

TO: Abby Jurgensmeier, Chair, Cohen Honors College Student Council
Douglas Parham, Chair, Cohen Honors College Faculty Council

FROM: Kimberly Engber, Dean, The Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College

RE: College Expansion and Student Fees proposal

DATE: November 9, 2018

Whereas the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College seeks to make a positive impact on our campus and create a strong student and faculty community, has grown to 620 students in Fall 2018, and

Whereas the number of graduates increased to 61 students for academic year 2017-18, and

Whereas our service to students who are not college members has increased through service-learning and leadership courses, undergraduate research and creative activity grants, and support for faculty development of high-impact practices including the new first-year research experience program, and

Whereas a combination of university funds and foundation funds supports scholarships for Honors student tuition and enhancement activities and, through a new gift pledge and new grant funding, support has increased for Honors students with financial need or who are members of minority groups underrepresented in higher education in Kansas, and

Whereas the Cohen Honors College Student Council identified in fall 2017 the need for a front door facing the academic buildings and open to the campus to create more accessibility and visibility, for more study space and a dedicated classroom, and

Whereas the college seeks to partner with the University and Foundation to ensure facilities and technology that meet the needs and aspirations of our students and faculty,

I propose to institute a \$50 fee per semester for all students who are members of the Cohen Honors College. This will fee be a program fee beginning in fall 2019. The fee will be in effect for five years and will be matched by university funds to pay back a loan from the WSU Foundation that will allow the college to expand its current space in Shocker Hall with an anticipated completion of construction by the beginning of the fall 2019 semester. Any fees collected in excess of the repayment required for the loan will be used to upgrade technology and support student events and programming, with spending to be determined by the Dean in consultation with the Cohen Honors College Student Council. By the end of the spring 2023 semester, the current Dean will report on all expenditures covered by the student fees and consult with the Cohen Honors College Student Council before determining whether or not to continue the fee.

I seek the endorsement of the Cohen Honors College Student Council for this fee proposal and terms by quorum vote. In addition, I seek review and comments from the Cohen Honors College Faculty Council. I ask each chair to submit a copy of council minutes including a record of any vote to be submitted into the college records.