**Agenda item:**

**USF Board of Trustees**  
June 25, 2009

**Issue:** Student Housing, Living Learning Communities

**Proposed action:** Approve miscellaneous housing charge for Living Learning Community on Tampa campus beginning fall 2009 semester.

**Background information:**

A Florida Board of Governors Resolution (1/7/03) provides that each board of trustees may adopt amend or repeal regulations to implement the provisions of law conferring duties upon it. Such regulations must be adopted, amended or repealed pursuant to the Board of Governors Regulation Development Procedure (7/21/05) and must be consistent with law and the resolutions and strategic plan of the Board of Governors.

The USF Tampa campus proposes to establish a miscellaneous housing charge for students electing to live in a “Living Learning Community” on campus, beginning with the fall 2009 semester. The charge to participate in this program will be $225 per person per semester. The charge is in addition to the approved 2009-10 basic housing rates.

Florida Statutes section 1009.24(13(h) and BOG regulation 7.003(11) authorize university boards of trustees to establish miscellaneous housing charges for services provided at the request of students. Only the students who elect to participate in the Living Learning Communities will be assessed the charge.

---

**Strategic Goal(s) Item Supports:** Goal 2  
**Workgroup Review:** Finance & Audit  
**Supporting documentation:** LLC Fee Criteria; LLC Miscellaneous Fee Structure  
**Prepared by:** Dorie Paine/974-5439
Expectations of Academic Partners in Support of Living Learning Communities

In the past two decades there has been a resurgence of interest in learning communities as more campus leaders recognize that students on residential campuses can benefit from intentional living learning communities. At USF, theme based and/or academic based LLCs are guided by a leadership team that includes both academic and student affairs professionals (Living Learning Communities Council). The Council develops annual student-focused goals or learning outcomes and requires yearly evaluation and assessment. Academic partners are also encouraged to participate in residence life events and academic initiative programming sponsored by Housing & Residential Education. All Living Learning Communities must have a designated representative who attends LLC council meetings and participates in the planning of LLC initiatives.

Costs for LLC

Costs involved in living - learning community development and delivery vary widely and depend on the configuration of each program. Some or all of the following direct and indirect are often involved:

- Start-up costs including planning meetings and external consultation to stimulate conversation and provide advice
- Publicity to faculty, advisors and prospective learning community student participants
- Reduced or altered enrollment configurations
- Assessment and evaluation resources
- Undergraduate peer facilitators
- Special field trips, cultural activities or guest speakers
- Faculty/staff development, events and activities
- Special classroom construction or renovation
- Renovation of residence halls for residential learning communities, including the construction of residential classrooms or planning rooms
- Additional training for advisors
- Software costs for cohort registration
- Annual faculty/staff retreats or institutes, for planning and reflection

Many learning communities are launched with funds from outside granting agencies, although an impressive number have been developed entirely with reallocated internal resources. There are also many that charge a separate fee for operations.

Criteria for LLC Fees

The request for an additional fee for students residing in a Living Learning Community will be considered under the following circumstances:

- LLCs must have been in existence for at least one year.
- The spaces set aside for the LLC identified must have been filled the first year demonstrating a demand for the program.
- LLC outcome data must be collected that demonstrates the academic or educational gains to students (i.e. higher persistence rates, higher grades, stronger results related to learning outcomes than peers, etc.)
- Written learning outcomes developed through partnership with the academic unit and Housing & Residential Education must be documented.
- An annual report must be submitted at the end of each academic year describing the programs, successes, suggestions for improvement, and assessment outcomes.

The following expectations will exist for LLCs who are granted permission to charge the full fee:

- 30% advisor or professional staff time dedicated to the LLC
- 8 hours per week of tutoring services or peer mentoring for LLC participants
- One Week of Welcome program planned for students and parents
- Five College oriented programs per semester (tours, dinners, networking, improv, etc.)
- In house advising for major based LLCs
- Participation in H&RE House Calls program with at least 2 faculty
- Implementation of 2 programs per semester exposing residents to faculty in related areas
- Administration fee of 5% of total collected to Housing and Residential Education

The decision to charge a fee for each Living Learning Community will be joint decision between the academic partner(s) and representatives in Housing & Residential Education. Appropriate programs and the costs associated will be considered, and a budget must be developed and approved outlining how each fee will be spent.
Living Learning Community Miscellaneous Fee Structure

A fee of $125 per semester may be charged to LLCs meeting the Level A criteria. A fee of $225 per semester may be charged to LLCs meeting the Level B criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level A Criteria</th>
<th>Level B Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% advisor or professional staff time</td>
<td>30% advisor or professional staff time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 hours per week of tutoring services or peer mentoring</td>
<td>8 hours per week of tutoring services or peer mentoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One week of welcome program planned for students and parents</td>
<td>One week of welcome program planned for students and parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three College oriented programs per semester (tours, dinners, networking)</td>
<td>Five College oriented programs per semester (tours, dinners, networking, improvs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In house advising for major based LLCs</td>
<td>In house advising for major based LLCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in H&amp;RE House Calls Program with 1 professor</td>
<td>Participation in H&amp;RE House Calls Program with 2 professors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement one program per semester exposing residents to faculty in related areas</td>
<td>Implement 2 programs per semester exposing residents to faculty in related areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fee to Housing &amp; Residential Education of 5% of total collected</td>
<td>Administration fee to Housing and Residential Education of 5% of total collected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the 2009-2010 year:

1. The Bulls Business Community would be charged a fee of $225 per semester and receive the Level B services
2. The Engineering Living Learning Community would be charged a fee of $125 per semester and receive the Level A services.