

Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF) Meeting

October 7, 2016

Memorial Union, MU Garrison

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

I. Call to Order (Madeline Garcia & Briar Tanner) 11:30 am

- Welcome and introductions of all meeting attendees

II. COSAF Participation in the SHIP committee (Nathan Sy)

- Last year Nathan served on both the SHIP (Student Health Insurance Program) and HFOC (Health Fee Oversight Committee) committees.
- He will continue as the SHIP representative but would like another member to attend the HFOC meetings.
- HFOC will start their meetings in November, and usually have 2-3 per quarter.
- This representative ...
 - Will report back at the regular COSAF meetings
 - Is a voting member of HFOC
- If interested, let Madeline know

III. SASI Orientation (Jason Lorgan)

- References handout. Reminder that this is a summary, for further detailed information visit the COSAF website.
- Handout:

“SASI Orientation:

In the early 1990s, the State of California was affected by a very poor economic climate which resulted in drastic budget reductions to Higher Education. Budgets were reduced across the board by varying amounts. Some programs had their budgets reduced by 100%. These reductions had a severe impact on Athletics, Recreational Sports and Recreation Services. To respond, Associated Students sponsored a referendum in 1993, called the Student Services Maintenance Fee, which created a \$34 per quarter fee and was approved by 66% of the vote. The fee was considered temporary and was set to sunset in 1996.

A year after the Student Services Maintenance Fee was established, a special election was held in 1994 to seek continuation of the existing fee and approval of an additional fee to maintain certain student services. Students were given two choices of fee levels, both of which contained a provision to consider adjusting the fee due to inflation. The third choice was for no fee.

The first option passed by 52% which extended the SSMF indefinitely and add \$34 per quarter as the Student Activities and Services Initiative or SASI.

The Student Services Maintenance Fees supported ICA, Intramurals and Sport Clubs, Recreation Programs, the Rec Hall (now known as the Pavilion), the Equestrian Center, Cross Cultural Center, Women’s Resources and Research Center and Student Health Services. The SASI initiative added additional fee revenue to ICA, IM Sports and Sport Clubs and Recreation Programs and redirected the Student Health fee to ICA. This fee only applies to undergraduates.

In 1996, CURB, which was deemed the oversight board, which has now morphed into COSAF, mandated an operational reserve to be no lower than 3% of the total SASI fee allocation. This reserve was meant to protect the programs against inflationary pressures not accounted for by the CPI adjustment. This operational reserve requirement is a unique feature of SASI compared to most other fees.

The Return to Aid requirement was not in place during the period in which the SSMF and SASI were created.”

- (MG) Reminder, COSAF oversees this fee
- (JL) SASI does not have a Return to Aid requirement, however, all new fees do

- (JL) Go to the COSAF website to review the original ballot for more information

IV. SASI Fee Summary (Lucy Schmidl)

- (LS) Reviews the *Campus Based Student Fee Overview* spreadsheet
- (LS) Reviews the *SASI Fee Financial Summary* handout
 - SASI ...
 - Is only paid by undergraduates
 - Is subject to CPI
 - Has no Return to Aid
 - Total fee is \$343.86 per student/per year
 - Includes interest
 - Salaries & Benefits includes staff development
 - The majority of the Campus Recreation percentage is used for Intramural sports
 - Q. (MG) How were the percentages decided? A. (JL) It was part of the original referendum – see COSAF website. The vote created the percentages.
 - Q. (Aaron Zheng) Where does the operational cost come from? A. (LS) it comes from the reserves. (AZ) Is it distributed by percentage? (LS) Yes.
 - (JL) This data will make more sense when we are looking at the template

V. Template Introduction (BT)

- References template handout
- Different units will come to present. The template will give us a base of information and will help them to be prepared.
- (MG) The template is a working document. Let her know if we want to make any adjustments to it
- (JL) The template was piloted last spring. The “reserves” is a good area to question. What is the purpose of the reserve? Is the intended use appropriate?
- Q. (Steve Ilagan) Does each unit within SASI fill this out? A. (JL) Yes, in advance, and emailed to the COSAF members ahead of time, so that you can think about what your questions might be
- (JL) Luci will help the departments to complete their template

VI. New Fee Initiative Summary (MG)

- Reminder, this is a summary only. See COSAF website for more details
- Reads handout:

“New Fee Initiatives Summary:

(more detail is available at cosaf.ucdavis.edu)

- Compulsory campus based fees are levied at individual campuses and they must be paid by all registered students to which the fee applies.
- The vast majority of the time, these fees are established, increased or renewed following a student vote.
- It is important to note that all campus based fees are advisory to the Chancellor. If the Chancellor embraces the fee, the fee is still subject to final approval by the President of the UC System, or UCOP. The President has final approval under the authority delegated by the Regents.

Timeline for New Fee Initiatives:

- Voting on a new fee takes place at the same time as the ASUCD Winter elections, therefore all timelines are suggested in order to meet the February election
- Proposal Development Phase- create written proposal and develop ballot language
 - It is recommended that the following resources are consulted with during the development phase:
 - Student Affairs Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Life (Milt Lang)
 - Student Affairs Associate Vice Chancellor of Divisional Resources (John Campbell)

- ASUCD Business Manager (Janice Corbett)
 - Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF)- the generally recognized student committee for fee oversight
 - Final Language is submitted to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs (Adela de la Torre)
 - Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs will work with the Budget Office, Campus Counsel and UCOP Student Affairs to ensure consistency with law and university policy
- Fall Quarter- this is a critical quarter in which approvals are received to be able to put an initiative out for a student vote during winter quarter
 - During Fall Quarter, referendum sponsors will meet with COSAF and present a draft of the ballot language and accompanying materials in order to collect comments and possible edits to ballot language
 - Once ballot language is approved by UCOP, referendum sponsors will conduct a petition for signatures by the student body. Signatures will be collected from at least 8% of the undergraduate students and 8% of the graduate students for fees affecting each respective student bodies.
 - After meeting the necessary requirements for approval by petition, referendum sponsors will present the documents to the co-chairs of the Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF) to request COSAF’s review and endorsement. The COSAF co-chairs will then issue the Council’s endorsement and comments in writing to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
- Winter Quarter- vote takes place as part of ASUCD elections
 - Voter turnout must equal 20% of the eligible voting population as provided by the Registrars office
 - If 20% is not met, the fees proposed will be considered null and void
 - 60% of the vote must be achieved for ballot measures
 - If passed, the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs will forward to the Chancellor and Budget Office, who will in turn submit to UC Office of the President for review and approval.”
- (MG) Last year we had 2 new fee initiatives come to COSAF. We had to be sure it made sense, reviewing the Return to Aid, etc... .
- Q. (Greg Ortiz) Can you explain to the group why we have this process? A. (John Campbell) COSAF has a very important role. We have the ability to recommend or not recommend a referendum to Adela, and she wants to know why, before taking it to the Chancellor. She wants to know if the students want this fee or not. COSAF’S responsibility is very significant.
- (JL) The reason why 60% of the students need to vote in favor is because they are essentially being “taxed.”
- Q. (MG) Has UCOP ever denied a referendum? A. (JC) They do question a lot, and have created many more steps in the process. UCOP is becoming much more active in reviewing fees, UC wide. Bundling fees cannot happen any more.
- (BT) Reminder that we are not judging, but asking questions.
- (JC) Keep personal feelings out. We are tasked an opportunity for students to decide.
- (JL) Analogy using the Supreme Court. Our job is to be sure policies and process were done currently.
- (JC) When fees are passed, the students own them as an investment, that will continue to increase. Are the students ready for that kind of investment?
- Q. (Alex Lee) Is the sunset clause required? A. (MG) It is highly recommended.
- Q. (AL) Can we remove a fee? A. (MG) Yes, but it will need to go through the same process as a referendum.

VII. Voting Process (BT)

- Reads handout:

“Voting Process:

- Votes to approve CPI adjustments on Campus Based Fees must pass by 66% (rounded to the nearest number), with the exception of LEAAP.
- Voting will take place using anonymous paper ballots.
- Votes on issues other than fee adjustments will pass with a simple majority.
- A quorum of (50% of voting members rounded up) must be present for the committee to vote.
- Members with an excused absence may submit an absentee ballot, but absentee ballots will only be counted if a physical quorum is present at the meeting when the vote takes place.
- Only voting members representing student associations may vote by proxy at the meeting. These include the President of ASUCD or his/her designee, the GSA appointed representative, and LSA appointed representative.
- All voting members, including chairs, will vote on all CPI increases with the exception of the FACE/LEAAP fees.
- When the CPI adjustment for the FACE/LEAAP fees come to the Council for a vote, the LSA representative (and any other voting members who are law students) will only vote on the LEAAP CPI, and not the FACE CPI.
- The remainder of the Council will vote on the FACE CPI, but not the LEAAP CPI. The results of both votes will be forwarded to the Vice Chancellor in an advisory letter.”
- (BT) Some of our COSAF members are returning from last year, but some are new like myself. So don't be afraid to ask questions
- Q. (AL) Can we send questions via email? A. (BT) Yes
- (BT) Excited that we all will have this learning experience together

VIII. Updates

- (JL) COSAF bylaws can be changed by this body. We will be gathering input during spring quarter, when we review the year. COSAF is only 2 years old and it is perfectly appropriate to give input on changes. Members will vote on any bylaw changes
- (Lorna Gill) The COSAF member that volunteers to serve on the HFOC committee will be paid for their time attending the meetings.
 - Jessica Sandoval volunteered. She is currently studying Public Health.
 - Madeline will let Nathan know
 - Sheila will need to know the dates

Meeting adjourned 12:45 pm