Students to vote on activity fee increase

Stephen Hering  
Staff Reporter

Students may vote next week on whether to raise the student activity fee for nearly two decades for the next school year.

The Organizational Activities Fee committee consists of four students and one faculty member and is responsible for determining student activity fees. The committee is expected to present its recommendation to the Senate on Monday. It is not known if the Senate will make a decision on the fee increase next week.

"My reasoning for voting to keep the fee the same is based on its relation to inflation and student satisfaction," said Anthony Gracia, a senior in communication disorders. "It's a $0.50 increase for over 18 years."

Students may vote on the fee from Monday, March 28 to Friday, April 1. To vote on the fee increase, students must log in to their account on TrumanRentals.com and then go to "My Campus Services." The fee increase is the third consecutive year that the fee has been increased. The last increase was $0.50 in 2003-2004.

Increased fees

The first fee increase was $0.50 in 1988-1989. In 1991-1992, the fee increased to $0.72. In 1999, the fee was increased to $1.72. Since that increase, the fee has been $0.50 a year.

"The Activity Fee has always been a part of life on campus," said Gracia. "It's the $0.50 going to the Funds Allotment Committee that raises the $1.72 on the April election ballot."

"The fee is necessary for organizations on campus to receive funds for their activities," said Gracia. "This helps them to bring more people outside and variety to campus."

"The funds from the Activity Fee are used for the bulk of the remaining activities," said Gracia. "There are other ways to accomplish that goal."

"If the students don't like it, they can just sit around and not vote," said Gracia. "It's not a significant amount of money, but it's the idea that just doesn't sit well with me."

"The student voting process is class observations. The responses gathered will be used to narrow the field of candidates to five. The five nominees will then present their positions to the campus community, and the students will vote for one. The five will be selected by the campus community, and the student who receives the most votes will be selected as the dean of student services."