

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR APPROVAL OF CLASS FEES

Purpose: The following procedures and guidelines have been established to provide for the fair and consistent approval and application of class fees.

I. Procedure

- A. Academic Departments that wish to propose, change, or remove a class fee should submit a class fee authorization form to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost no later than December 1 for fees to be implemented in the subsequent fall semester; no later than July 1 for fees to be implemented the subsequent spring semester; and no later than August 1 for fees to be implemented the subsequent summer session. (Please allow sufficient time for approvals through the department chair, college dean, budget officer, and the Executive Vice President and Provost. Requests submitted after the due (if approved) will be approved for the subsequent term.)
- B. The class fee authorization form can be found on the Academic Affairs website www.isu.edu/academicaffairs/faculty-support. Academic Departments must use the revised form dated April 2019. Requests submitted on prior versions will be returned to the department. The form shall contain the following information for each course affected (or each group of courses similarly affected) by the proposed fees:
 - A **detailed description** of the expenses that make it necessary to charge a fee.
 - A projection, based on past and/or expected enrollments, of income from the proposed fee.
 - A description of the proposed distribution of the collected fees among general classes of expenditures, e.g., to staffing, to equipment, to field trips, and to expendables.
- C. Academic Departments must request an Accounts Receivable Detail Code before completing and submitting the Class Fee Authorization Form. The Detail Code must be used only for recording class fee income and expenses. Class Fee Authorization Forms need to be completed with the course fee detail code obtained from the Office of Finance and Business Affairs as well as the effective date of the fee (session), department, course, campus, projected enrollment, and the prior index and balance along with the requested amounts. The form must be signed by the Department Chair, the Dean of the College, the UBO of the College, and the Controller before being forwarded to the Executive Vice President and Provost. The forms can be submitted via mail to Cody Fitch – Campus Stop 8063.

Class Fee Authorization forms will be reviewed by the Executive Vice President and Provost. The Office of Academic Affairs may request further clarification of the fee or may request a modification of the fee.

When the form is received by the Office of Academic Affairs, an email will be sent to the individual requesting the fee change informing them that the form is pending approval or disapproval.

- D. The Office of Academic Affairs will notify the department and send a copy of the signed authorization to Office of the Registrar and the Office of Finance and Business Affairs once the class fee has been approved or denied. The original signed form will be retained in the Office of Academic Affairs.
- E. All special course fees must be listed in the Schedule of Classes and Summer Bulletins in order to provide students advance notice; fees not listed will not be collected.
- F. At the end of each academic year, the academic department shall prepare a report that describes the income secured from fees, the expenditures for which those fees were spent, the balance of fees remaining at the end of the year, and plans for that balance (e.g., accruing funds for a major purchase). This report will be provided to the college dean and the Executive Vice President and Provost. This report shall be reviewed by the dean to ascertain that the amount of fees collected is justified and that the expenditures of funds are for acceptable purposes. This report could be subject to review by the internal audit office.
- Special course fees shall be separately accounted for and shall not be commingled with other funds; provided, however, multiple course fees supporting a common special cost (e.g., language lab, science lab equipment, computer equipment/software, etc.) may be combined. The institution is responsible for managing these fees to ensure appropriate use (as per Idaho State Board of Education – Governing Policies and Procedures – Section V. Financial Affairs – iii. Special Course Fees, letter d.)
- G. The institution shall maintain a system of procedures and controls providing reasonable assurance that special course fees are properly approved and used in accordance with this policy, including an annual rolling review of one-third of the fees over a 3-year cycle (as per Idaho State Board of Education – Governing Policies and Procedures – Section V. Financial Affairs – iii. Special Course Fees, letter e.). The Internal Auditor is responsible for performing an audit of fees and reporting findings to Academic Affairs and the department. All internal audit recommendations for class fees must be addressed in a management response to the auditor on the corrective action taken to address any findings which may violate special course fee policies.

In recommending approval or disapproval of proposals to charge or change class fees, the Executive Vice President and Provost will observe the following guidelines.

II. Guidelines

As per Idaho State Board of Education – Governing Policies and Procedures – Section V. Financial Affairs: “Special course fee is an additive fee on top of the standard per credit hour fee which may be charged to students enrolled in a specific course for materials and/or activities required for that course. Special course fees, or changes to such fees, are established and become effective in the amount and at the time specified by the Executive Vice President and Provost and must be prominently posted so as to be readily accessible and transparent to students, along with other required course cost information. These fees shall be reported to the Board upon request:

(Letter a - iii.Special Course Fees policy) Special course fees shall be directly related to academic programming. Likewise, special course fees for professional-technical courses shall be directly related to the skill or trade being taught.

(Letter b - iii.Special Course Fees policy) Special course fees may only be charged to cover the direct costs of the additional and necessary expenses that are unique to the course. This includes the costs for lab materials and supplies, specialized software, the cost for distance and/or online delivery, and personnel costs for a lab manager. A special course fee shall not subsidize other courses, programs or institution operations.”

- A. Expendable supplies or materials specific to a course, such as art supplies (paint, jewelry metals, photographic paper and chemicals, etc.) or laboratory or clinical supplies (dissection specimens, disposable syringes and latex gloves, chemicals, glassware, videotapes, or other use-intensive educational aids, etc.).
- B. Special services or facilities offered as a convenience or enriched experience for students, such as individual lessons in music, live models in drawing classes, golf course privileges, distance education, etc.
- C. Materials, supplies, tools, etc. ordered in quantity by the department as a convenience or cost-saving measure for students, or when such items are not readily available locally.
- D. Access to specialized or enriched computer laboratory services (including hardware, software, maintenance, and staff) that exceed the level of access and service that is basic to instruction and would thus be funded by the academic unit or campus-wide computer fee.
- E. Pass-through fees for malpractice insurance, certification examinations required before student clinical practice, required immunizations, or assessment examinations required by national accrediting agencies.

- F. Course-related student travel and lodging, such as supervised field trips and course-related faculty travel and lodging, when associated with supervision of internships, externships, optional field trips, or other enrichment experiences.
- G. Equipment used exclusively for instructional purposes such as microscopes, analytical equipment, anatomical models, ceramic wheels, etc.
- H. Staffing used specifically to aid in instruction, such as laboratory coordinators.

(Letter c - iii.Special Course Fees policy) Course fees shall not be used to pay a cost for which the institution would ordinarily budget including faculty, administrative support and supplies and may not be charged for the following:

- A. Supplies, materials, equipment, and services that have broad departmental usage (e.g., paper, photocopying, clerical assistance, etc.) and that are customarily funded through departmental operating expense or equipment budgets.
- B. Fixed equipment, that is, equipment that is physically installed such as fume hoods, dishwashers, or kilns (department should contact Facilities Management for repairs and maintenance of fixed equipment).
- C. Equipment that is to be used primarily for research. The purchase of equipment for graduate education must not consume an excessive proportion of the budget.
- D. Materials, supplies, and services related to the advertising and promotion of courses or workshops offered for credit.
- E. Books or periodical subscriptions for departmental libraries or shared use by students and faculty.
- F. Faculty travel and lodging NOT associated with supervision of internships, externships, student teaching within the ISU service area, or clinical or field experiences required of students.

Paramount in determining which class fees will be approved or disapproved by the Provost and Executive Vice President will be the cost/benefit ratio to students.

Approved fees may be charged at a level sufficient to partially or fully offset costs, but should not be used to generate a substantial surplus, unless that surplus is being accrued for a planned purchase of a particular item(s).

III. Online Course Fees

In lieu of a standard course fee, an online course is automatically assessed a fee of \$35/credit, which is used by the institution to support the additional cost of providing support, bandwidth, and course development for online sections. Additional course fees may not be charged to online courses. An online course fee is considered a Special Course Fee and follows the same SBOE Guidelines as stated above.

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