a staggering rate. Chabot and Las Positas Student Health Centers have not had a rate increase in over 4 years while costs have increased dramatically every year. Based on a survey that HSACCC (Health Science Association of California Community College) conducted in 2009 from 55 community colleges, 72% of these colleges are charging the maximum health fee while Chabot and Las Positas still falls in the 9%

category of charging \$14 student health fee for Fall and Spring Semester. In fact, some colleges such as Ohlone and Pierce College, have acquired a board approved policy to automatically charge the maximum allowable fees as approved by the Chancellor's Office in accordance with the Education Code.

If the Student Health Center fee had been adjusted for inflationary increases over this four-year period, a fee initiative to increase the student fee would not have been necessary. Even with the proposed fee increase, the annual cost to a student for unlimited access to the Student Health Center is low when compared to a single visit to a clinic, physician or hospital emergency room.

Without the increase in the Student Health Center fee, services to students would be drastically reduced, and many students would suffer, physically, emotionally and fiscally. Such a reduction could result in many students not receiving necessary, timely and low cost medical services. They would become more dependent on expensive hospital, urgent care and off campus outpatient services and an increase in student illnesses resulting in academic failure.

Last semester, a student came to Chabot Student Health Center and was diagnosed as having new cancer. A delay in service for situations like these can be catastrophic. Every year there are examples of students who are identified by Student Health Center medical providers who have serious medical conditions such as cancers, infections, or mental health crisis where early treatment is very important and even lifesaving.

It is because the Student Health Center is such a vital service in supporting students, academic success and because the fee supporting those services has not increased in over four years, the Board of Trustees is being asked to support and approve this proposal.

Recommended Action: That the Board of Trustees approves the proposed increase to the student health fee to \$15 for Summer Semester, and \$17 for Fall and Spring Semesters which will support the student health and wellness program in providing accessible health and counseling needs of students at Chabot and Las Positas Colleges.

Submitted by: Lorenzo S. Legaspi/Date

Approved: Joel L. Kinnamon/Date

_____ APPROVED

_____ DISAPPROVE

_____ TABLED