June 28, 2010

Dear Mississippi State University Parent/Student,

For many years Mississippi State has accepted credit cards and debit cards for payment of student fees and paid the processing charges imposed by the credit card companies on those transactions. As the use of credit and debit cards has become more prevalent, these charges have become prohibitively expensive, especially in light of the current economic environment and ongoing budget constraints.

As a service to students and their families, we will continue to accept credit and debit cards for payments of tuition, room and board, and other student account balances. However, the university can no longer afford to absorb the additional costs associated with these transactions. Beginning August 1, 2010 the university will implement a convenience fee program designed to minimize these costs. This program will encompass the following:

1. A fee of 2.70% will be added to all credit and debit card payments to offset the processing fee the university must pay to the credit card company. The 2.70% convenience fee will show up as a separate charge on the cardholder’s credit card billing statement.

2. MSU will no longer accept Visa for student account payments, because Visa does not allow a processing fee to be passed on to the cardholder. MasterCard, American Express, and Discover cards will continue to be accepted.

It is important to note that student account payments made by paper check or electronic check (eCheck) will not incur the convenience fee.

1. eChecks directly debit your bank account and may be processed online using the QuikPay system at https://quikpayasp.com/msstate/studentaccounts/authorized.do

2. Paper checks may be mailed to MSU Account Services, P.O. Box 5328, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Please be sure to include the student MSU NetID on the check.

The savings realized from the convenience fee program will be used to support the academic mission of the university and help ensure the quality of the educational experience for our students. If you have questions about the convenience fee program or any of the payment options available, please visit the Account Services website at http://www.controller.msstate.edu/sas/ or call 662-325-2071.

Sincerely,

Kevin Edelblute
Controller & Treasurer