Memorandum to Presidents

Date: February 13, 1985
From: Office of the Vice Chancellor for Employee Relations and Educational Services
Subject: Referendum on Student Activity Fee
To: Presidents, State-operated Campuses

The University policy governing student activity fees requires that a referendum be held to determine whether the student activities program will be supported by either voluntary or mandatory student fees. The determination resulting from each referendum remains in force for a period of four academic years unless a subsequent referendum is held which results in a change in the determination for the remaining portion of the four-year period.

The last referenda, held in the 1980-81 academic year, determined the status of the fee through the 1984-85 academic year. Therefore, it will be necessary for each student body to hold a referendum prior to the end of the 1984-85 academic year to determine whether the fee will be voluntary or mandatory commencing with the 1985-86 academic year.

Enclosed are guidelines for the conduct of the referendum and a sample ballot. So that I can report to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees, I request that the outcome of the referendum be reported to me as soon as it has been completed. Your assistance is appreciated very much.

James S. Smoot
Vice Chancellor for Employee Relations and Educational Services

Enclosures

cc: Vice Presidents and Deans for Student Affairs
    Presidents, Campus Student Associations

Copies for information sent to:
    Presidents, Community Colleges
    Deans, Statutory Colleges
    President Coll
    Vice Provost Spencer
The referendum on student activity fees required by Resolution of the Board of Trustees should be conducted in accordance with established procedures of the campus for elections and referendums.

Special efforts should be made to assure:

1. Wide dissemination of the provisions of the policy of the Board of Trustees to inform the student body.

2. Extensive campus publicity concerning the referendum to encourage maximum student participation.

3. A polling period which will be convenient for the greatest number of voters.

4. An advantageous location of polling places to provide easy access for students.

In the event that the referendum is contested, normal campus procedures for the adjudication of such challenges should be followed.

A standardized ballot (attached) has been prepared to assure that the issue voted upon in this referendum is presented in a uniform manner throughout the University.
State University of New York

REFERENDUM ON STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES

Pursuant to Resolution 71-90 of the Board of Trustees, be it enacted:

(Vote for A or B by placing a mark in the box adjoining the letter)

☐ A  That the student activity fee* be MANDATORY for all** students.

☐ B  That the student activity fee* be VOLUNTARY for all** students.

* If a term other than "student activity fee" is used on your campus, it may be inserted in parenthesis at this point for clarification.

** Indicate on the ballot the component of the student body, as designated by the chief administrative officer, to whom the fee would apply (e.g., undergraduate, graduate).