

Rec. #2017-05-11 UNIVERSITY SENATE RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT  
University Senate Resolution (endorsed unanimously on May 11, 2017):

***Opposition to Increased Student Fees***

The University Senate strongly encourages the President to review this resolution and reconsider the agreement in question.

## **Opposition to increased student fees**

**Whereas**, WKU has entered into a 20-year agreement with Aramark that includes a \$75/semester fee for all full-time students in face-to-face classes, a fee earmarked for a proposed \$20-million renovation of Garrett Conference Center; and

**Whereas**, students will be required to pay this fee even if they do not want to use campus dining options; and

**Whereas**, increasing student fees further burdens students financially and continues to reduce the affordability of WKU and makes it less competitive in the view of incoming students; and

**Whereas**, increasing student fees will hamper the ability of financially-struggling students to stay in school (retention) or complete school (graduation); and

**Whereas**, students continue to pay fees for construction/renovation projects long completed; and

**Whereas**, the Council on Post-Secondary Education stated in its report on tuition and fees for the 2017-2018 academic year that “based on feedback from multiple stakeholders there is a general sentiment that increases in resident undergraduate tuition and fees should be moderate in academic year 2017-18 to support a necessary balance between the ability of students and families to pay for college and resources required for postsecondary institutions; and

**Whereas**, that philosophy should also apply to “user fees,” which have been used more and more by WKU but which fall outside the CPE purview; and

**Whereas**, this agreement was orchestrated by WKU’s outgoing president, which will reduce financial options available to the incoming president.

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the faculty of WKU vigorously oppose the user fee because it is not in the best interest of students, the university or the incoming president, and therefore the agreement should be subjected to review and reconsideration by the new administration.