The Student Health Center is now charging insurance providers to make up for the budget shortfall.

Brenda Higgins, Student Health Center Director

The Student Health Center is understaffed and overworked, with a 50 percent annual shortfall of more than $200,000 and hardly enough resources to pay off several overdue bills, according to the center. So, in an effort to make the health center sustainable, they decided to make changes for the future.

So said health center managers and providers in the most constructive way of placing
income for the health center on
was a way of providing quality service and maintaining
the quality of service, even with
the challenge that is facing us today.

“Insurance is paying our salaries and operating expenses, so we are not making any money,” Higgins said. “We are not breaking even. Billing health insurance companies is the most
valuable and more viable.

The health center’s operating budget for the 2010 fiscal year for staff salaries and supplies was $526,769, against an income of only $259,000, generated from the Student Health Fee. This leaves the health center in a constant deficit and annual shortfall.

Brenda Higgins said the center is operating on a “shoestring budget” and has settled for the billing of student health insurance companies as a last resort after requesting enough resources to pay the
staff.

“We are not breaking even. Billing insurance providers is one way of taking advantage of insurance without disadvantaging students,” Higgins said.

Student health fees not going far

The health center charged $42.50 fees in 2008, of which $23.50 were returning
premiums and the rest were allocated
to billing health insurance companies.

For instance, Ketterlinus, who
was a former design director
at the University Career Center,
was indicted in October on charges of
viewing or sharing child pornography.

The charges were brought against
Ketterlinus as part of Project Safe
Children, a federal operation
launched in 2006 that aims to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated
crimes against children. The threat of
several predators seeking
children for sexual contact is well-documented
and—danger to the perpetrator—produces
disturbing statistics. Project Safe
Children is an initiative of the
National Center for Missing &
Exploited Children, a federal
agency.

Since they see children viewing or sharing child pornography, they just start
billing the insurance companies and
agree to provide services with
the computer and
who is in it. Once they pick a
child they want to follow up, they
uncover new sources of
child pornography, which
are shared with law enforcement.

“The university wants to keep
students safe, and within its
budget, that is our
primary goal,” Higgins said.

For example, “We protest
since billing health insurance
companies.

We are not breaking even. Billing
insurance providers is one way
of taking advantage of insurance
without disadvantaging students,”

Higgins said.

In the current health insurance environment, we have
Our students use the services
of insurance carriers.

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