



Attached Testimony for Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics

Bonnyjean Manini <bonyjean@hawaii.edu>
To: Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 4:48 PM

Aloha,

Please see my attached testimony.

Please let me know if this written testimony will be given to committee members before/during the meeting at 12:30pm on Thursday, June 6 or if I need to testify in person to ensure its inclusion in the public record and minutes.

Mahalo,
Bonnyjean Manini

 **testimonysurveyathleticsfee.pdf**
801K

LATE TESTIMONY

June 5, 2019

Aloha Chairperson Portnoy, Vice Chairperson Yuen, and Members of the BOR Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics:

This testimony is in regards to Item D: Student Athletic Fee Survey Results and Status Report on your agenda for your committee meeting on June 6 at 12:30pm.

Your attached minutes for your February 2019 meeting states, "*Committee Chair Portnoy explained that last year the committee decided to review and consider an adjustment to the student athletic fee.*" Moreover, it states, "*A collaborative survey is being developed regarding the student athletic fee.*" Today, you have a report on the survey.

If you have any plans to use this report to help guide your consideration of an adjustment to the student athletic fee, please be aware of weaknesses with the document included in your public agenda summarizing the survey results. I have been in communication with the Mānoa Institutional Research Office (MIRO) about my concerns.

The manner in which a couple of the survey questions were worded seems to have misled students into thinking that use of "the gym" otherwise known to students as the WRC or Warrior Recreation Center, is a benefit of the Athletics Fee. The WRC debt services, operational, and programmatic expenses are NOT funded by the Athletics Fee. These expenses are funded by the Campus Center Board through the Campus Center Operations & Recreation Fee.

The programs and services of the WRC are very popular with students. In looking at the current academic year (2018-19, June is not currently included), there were 394,113 entry swipes into the WRC. 334,258 entry swipes were from UHM students. Digging further into these numbers, 10,405 entry swipes were from unique UHM student users. This represents over 50% of the student body who use this service that was initiated by students for students. It is more than likely that students who use this service, especially regularly, would take a survey about it and want to keep the benefit.

It should also be noted that access to background information during the surveying process about the actual benefits of the Athletics Fee was inconsistent. In one instance it was provided as a link in an email. In another instance it was not provided at all.

I believe it is important that Regents understand that some of the data presented in the Athletics Fee report mention the gym and mention the types of classes offered in Campus Center, Hemenway Hall, and the Warrior Recreation Center with funds from the CCB. These programs and services are not funded by the Athletics Fee. I believe this is partially due the wording of the questions, lack of easy and consistent access to background information, and the natural lack of awareness of how tuition and fees are distributed to direct programs and services. Please keep this in mind as you review this report.

While CCB funded programs and services also provide opportunities in lower campus at Ching Field and Klum Gym, these are not referenced from this data or used in this report. They are also not included in the swipe data presented in my testimony.

Sincerely,



Bonnyjean Manini
Faculty Advisor to the Campus Center Board
Director, Student Involvement and Leadership Development
Interim Director, Office of Student Life and Development



LATE TESTIMONY

Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

Testimony for BOR Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics Meeting (June 6th @12:30pm)

Landon Li <landonli@hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu
Cc: Starshine Chun <chunstar@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 11:45 PM

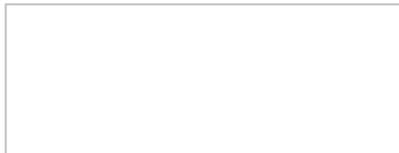
Aloha,

Attached to this email is my testimony to the BOR Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics Meeting on June 6th @12:30pm in regards to agenda item D: the student athletics survey results and report.

I will not be in physical attendance as I have work, but will try to send another representative in my stead to read the testimony aloud if this is not received in time.

Thanks,

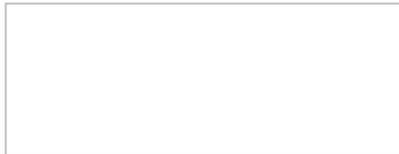
Landon Li
President, ASUH 107th Senate
[Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i \(ASUH\)](#)



B.A. Candidate in Psychology
B.A. Candidate in Quantitative Economics
B.A. Candidate in Political Science
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Thanks,

Landon Li
President, ASUH 107th Senate
[Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i \(ASUH\)](#)



B.A. Candidate in Psychology
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Testimony for BOR Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics Meeting (June 6th @12:30pm)

Landon Li <landonli@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 11:48 PM

To: bor@hawaii.edu

Cc: Starshine Chun <chunstar@hawaii.edu>

Apologies, the testimony wasn't linked but here it is:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/135FsxZnq6Ds-RNKYdWKCyN-a4pbL-Fm5N3Zg0dV9NKK>

[Quoted text hidden]

LATE TESTIMONY

June 5th, 2019

Aloha Chairperson Portnoy, Vice-Chairperson Yuen, and Members of the BOR Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics,

I am submitting testimony with comments on agenda item D: Student Athletic Fee Survey Results and Status Report for the committee meetings on June 6 at 12:30pm.

Members within the ASUH were presented the survey by UH Athletics and had concerns regarding the questions in the survey and how it was conducted. One such instance is that there is no definitive yes/no question in regards to if a student supports/opposes increased fees for athletics. Questions 4 and 5 seek to answer this issue, but they are open-ended questions that do not allow for clear determinants as to what percentage of student survey participants would want a fee increase. The survey allows for the report to highlight percentages and statistics in regards to how many students support the benefits associated with the athletics fee, but not the numbers associated in regards to increasing the fee.

The survey was originally open from April 9 - April 17, eight days, a period members of the ASUH felt was too short to allow for adequate student consultation in regards to the athletics fee. The reasoning behind this duration was that another survey was to be open in the same time frame, and they wanted to avoid clashing with the other surveys. This raised concerns from the ASUH as senators felt that this short duration coupled with desires to not conflict with another survey would not prove beneficial to ensuring a thorough representative survey.

There is also the issue of misinformation regarding what exactly this fee increase would go towards. The website containing further information on the athletics fee stated that the fee would support the student-athlete experience and not go towards faculty expenses. However, as stated in the report, many students were still unclear as to how this fee increase would be used. For instance of those who supported the benefits associated with the athletics fee, a number of survey respondents cited enthusiasm for the Warrior Recreation Center, but the WRC is not covered at all by the athletics fee. The misinformation can result in skewed results due to the lack of understanding as to what exactly the fee would go towards.

Historically, the ASUH has been in opposition to increases in the athletics fee. There is currently a draft resolution being introduced within the ASUH in regards to the most recent athletics fee survey which will fully reflect our stance on increases to the athletics fee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Landon Li". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Landon" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Li".

Landon Li
President, 107th Senate
Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i

Fwd: testimony

Daniel Flores <dfloros2@hawaii.edu>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 12:46 PM

My apologies for the late testimony.

6/6/2019

To the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii and to whom this may concern,

Since we are between General Assemblies, GSO is unable to write a formal resolution in opposition of an athletics fee increase, however as GSO President I believe I would be doing a disservice to my constituents if I did not write a response to the survey.

Before I begin with the short comings, I want to say that David Matlin reached out to GSO in the months of January and February to try and present to our organization. This was also the same time we transitioned from President Valdez to myself. Unfortunately, this communication was lost during our transition and this became a missed opportunity. I was not able to connect with David Matlin until the Friday before the survey was released. If there is blame to be had, I accept my fair share of this.

The main concerns I have, and comments that I've received, are in regards to it's wording and the graphics.

The writers of the questions seemed to make no attempt to hide their bias when writing these questions. The first two questions set the tone for the reader, but don't really provide any useful data. For example, when they ask if we think that a good athletics program, "enhances the image of the school," of course everyone wants to better the image of the school. This is a tone setting question and doesn't address what is at the heart of the survey, which is that this survey will be used to propose a fee increase.

The third question in the survey is probably the most important, but the graphic in which the information is presented obfuscates the feelings of the students at UH Manoa.

First, the graphics presented are misleading. Instead of a simple pie graph showing students who support or don't support the student fee, the creators of this graphic have split the votes up based on how the person taking the survey responded to question 2; that is by how many games they attended. The big green 60% bar that is seen in support of the student athletics fee is actually a minority of students. This is only 60% of 14% of all students surveyed, or about 187 students of the 2236 students surveyed. It is obvious that those attending events will be in favor of a student fee. However, if I were going to ask a governing body for money, it's not a very compelling argument to show a graph that says everyone from my group supports us receiving money.

The slide does mention at the bottom of the paragraph that 35 to 40% voted yes in support of the fee and 60 to 65% voted no in opposition. Whether students attend events or not, we still pay a student fee for athletics. So, unless we are planning to let students option out of paying the athletics fee based on their level of attendance to sporting events, then it doesn't make sense to break up the vote and only pay attention to votes of those attending the events.

Other questions from my constituents have been, "Where did the chart with all the schools athletics fee come from?" After someone pointed this out to me, I tried with a friend for a couple hours to find the athletics fees for UNLV, Boise State, and Colorado State to no avail. As scholars we always site our sources. I may have missed it, but I couldn't find it. The reason for this question is that some schools include access to their respective recreation centers in the athletics fee. To the best of my knowledge, our fee that gives us access to the Warrior Gym is a

separate fee. If that fee is included in other athletics fees for other universities, then this isn't really a fair comparison.

Finally, no where is it shown how this money will be spent, who will get this money. Why are we proposing a fee increase without plans on how to spend it? If there are plans, then why isn't this being shared with the larger community? Some have even come up to me and said, "There might be a good reason to increase the fee, but I wasn't given a good reason." No reasoning shows up in the survey, other than we don't pay as much as other schools. What is the athletics fee being used for now? How much goes to athletes, how much goes to faculty? How much will go to each program?

These are just a few of the concerns that have been brought to my attention. I'm sure there are more and that I'm leaving some out, but I did want to voice the concerns that many graduate students have voiced to me since the survey was released.

Thank you for your time, very Respectfully,

Daniel Flores
GSO President.