

"TO FEE OR NOT TO FEE?"

Building (and Sustaining) Student Support for New Library Revenue

Strategies & Approaches

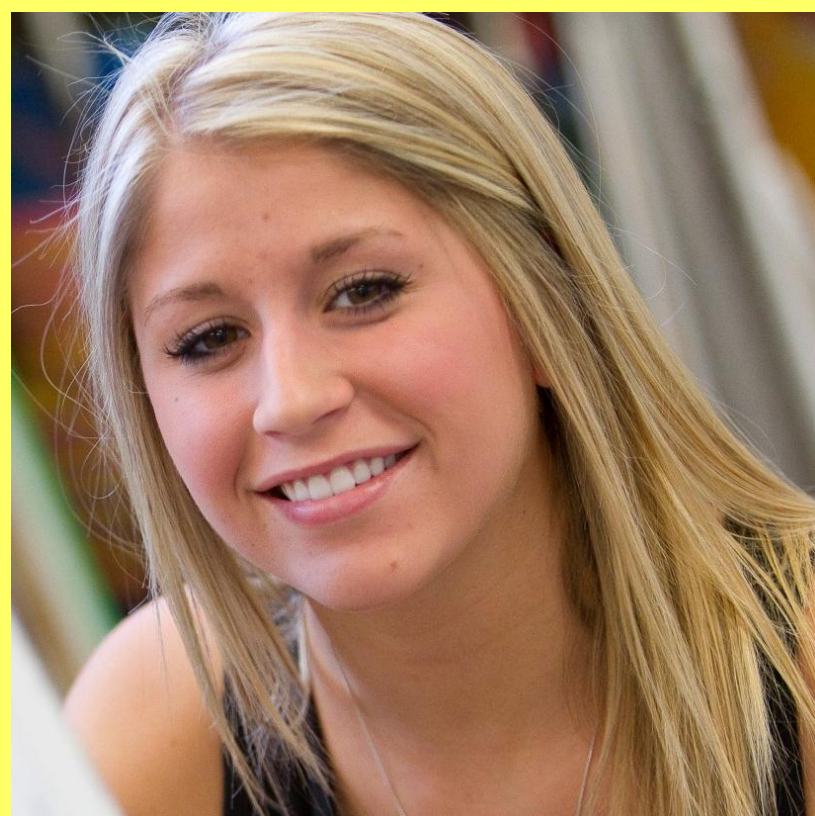
- Build relationships with student leaders long before you propose a library fee
- Utilize data to build a case
- Keep proposed spending plans very general. Specifics may back you into a corner
- Roll out new services/equipment as soon as the student fee goes into effect
- Be transparent and accountable
- Publicize how students benefit from the student fee
- Be clear with students that their role is *advisory*

Benefits

- Undergraduate and graduate student advisory groups can also serve as focus groups
- Transparency builds trust
- Education & awareness increase buy-in
- Advocates in student government can influence decision-making in high places
- While some fee-funded services may be only for students, faculty generally benefit too

Challenges

- Student fee approval processes can be unpredictable and political
- Student fees can create unhealthy competition and politics among campus units
- Without clear communication, bundled fees (such as a Library/IT fee) can result in uneasy campus alliances and confused, unhappy students
- Student may raise legitimate questions about why a fee, and not tuition dollars, should pay for services so central to their education
- Student fee dollars may just end up replacing diminishing central funding
- Graduate students and undergraduates want their fee money spent in different ways
- Increased transparency on the student fee budget may result in greater scrutiny of the overall library budget



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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES