

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Annual Survey of Fees**  
**FY 2016-17**

**Background Information and Timelines:** On May 16, 2014, the State Board repealed Title 1, Chapter E, Student Tuition and Fees” and adopted a new “Title 1, Chapter E, Student Tuition and Fees” of the SBCC Code. The results of the survey presented for FY 2016-17 are consistent with the newly adopted parameters. 1E SBCCC 700.1(e) of the State Board Codes states “*The college shall report all required local fees established by the board of trustees to the System Office on an annual basis as directed by the System Office.*” Local fees are defined as instructional technology; student activity; college access, parking, and security (CAPS); and required specific fees.

**Current Procedures:** State Board policy regarding all four types of local fees permits the retention and expenditure of receipts collected locally. Because receipts are held in colleges’ institutional accounts, the System Office cannot obtain this information without surveying the colleges. Local boards of trustees and their presidents have the authority to levy fees not inconsistent with the parameters established by the State Board.

**Survey Results:**

**Fee Types**

As noted, there are four types of fees that local boards may charge under current State Board policy. They include:

1. Instructional Technology Fee
  - a. Curriculum (\$48 per academic term maximum)
  - b. Continuing Education (\$5 per course maximum)
2. Student Activity Fee (\$35 per academic term maximum)
3. College Access, Parking and Security Fee (CAPS) (no maximum)
4. Required Specific Fees (no maximum)

**Executive Summary**

Note: Many of the year-to-year changes are noted in parentheses ().

1. Instructional Technology Fee
  - a. Curriculum:
    - Fifty-five colleges (94.8%) charge a fee, an increase of one college from fiscal year 2015-16.
    - Of the 55 colleges that charge a fee, ten (+3) charge up to the \$48 per academic term maximum permitted, and the remaining 45 colleges charge less than the \$48 maximum. Five (+2) of those 55 colleges waive the fee for

the summer term. No college charges more than the \$48 per academic term maximum.

- For the fiscal year, colleges expended \$7.04 million (-\$311,765) and had on-hand a cash balance of \$26.98 million (+\$3.17 million).
- The cash balance may be used for the procurement, maintenance, operating and repair of computer and other instructional technology (hardware and software), including supplies and materials for operations.
- Colleges are authorized to use instructional technology fee receipts to hire support positions to operate, maintain, and repair this technology.

b. Continuing Education:

- Thirty-six colleges (62%) charge a fee, an increase of two colleges from fiscal year 2015-16.
- Of the 36 colleges that charge a fee, 31 (+2) charge the \$5 per course maximum permitted, and five colleges charge up to \$3. No college charges more than the \$5 per course maximum.
- For the fiscal year, colleges expended \$81,110 (+\$1,469) and had on-hand a cash balance of \$919,737 (+\$90,917).
- The cash balance may be used for the same purposes noted for curriculum.

2. Student Activity Fees

- All 58 of the colleges charge a student activity fee during the fall and spring semesters. Fourteen (+2) colleges charged up to the \$35 maximum permitted in fiscal year 2016-17. Twenty-five colleges (-1) do not charge a fee during the summer term. No college charges more than the \$35 per academic term maximum.
- For the fiscal year, colleges expended \$10.5 million (+\$313,001) and had on-hand a cash balance of \$8.89 million (-\$75,231).
- The receipts that are collected from the fee shall be used to support student activities.
- Student activities include the Student Government Association (SGA), scholarships, student functions and events, athletics, clubs, graduation expenses, IDs, and student publications.
- Of the funds expended in fiscal year 2016-17, 28% were for student functions and events, 13% for the SGA, 29% for staff salaries, 22% for athletics, and 8% among other student purposes.

3. College Access, Parking and Security (CAPS) Fees

- Forty (+1) colleges (69%) charge a parking fee. Of the 40 colleges, three (-1) waive this fee during the summer term.
- While there is no maximum that can be charged, as State Board policy leaves this up to the local Board of Trustees, the range charged was from \$1 to \$97 per semester. The most common charges were between \$5 and \$15 per semester.

- Expenditures for the fiscal year totaled \$7.67 million (-\$815,574), and the funds balance at year-end was \$19.78 million (+\$4.26 million). Of the funds expended, Paving/Resurfacing (5%), Security (68%), Debt Service (13%) and Other (14%) were the major categories of expenditures.

4. Required Specific Fees

- Specific fees are used for the purposes for which they are charged and collected, including consumables expended in the instructional process, including tools, uniforms, lab supplies, insurance, certification/licensure fees, etc.
- In the survey, colleges were asked to provide a list of the fees and amounts collected. We did not ask for the fund balances because fund balance is rarely built on these fees, as they are spent for the immediate classes or activities offered.