

Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF) Meeting
November 20, 2015
Memorial Union, MU II
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

- I. Call to Order 11:33 am (Vidur)
- II. CEI Presentation – ICA (Teresa Gould)
 - Gave PPT presentation, which is in the Meeting Resources section of the COSAF site. Some highlights or additional information are noted below.
 - Reviewed some overall info
 - Important to note that the athletes' academic preparedness and performance are very different from many other D-1 schools, and we should be proud.
 - Their averages are just about the same as the student population overall
 - All CEI fees go toward financial aid for athletes
 - It was meant to fully fund to the maximum allowed by NCAA, but they are not currently funded to the max
 - We are in compliance with Title 9 (re: awards to women and men)
 - The budget increase for 2015-16 is due to enrollment growth
 - Often up to 1/3 of scholarship budgeted does not get spent due to things like coach turnover leading to later recruitment of athletes, or athletes who decide not to participate part way through the year.
 - Likely won't spend all of what is budgeted this year either
 - There is no reserve because of the gap between the received fees and what is budgeted
 - If there is no CPI increase, the department will work to increase self-generated revenues (e.g. ticket sales, donors, etc.) and seek more institutional support
 - Note that this is the most mission-focused fee we have and is the reason we have these 600 athletes
 - Q: Some of these students must be qualified for other grants and scholarships. Is that taken into account when making awards?
 - Yes, the department works closely with Financial Aid before making any award.
 - Q: In-state tuition is currently frozen, but not out-of-state. Is that taken into account?
 - Yes
 - Q: Do other campuses fund scholarships through student fees?
 - (Mike B) It is more commonly done via institutional support. Students here voted to do it this way.
 - Q: What are the benefits of the program?
 - Adds diversity
 - Adds visibility/exposure
 - Allows for including students who are specifically gifted in this arena, just as some are in music, art, etc.
 - It is a vehicle for Aggie Pride
 - The community service part of it is huge
 - Q: What are the self-generated revenues?
 - Philanthropy
 - Ticket sales
 - Apparel sales
 - Corporate sponsorships
 - Q: Have you been successful there?

- \$400,000 and 7-8% in non-cash donations
 - Vidur ended the discussion due to time constraints. Further questions can be sent to him and Naftali
- III. Review of the Process for Creating a Student Fee Initiative (John Campbell)
- John Campbell introduced this portion of the meeting with a review of the action steps involved in creating a new student fee, which, if voted in, becomes mandatory. Hard copies of the document were distributed. Guide is also on the COSAF site.
 - COSAF sees the proposals in two parts
 - First they see the initial proposal, hear the students' information, ask questions and give input
 - Then the students create the official proposal, which goes to the Vice Chancellor and Campus Counsel and then has to get signatures.
 - After that part of the process is completed, the proposal goes back to COSAF to review and make a recommendation to the Vice Chancellor, who, if in agreement, would then take it to the Chancellor.
 - Today, COSAF has on the agenda to hear the early stage of 2 student fee initiative proposals
- IV. TGIF Student Fee Initiative Proposal Review (Shaina Forsman & Hannah Ulansey)
- Proposal and bylaws were provided, and an updated proposal then handed out
 - This would be to support and invigorate the existing campus green initiatives
 - Campus 2020 goals are creeping up
 - On other campuses, this fee exists and is used by a wide variety of clubs for green events, etc.
 - Is active at 6 other UCs
 - First was at UCSB in 2006
 - There are similar programs on over 100 campuses
 - It would not be just for sustainability groups, but also for other groups to put on green events and make facility improvements
 - The updated proposal has a sunset clause added – ending after 2021, but open for reevaluation after that
 - The fee committee would vote and allocate grants of varying sizes
 - Student education coordinator to budget funds
 - There would be mandated reports for any group receiving funds
 - They are asking for info for any adjustments to be made before moving forward with the proposal
 - They will be advocating for the initiative in winter quarter
 - For all clubs, not just eco-network of clubs
 - Need 2,260 signatures, which will jumpstart the campaigning process
 - They are getting strategies from Berkeley and UCSB regarding what worked and what didn't
 - Q: Will grad students pay this fee?
 - No, but will have a non-voting representative
 - There was discussion of where this would be appropriately housed.
 - Probably with Associated Students
 - Q: Of the other campuses who've had success with this, where is it housed?
 1. Mostly under AS, which promotes more student support
 - Q: How will groups be held accountable for any grant they get
 - Mandated report

- Part of the fund coordinator's responsibility to follow-up
- Q: What are some examples of projects you'd see funding?
 - A class in sustainable living practices was cut. They'd like to see it back.
 - Sustainable dining services: reducing packaging, bulk bins, composting, etc.
 - Reaching out to organizations with more specific project ideas
- Q: What if the organization under which it is housed wants a project grant?
 - There is a conflict of interest clause and provision for that
- Q: How would grant requests be prioritized?
 - Depends on how it's presented
 - Also have an assessment guide
- Q: What are the motivations for wanting to house it under AS?
 - More student involvement
 - AAC's often have less student involvement (though clearly not true of COSAF!)
- Q: How did you come up with the \$3 amount?
 - Compared to other campus averages – average is \$4.50, but hesitate to make it higher
 - Trying to be realistic
- Q: Can anyone bring a proposal to the committee
 - Yes, any campus departments or organizations can, but the event or project must have significant undergrad involvement
- Questions regarding budget numbers were clarified – determined designations re: quarterly or annual numbers need to be corrected or made clear
- Q: Is there any quota for use of funds?
 - No
 - Q: If there are any reserves left when the fee ends, will they just be eaten up by the paid positions?
 1. There is provision for review of the fee and possible continuance
- Emily P suggested that a concerted effort should be made to reach out to ALL constituencies, so the program can resonate with those communities
 - (Mariah) Needs to be articulated in the bill
- There was discussion of who will oversee the use of this fee
 - COSAF is responsible to oversee all CBFs (except Health Care one)
- Discussion was ended by Vidur due to time constraints. Any additional questions should be sent to him and Naftali.

V. California Aggie Student Fee Initiative Proposal Review (Scott Dresser, editor-in-chief of the Aggie)

- Some history
 - The Aggie has existed since 1915, so this is the 100th anniversary
 - It is the only journalism opportunity on campus for aspiring editors, journalists, photographers, graphic designers, sales careers
 - Not accepting funding from any particular source allows for unbiased reporting
 - ASUCD provides for support services for the Aggie, and could simply cut them because currently it is just a drain on funds. The Aggie advertising revenue is no longer sustainable
- Students are in favor of saving the Aggie
- Proposed fee would be \$3.74, 3x/year
 - \$2.99 to the Aggie
 - \$0.75 RTA
 - 5 yr. sunset clause

- Allowing for referendum before sunset clause to adjust amount
- Fee income would be ~\$250,000 annually
 - \$80,000 for office expenses
 - Would allow for printed issue once/week
 - We are the only UC campus without a printed newspaper
 - Would provide 8,000 copies at 25 distribution points
 - Focus on “news you can use” or human interest
 - Would provide publicity for student resources
 - Would more actively hand out copies, not just place in bins
 - Staff used to be paid, but have been volunteer the past 2 years
 - Want to return to paid positions, which would mean ~\$88,800 for 80 part time staff
 - The Aggie has lost a lot of the talent of people who can’t afford to work unpaid.
 - Recharge fees, paid by ASUCD, are things they can’t opt out of - \$12,000/yr. for things like having a campus website, accounting functions, etc.
 - Debt has added up with no print income
 - Fee would allow for debt repayment and free up daily operations
 - Would pay one full-time staffer - \$65,000 – who could consistently oversee expenses
 - We are the only non-funded UC paper without a referendum in place
 - Having money would allow for making money, and the money received would allow for advertising, merchandise sales and an expanded media production, e.g. sponsored videos, snapchat, etc.
 - Would also build a reserve to allow for buying computers, etc.
 - Possibly have a grad student advertiser on commission
- Q: What is your current revenue?
 - There is none
- Q: Why did you stop printing if it brought in revenue?
 - It didn’t bring in enough – only covered the cost of the printing itself
- Q: Why will the proposed model work this time?
 - [was discussed – multi-faceted approach]
- Q: Your site says you get no money from ASUCD, so why are you getting money from them
 - (Mariah) ASUCD is committed to providing the infrastructure for the Aggie, which has associated costs, so it is in the ASUCD budget for assessed fees, etc., but is not something paid to the Aggie
- Q: Have you investigated other schools and how many papers are printed?
 - Yes, for instance they’ve talked to Berkeley and they have a DAILY paper
- Q: So all campuses have had success with printed copies?
 - Yes
- Q: Why should students pay a fee to pay back a debt?
 - Agree, it’s not ideal, but the debt has to be dealt with
- Q: Can you put debt-repayment on a referendum or ballot initiative?
 - JC – Would have to check with Campus Counsel
- Q: Regarding governance?
 - Media board as oversight? Conflict of interest?
 1. They are non-voting
 - Editor-in-chief controls the budget, and Media Board, an AAC, okays it?
 1. Current ballot says COSAF to approve CPI changes
- Q: Doesn’t COSAF see all Student Fees?

- JC – yes, all except the Health Services Fee, and as ADVISORY to the chancellor
 - Q: If ASUCD has to approve your budget, how are you considered financially independent?
 - (Mariah) ASUCD does not control it. They can accept or deny a budget. If it's denied, then it would be back to the Media Board to re-do it for AS to look at again.
 - It is a sort of weird process. They are looking into it.
 - Q: Is the Media Board actually an AAC?
 - Greg O – Yes
 - Vidur asked for any final words or questions on this
 - Scott Dresser asked that the student voice please be heard on this topic
- VI. CEI Presentation, SSC – was scheduled but was pushed to the next meeting due to lack of time
- VII. Meeting adjourned 1:03 pm