

Dear Highlanders,

2/20/2018

I wanted to take a moment to address the status of the HEAT Music Festival. Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to sponsor HEAT due to a reduction in the Commons Fee triggered by the debt retirement associated with the “Commons/Recreation Facilities Expansion Referendum” of 1988. Per the 1988 Referendum, once the debt was retired the fee would be reduced to an amount sufficient to cover the operation/maintenance costs and an appropriate reserve fund for the facilities.

I know this is disappointing news for many of you. HEAT’s inception was revolutionary and was created at a time when students were looking for a more vibrant and exciting campus atmosphere. Soon after HEAT began, the Associated Students Program Board (ASPB) started expanding their programming, drawing larger acts to campus and developing more concert traditions like Block Party, Winter SOULstice and Spring Splash. HEAT accomplished its mission to create the UCR concert scene that is present today. I wish to thank the many students, staff, and administrators who worked tirelessly on HEAT over the last ten years.

Starting in Winter 2018, the Commons Fee went from \$110 to \$90. The \$90 Commons Fee is associated with the active 2001 HUB Referendum. This change resulted in a \$1.3 million dollar loss in our operating budget. In order to preserve our ability to maintain operations, we had to reduce costs in a variety of ways, including professional staffing, programming, and capital projects.

The discussion regarding the change in the Commons Fee began at the June 2016 Highlander Union Building (HUB) Governing Board meeting and was known throughout the 2016/2017 budget process. On March 22nd, 2017, the approved HUB budget noted the reduced Commons Fee. While the HUB Budget did document the inability to fund HEAT in the future, I restated to the board at the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting that we would no longer be able to fund HEAT.

In the meantime, we’ve been busy working on improvements to the building and its operations, increasing the available resources, programs, and services available to you. We’ve expanded our weekday hours, formally opened the building on weekends, eliminated most HUB event fees, initiated capital building improvements in Costo Hall, and hired more student employees.

We’ve got a lot more to do. I’m looking forward to working with the HUB Governing Board on the future of the HUB.

Sincerely,



Brendan O’Brien  
Director, Highlander Union Building