



# **WILDCAT ATHLETICS**

## **AN ERA OF CHAMPIONS – THANKS TO YOU**

CWU has enjoyed great success since advancing from NAIA to NCAA Division II athletics. The football team has won several GNAC championships, enjoys the second-best win-loss record of any football-playing institution in the state of Washington over the past five years, and last year reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II playoffs, garnering national media coverage. The men's basketball team has reached the NCAA Division II West Region Championship five times in the last ten years, including twice in the last three years. The volleyball team continually ranks among the top of the GNAC, completing an undefeated regular season in 2004. And several track stars such as runner Katie Hummel and throwers Krissy Tandle and Cameron Neel have achieved All-American status.

In addition to these great athletic accomplishments, CWU's student-athletes continually rank among the top of the conference and the region with academic accolades.

***These great accomplishments give CWU a better name, a name which CWU students and alumni can be proud of, and they occurred in large part because of CWU students and the student athletic fee.***

In the largest voter turn out for an ASCWU-BOD election and vote on a referendum, students during the winter quarter of 1997 voted 3:1 to initiate a student athletic fee of \$35 per quarter. The approved fee has provided the athletic department with necessary funds to keep these great programs operational.

## **FACING THE FUTURE – A DAUNTING TASK**

The problem is \$35 doesn't buy as much in 2008 as it did in 1997. The cost of tuition, travel, and insurance has increased dramatically during the last ten years, but the student athletic fee has remained at \$35. The athletic department is strained trying to address today's expenses using yesterday's revenue.

## **LET'S KEEP IT ROLLIN'**

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee acknowledges this discrepancy and is sponsoring a proposal to increase the student athletic fee \$18, from \$35 to \$53 per quarter, along with indexing that allows for an athletic fee increase to follow environmental increases.

## **WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

In return for the fee, CWU students will continue to be offered free admission into all CWU intercollegiate athletics events.

In addition, these fees will help the athletic department continue to deliver successful intercollegiate athletic programs. It has long been recognized that successful athletic programs bring additional awareness and improved perception to a university, engender a higher sense of pride among current students and alumni, and can even influence admission rates. CWU is no exception. CWU students and alumni desire to speak of CWU's excellence, both academically and athletically. This fee increase allows CWU's athletic programs to compete at the highest levels of intercollegiate sports.

## **Potential Questions Students May Have About This Initiative**

### **What is the athletic fee?**

In the largest voter turnout for an ASCWU-BOD election and vote on a referendum, students during the winter quarter of 1997 voted 3:1 to initiate a student athletic fee of \$35 per quarter. The approved fee provides the athletic department with necessary funds for operational and scholarship needs. The athletic fee does not provide for salary increases.

### **How did it all start?**

During the winter quarter of 1997, a student athletic committee recommended the establishment of a mandatory fee, which all students at the Ellensburg campus would pay. Approximately 1,500 signatures were obtained from students in order to place a referendum in front of the entire student body to determine whether a mandatory quarterly fee would be implemented.

In the largest voter turnout for an ASCWU-BOD election and vote on a referendum, students voted 3:1 to tax them in order to ensure that the same level of athletic opportunities, which currently existed on campus, would be maintained. The referendum vote was forwarded to the Central Washington University Board of Trustees which voted to approve implementation of a mandatory fee of \$35 per quarter for all students.

### **What does the current athletic fee cost students?**

Ellensburg students currently pay a fee of \$35 per quarter.

### **How much would the athletic fee increase?**

The student athletic advisory committee is proposing an \$18 quarterly increase, raising the fee from \$35 to \$53 per quarter. We will also be indexing this fee at a rate 5 percent per year.

### **Why the increase?**

In simple terms, everything has gone up since 1997.

While the student athletic fee has been tremendously helpful during the last ten years, the language in the original fee proposal did not account for cost of living

increases and the declining value of the dollar. Travel expenses, scholarships, even insurance prices are dauntingly higher today than in 1997, yet the athletic department is receiving the same revenue from the student athletic fee.

In order to address these increasing financial burdens, the student athletic fee needs to be adjusted.

### **Where does the money go?**

Student athletic fee money helps the athletic department cover operational expenses. While this money does not go specifically toward scholarship, it will allow for other fundraising money, previously spent on operational expenses, to be allocated for scholarship.

### **If the athletic fee is increased, what benefits could students expect?**

In return for the fee, CWU students are offered continued free admission into all CWU intercollegiate athletics events.

In addition, these fees will help the athletic department continue to deliver successful intercollegiate athletic programs. It has long been recognized that successful athletic programs bring additional awareness and improved perception to a university, engender a higher sense of pride among current students and alumni, and can even influence admission rates. CWU is no exception. CWU students and alumni desire to speak of CWU's excellence, both academically and athletically. This fee increase allows CWU's athletic programs to compete at the highest levels of intercollegiate sports.

### **When was the last increase?**

There has not been a fee increase since its inception.

### **What happens if the fee doesn't change?**

If this fee increase is not approved, the athletic department will have to make some tough decisions such as requiring admission into games, perhaps eliminating additional programs and making further budget cuts, all of which would cause CWU to lose its competitive edge.