February __, 2013

Dear Students,

The Student Government Association (SGA) is charged with seeking ways to improve student life at Reinhardt University. All of SGA’s efforts work toward one goal - providing students with an engaging, entertaining and enlightening atmosphere of living and learning.

With this ultimate goal in mind, SGA is in the process of considering adding a referendum to the Spring SGA Election that would, if passed by the student body, increase the Student Activities Fee from $50 to $100 per semester (a $50 per semester increase). Please note: that all main campus full-time traditional students pay the Student Activities Fee.

The SGA feels that the proposed increase in the Student Activities Fee will benefit the entire student body by being able to provide the additional funds necessary to improve entertainment, recreational and educational programming. Moreover, the SGA feels that the additional funding provided by the increased fee would help to create a more appealing campus life for current as well as prospective students, which would result in increased admission and retention rates.

The remainder of this email will outline the reasoning behind the proposed fee increase.

Introduced in fall 2006, the Student Activities Fee was instituted by the Student Government Association through a referendum vote by the student body as a means to provide additional funding for student initiatives, programs, projects and services. The fee is directed for the use of the SGA in its efforts to directly benefit students.

Since the fee was established 7 years ago, it has not been increased and after careful evaluation of the current level of the fee as well as how the fee is currently allocated, the SGA feels the amount of the fee is inadequate. The current fee does not provide the level of funding necessary to support and enhance existing programs, nor is it able to support the creation of new programs, etc that are in demand by the student body.

Compared to other small private universities in the state of Georgia, Reinhardt has one of the lowest student activity fees. Examples of fees of other institutions are as follows: Berry College-$75 a semester, Shorter-$90 a semester, Agnes Scott-$107.50 a semester, and Mercer-$125 a semester. In order to achieve programming at the level of these universities, we must be able to provide the same amount of funding.

In order for this increase to occur, your student advocacy is imperative. Voice your opinion about this issue to other students and your Student Senate. We encourage all students to attend our next two Student Senate meetings which will be at 3:30 PM on February 12th and February 26th in the Bannister Glasshouse.

On February 26th, the Student Senate will put this proposal to a vote. If the proposal passes by a 2/3 vote of the members of the Student Senate, it will then go on the ballot as a referendum for the student body to vote on during the SGA Spring Elections in early April. If the student body
approves this referendum with the majority support of the participating voters, the SGA will bring forward the proposal to the University’s Board of Trustees for final approval. The proposed increase in the Student Activities Fee is expected to take effect for the Fall 2013 semester.

Feel free to contact the Student Government Association if you have any more questions or concerns regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Virginia Hutton, President
Student Government Association