



University of Connecticut
*Office of the Executive Vice President
for Administration and Chief Financial Officer*

April 24, 2013

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Richard D. Gray
Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Mun Y. Choi
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: University of Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (UConnPIRG)
New Fee for the Storrs and Hartford Campuses Beginning Fiscal Year 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a \$5 per semester/\$10 per year waivable fee for UConnPIRG for the Storrs and Hartford campuses beginning fall 2013.

BACKGROUND:

The UConnPIRG fee at the Storrs campus was first approved by the Board of Trustees in October 1973 at \$2 per semester/\$4 per year, payable by a separate check. In July 1976 it was approved as a negative check-off on student fee bills by the Board of Trustees. In August 1988 UConnPIRG Hartford campus was approved at \$4 per semester/\$8 per year. Subsequently, the fee rates were increased to \$5 per semester/\$10 per year on both campuses.

For approximately 40 years UConnPIRG has been providing students with the opportunity to voice their concerns in state and federal government as well as in their local communities. By partnering with the state and national PIRGs, both non-profit, non-partisan organizations, students involved with UConnPIRG are able to address issues that are important to them such as the environment, hunger, homelessness, voter registration, and textbook affordability.

In June 2011 an audit of the Storrs and Hartford PIRG organizations was completed by the Office of Audit, Compliance and Ethics. One of the audit recommendations was that the Division of Student Affairs should determine if the financial structure fit University and State of Connecticut statute guidelines as a Tier III student funded organization. It was determined that the financial structure did not conform and in FY2013 the fee was removed from undergraduate student fee bills. Subsequently, UConnPIRG student leadership and staff members from the Division of Student Affairs worked together to develop a new financial structure that provides local management and control of the student fees.

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Both the Storrs and Hartford campus UConnPIRGs submitted their new financial structures to the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee (SASFAC) earlier this semester. Referenda were also held at each campus to canvas undergraduate students, and in both circumstances students supported the creation of the new fee. After separate hearings with the UConnPIRGs, review of the documentation presented, and consideration of the referenda results, the SASFAC recommended the fee for the Storrs and Hartford campus UConnPIRG student organizations. The fee is being recommended as a new fee because it is based on this new financial structure. The SASFAC and the Division of Student Affairs will be closely monitoring this new format to ensure that it provides local management and control of the student fees as intended.