



This message is on behalf of the University of Wisconsin Whitewater's Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee commonly referred to as SUFAC. On Tuesday, February 8, Governor Scott Walker released information regarding spending on the University of Wisconsin System. While we think it is great to hear that Wisconsin will be investing more in its Universities, we are not in agreement with the plan on Allocable Segregated Fees.

The SUFAC committee of Whitewater has spent countless hours listening to organizations present what they do with the money that is allocated to them, and then spend many more hours discussing and deciding on how much to allocate to those organizations. The reason why we explain this is to show that we have seen the tremendous impact in which Allocable Segregated Fees can have to students on our campus. We believe these fees are an absolute necessity to not only our campus, but to all other UW campuses in the state, and it would be doing a disservice to students to allow them to opt out of paying them.

Allocable Segregated Fees help fund organizations that do fantastic things for their surrounding communities. They allow students participate in community service, provide a home for veteran students on campus, allow students with disabilities to do things they love, create important leadership opportunities where students can grow as individuals, and many more important aspects of student life. Students are better able to function as an organization and create the greatest student benefit because they do not have to dedicate significant time and resources to fund raising in order to be active on campus. By having allocable Segregated Fees be something that all students pay, they are able to participate in many more organizational activities and gain valuable experience here at UW- Whitewater. Without allocable Segregated Fees, a lot of organizations would be tasked with raising the entirety of their budget, which is a large financial burden that the surrounding community and students and their families to bear. This would likely result in the eventual cessation of financial contributions from those groups, ultimately forcing the student organization to cut back on its activities and services or dissolve all together.

The requests for Allocable Segregated Fees continue to increase year after year. This does not show that these fees are getting out of hand; rather, it demonstrates that students are continuing to become more engaged on campus. By being engaged in student organizations, students are able to gain real life experiences and the opportunity to apply what they have learned in their courses. By allowing students to opt out of allocable segregated fees we will see massive declines in important campus activities that generate significant student benefit to our respective campuses. Athletes at UW- Whitewater are already burdened with fund raising, paying for their own meals while traveling, and the commitment to training and practicing in order to represent our campus the way they do. The portion of athletes on campus is too small for them to be able to adequately fund themselves to compete at the level in which they do.

Lastly, by having all full time students pay these fees, the campus is better able to utilizing these funds by providing more resources to all students than would be possible if students only had to pay fees that directly impacted what they want to do. This is a concept that is not so different from our government. If everything were to operate this way, then we at UW- Whitewater would only be paying taxes that directly correlate to the area in which we live. If our government sees the value in using the money its citizens pay in order to provide resources to that of the whole state, then it is our belief that UW- System schools should be able to do the same with Allocable Segregated Fees. It is the belief of the University of Wisconsin Whitewater's Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee that, by allowing students to opt out of paying Segregated Fees, we will be doing a great disservice to our students and therefore, cannot stand behind this policy.

Kane Poad: [poadkh23@uww.edu](mailto:poadkh23@uww.edu)