

Material & Supply fee Senate initiative

- Material & Supply fees, commonly miscast as “lab fees”, are real money students pay for consumable materials for courses.
- As an example, fees in CAS can run from ~\$8 in Environmental Geology, to \$75 in some Art in Biology courses. A few University fees can be more than \$100.
- Some time around 2011, plus or minus a year, all Material and Supply fees were: A) frozen if already in place; and, B) no new fees were allowed to be added to new or preexisting courses.

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Why is this a problem?

Again, here are some CAS examples...

- General Education fees in CAS were slashed by 50% prior to the “freezing the fees”.
- Robbing Peter to pay Paul. (Earth Science-Physical Geology example)
- Not keeping up with cost of materials after 5 plus years of “frozen fees”. (Requires surplus money to cover inflation)
- Detrimental to Student Success. (Low cost degree creating low impactful courses)

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Larger issue: Being done without equity. Material and Supply fees are still being increased or added at other SUS Universities (all of which outperform us in the metrics-based funding).

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Moving forward:

We need input from **all** Colleges about any impacts of the “frozen” Material and Supply fees.

Once information is collected, move forward in the most effective way possible.

Understand, we cannot modify the definition of what a Material and Supply fee can be used for during this process. Defined by the State, and, must be for consumables. We can suggest modifications to the University’s desire to “freeze the fees”.