

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Annual Survey of Fees FY 2019-20

Background Information: 1E SBCCC 700.1(e) of the State Board Codes states *“The college shall report all required local fees established by the board of trustees to the System Office on an annual basis as directed by the System Office.”* Local fees are defined as instructional technology; student activity; college access, parking, and security (CAPS); and required specific fees. State Board policy regarding all four types of local fees permits the retention and expenditure of receipts collected locally. Because receipts are held in colleges’ institutional accounts, the System Office cannot obtain this information without surveying the colleges. Local boards of trustees and their presidents have the authority to levy fees not inconsistent with the parameters established by the State Board.

Survey Results:

Fee Types

As noted, there are four types of fees that local boards may charge under current State Board policy. They include:

1. Instructional Technology Fee
 - a. Curriculum (\$48 per academic term maximum)
 - b. Continuing Education (\$5 per course maximum)
2. Student Activity Fee (\$35 per academic term maximum)
3. College Access, Parking and Security Fee (CAPS) (no maximum)
4. Required Specific Fees (no maximum)

Executive Summary

Note: Many of the year-to-year changes are noted in parentheses ().

1. Instructional Technology Fee
 - a. Curriculum:
 - Fifty-five colleges charged this fee to students (same as fiscal year 2018-19).
 - Of the 55 colleges that charged a fee, 13 (-1) charged up to the \$48 per academic term maximum permitted, and the remaining 42 (+1) charged less than the \$48 maximum. Four of those 55 colleges waived the fee for the summer term. No college charged more than the \$48 per academic term maximum.
 - For the fiscal year, colleges expended \$10.50 million (+\$1.48 million) and had on-hand a cash balance of \$31.20 million (+279,739).

- The cash balance may be used for the procurement, maintenance, operating and repair of computers and other instructional technology (hardware and software), including supplies and materials for operations.
 - Colleges are authorized to use instructional technology fee receipts to hire support positions to operate, maintain, and repair this technology.
- b. Continuing Education:
- Thirty-seven colleges charged a fee (+1 over fiscal year 2018-19).
 - Of the 37 that charged a fee, 33 (+2) charged the \$5 per course maximum permitted, and four charged up to \$3. No college charged more than the \$5 per course maximum.
 - For the fiscal year, colleges expended \$68,852 (-\$76,568) and had on-hand a cash balance of \$1.12 million (+\$31,884).
 - The cash balance may be used for the same purposes noted for curriculum.
2. Student Activity Fees
- All 58 of the colleges charged a student activity fee during the fall and spring semesters (same as fiscal year 2018-19). As in 2018-19, eighteen colleges charged up to the \$35 maximum permitted in fiscal year 2019-20. Twenty colleges (-1) waived the fee for the summer term. No college charged more than the \$35 per academic term maximum.
 - For the fiscal year, colleges expended \$10.84 million (-\$616,788) and had on-hand a cash balance of \$7.72 million (-\$236,578).
 - The receipts that are collected from the fee may be used to support student activities.
 - Student activities include the Student Government Association (SGA), scholarships, student functions and events, athletics, clubs, graduation expenses, IDs, and student publications.
 - Of the funds expended in fiscal year 2019-20, 22% were for student functions and events, 14% for the SGA, 29% for staff salaries, 26% for athletics, and 9% among other student purposes.
3. College Access, Parking and Security (CAPS) Fees
- Forty-six (+2 over fiscal year 2018-19) colleges charged a parking fee. Of the 46 colleges, 15 waived this fee during the summer term.
 - While there is no maximum that can be charged, as State Board policy leaves this up to the local Board of Trustees, the range charged was from \$2 to \$85 per semester. The most common charges were between \$5 and \$25 per semester.
 - For the fiscal year, colleges expended \$9.77 million (-\$217,236) and had a fund balance of \$25.22 million (+\$737,253 million).
 - Of the funds expended in fiscal year 2019-20, 6% were for paving/resurfacing, 52% for security, 32% for student transportation, and 10% for parking enforcement.

4. Required Specific Fees

- Specific fees are used for the purposes for which they are charged and collected, including consumables expended in the instructional process, including tools, uniforms, lab supplies, insurance, certification/licensure fees, etc.
- In the survey, colleges were asked to provide a list of the fees charged, rate, course type, and amounts collected. We did not ask for the fund balances because fund balance is rarely built on these fees, as they are spent for the immediate classes or activities offered.