

# Associated Students of Cerritos College

## IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

March 20, 2024

Senator Yim introduced the following Resolution  
Director Gaffield seconded the following Resolution

### JOINT RESOLUTION

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## Student Health Services Fee Increase to Support Continued Quality Mental Health & Medical Services JR-2324-02

**Whereas:** The Student Health Services (SHS) Fee is a fee imposed on all students each semester, at a current rate of \$19 per semester and \$16 for the summer session. It is further proposed the Board change the AP/BP to an automatic fee increase to meet the Chancellor's Office calculations, which compare the prior year's index with the current year's index to offset inflation and operating costs. Per the Office of Institutional Supports and Success, *"In January of each year, the Chancellor's Office calculates the percentage increase. The percentage increase is then used to calculate the maximum student health, parking, and transportation service fees for the upcoming semester, summer, intersession, and quarter terms."* (6/23)

The SHS Fee permits students to access Cerritos College SHS for acute medical care and mental health counseling and supports a wide variety of health-promoting events and services, such as:

- Offers free mental health counseling (6 confidential mental health therapy sessions per academic year)
- Offers free acute care medical visits (no limit); referrals for higher needs care initiated, as necessary.
- Offers free in-house, minor procedural care (e.g., urinalysis, pregnancy tests, ear lavages, incision & drainage wound care, glucose testing, sutures)
- Provides free specialty clinics (no limit), including dermatology, nutrition consults with a Registered Dietician, and chiropractic services.
- Provides below-market cost in-house prescription medications, immunizations, & labs at non-profit prices
  - For example, in SHS a basic health profile of 5 common blood/urine tests is \$32, compared to \$199 at the contracted lab.
- Low-cost physicals are \$10, including the completion of required paperwork for medical clearance.
  - Cash-paying patients seeking a physical in a private office are upwards of \$149+, with or without additional fees for paperwork completion.
- Free over-the-counter (OTC) medications, condoms, Narcan, & fentanyl strips
- Free over-the-counter full-size dermatology products
- Access to free STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) testing, pap smears, and family planning/birth control
- Access to student meditation room & supplies
- Health-promoting/wellness events
- Free care kits, promotional merchandise, & educational materials
- Funding for 3<sup>rd</sup> party support services, including visiting therapy dogs, art therapy, Zoom guided meditation, & support groups/activities

**Whereas:** As a required fee, it is eligible for inclusion in a student's financial aid cost of education. This fee

# Associated Students of Cerritos College

may be waived based on documented and exclusive reliance on prayer for healing, per state regulations in Title 5.

**Whereas:** Cerritos College has not raised the SHS fee for over ten years since Fall 2013. Inflation has increased the cost of supplies, common medications, and vaccines. For example, the influenza vaccine has increased by 13% and the TB skin test by 3%, yet SHS has not increased prices in over 10 years (both are still \$5). Additional increases include supplies, ranging from 75% (sharps container) to 183% (nitrile gloves); medications, ranging from 4% (ciprofloxacin) to 309% (doxycycline); and vaccines, ranging from 10% (Hep B) to 20% (MMR (Measles Mumps Rubella)). To support current programming, an increase in the SHS fee is needed.

**Whereas:** The ASCC (Associated Students Cerritos College) can support the SHS program & services. The SHS budget is non-categorical and receives no general funds; SHS relies primarily on enrollment and subsequent mandatory student health fees. SHS provides acute care to an underserved community, who often present to SHS uninsured or Medi-Cal with long wait times. Students who are covered under their parent's insurance may not want to utilize their network insurance for privacy reasons. SHS services are either free or below market price, thus SHS does not generate profitable revenue for our programs.

**Whereas:** This proposed fee change is projected to raise an additional estimated \$332,000 annually for student health services, and to support ongoing medical and mental health programs and subsequent operating costs (e.g., patient portal electronic records, staffing, MSW (Master of Social Work) paid intern program, well-being app).

**Whereas:** The SHS fee increase would match the fees of other colleges (e.g., Fullerton, El Camino, Citrus, Cypress). Cerritos College SHS, however, is the only college offering 3 free specialty clinics (dermatology, nutrition, chiropractor). Comparatively, some area colleges do not offer free OTC medications or in-house low-cost prescription medications.

**Whereas:** The increase in the SHS fee will allow the continuation of the SHS program, by covering the operational costs, including services mandated by the state. SHS is further required to abide by OSHA guidelines, bloodborne pathogen requirements, and professional standards of care.

**Resolved:** The ASCC Senate will approve an increase in SHS fees to support the continuation of quality health services. The new SHS Fee amounts will be as follows:

- Fall Term - \$26
- Spring Term - \$26
- Summer Term - \$22

The ASCC Senate will approve the Board change the AP/BP to an automatic fee increase to meet the Chancellor's Office calculations.

**Resolved:** Implementation of the SHS fee increase will begin with the Fall 2024 term.

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## Amendment History

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### Final Cabinet Action

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**Date of final vote:**

**Cabinet Members Voting Aye:**

**Cabinet Members Voting Nay:**

**Cabinet Members Abstaining:**

**Vote Count: \_\_ Aye \_\_ Nay \_\_ Abstain**

### Final Senate Action

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**Date of final vote:**

**Senators Voting Aye:**

**Senators Voting Nay:**

**Senators Abstaining:**

**Vote Count: \_\_ Aye \_\_ Nay \_\_ Abstain**