

ECU Green Fund Proposal

Approximate total number of full-time ECU students: **22,000**

Proposed student fee: **\$5/student/semester**

Total projected revenue: **\$110,000/semester**



Potential Uses:

After proposals for action are evaluated by the Green Fund Committee (see below), funds will be allocated and disbursed to specific programs chosen by the Committee. Potential ideas include:

- Install solar photovoltaic and/or solar thermal panels on existing buildings
- Install rainwater harvesting systems such as cisterns and rain barrels
- Build “living machines” (artificial wetlands) for wastewater management
- Purchase renewable energy credits to offset carbon emissions
- Fund Eco-Reps or Student Sustainability Ambassadors, peer-to-peer education programs
- Establish an edible forest garden and/or native landscaping on campus
- Fund student projects, activities, internships, and research related to sustainability
- Fund student conference and travel expenses for professional development
- Fund faculty fellows or workshops on integrating sustainability into the curriculum
- Fund speakers, entertainment events, Earth Day activities, Campus Sustainability Week
- Leverage additional, external funding to develop innovations in engineering and technology
- Fund opportunities to use the campus as a living lab and bridge the gap between academics and operations

Committee Members:

The Committee will be comprised of seven (7) voting members and up to six (6) non-voting members:

- 1 full-time student (member or officer) elected by ECO Pirates
- 1 graduate student appointed by the Graduate Student Association
- 1 undergraduate student appointed by the Student Government Association
- 1 undergraduate student appointed by the Residence Hall Association
- Three (3) fulltime students selected by the Green Fund Committee through an annual application process
- Up to six (6) staff and faculty members, selected from the Sustainability Committee and the University Environment Committee, *ex officio* (non-voting).

Project Selection and Benefits:

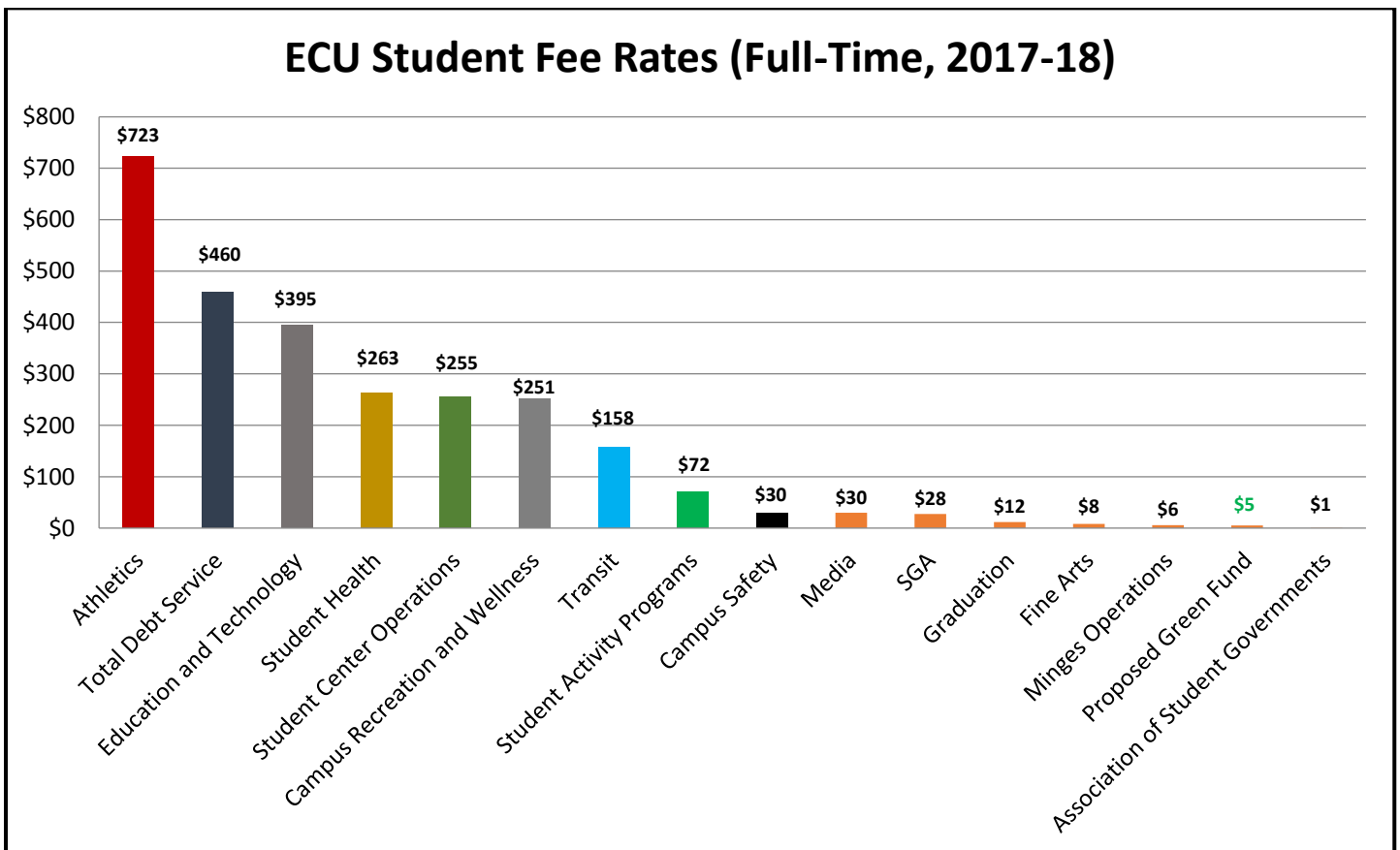
Many of these projects will result in benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced waste, and financial savings from increased energy and water efficiency. These projects will help ECU meet the goals of our Strategic Plan and Campus Master Plan. They benefit not only the campus but the local community as well. Student projects will incorporate all these benefits, with the addition of experiential learning opportunities for students in the field of sustainability. These opportunities can assist in developing professional and technical skills for students seeking opportunities in the burgeoning “green economy.”

Summary

A student fee of \$5 per student per semester will only increase fee burdens by less than 0.2% per student, yet it will contribute substantially to campus sustainability efforts. This fee rate is comparable to other colleges and universities in the UNC System as well as our peer institutions. Consequently, the proposed Green Fund should not affect the University’s ranking among other institutions based on annual tuition and fee rates. Students at ECU have an ethical imperative to advance sustainability both locally and globally, and establishing a Green Fund embodies this essential action. The Green Fund will also provide ample opportunities to utilize the campus as a living lab, which gives students a chance to develop valuable skills and obtain real-life experiences while pursuing their education. Sustainability ensures that current and future generations, as well as other species, have a planet worth living on and caring about. In conclusion, the Green Fund would lead to financial savings, reduced environmental impacts, and a more vibrant and resilient campus.

NC Colleges & Universities	Cost/Student/ Semester	Official Peer Institutions	Cost/Student/ Semester
Warren Wilson College	\$11	Southern Illinois University (2009)	\$10
UNC Asheville	\$10	Western Michigan University (2010)	\$8
Appalachian State University	\$5	East Tennessee State University (2008)	\$8
PROPOSED – East Carolina University	\$5	PROPOSED – East Carolina University	\$5
UNC Chapel Hill	\$4		
NC State University	\$1.50		
UNC Pembroke	\$7		
UNC Greensboro	\$2.22		

The total student fees at ECU for full-time students are currently \$2,691; the addition of a ***\$5 fee to support a Green Fund would increase this less than 0.2%*** to a total of \$2,696.



For more information or to sign the support pledge, please visit the following link:

http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/campus_operations/sustainability/Green-Fund.cfm