

Tuition & Fee Advisory Taskforce (T&FAT)
Student Fee Advisory Subcommittee (SFAS)
Minutes September 5, 2014 Meeting

Attendees: Shelby Dawkins, Chris Payne, Joshua Aristy, Tammy Cox, Barron Matherly, Tabatha Turner, Meredith Weiss, Matt Brody, Autumn McClellan, Martina Ballen, Andrew Powell, Kevin Seitz, Laurie Burroughs, Amy Singleton

1. Welcome, Opening Discussion, and Housekeeping

Kevin opened discussion by welcoming the committee and explaining protocol with regard to listening to each presentation, and then discussing amongst ourselves afterward our thoughts regarding each group's fee justification. Laurie passed around updated fee forms, and informed the group the Sonja Stone Scholar Fund was still working on documentation and verbiage... Barron spoke with the Associate Dean of Finance with the School of Dentistry who requested their presentation to SFAS be moved from September 26th to October 3rd. The committee agreed to their request and will now hear the Law Student Activity Fee and Law Student Exam fee component on October 3rd.

2. Carolina Union Operating Fee – Deferred

Several representatives from the Student Union came and presented to the group their justification for an annual increase of approximately 2.8%. The majority of their justification comes from mandatory raises in employee's salaries and subsequent anticipated health insurance costs due to the implementation of the affordable care act. In addition, the Carolina Union would still be operating with need to see a decrease in their fund balance of a projected (2-month) reserve with the University recommended operational reserve is 3-months which an increase would assist with covering. Matt recommended the group contact Ashley Nicklis in HR regarding the fact there may be additional funds available from the legislature to cover unintended cost of implementation of the AHCA. The committee requested that the Carolina Union do additional research regarding their true Affordable Healthcare costs. However, the committee agreed it would consider granting the increase giving them the ability to apply it to their fund balance. Autumn spoke for the Student Fee Audit Committee (SFAC) who acknowledged the Union's vital role with students and the importance of keeping it vital. A final decision was delayed pending the unit's discussion with HR to see if it was feasible for them to lower or shift the priorities of their fee request.

3. Tar Heel Bikes – Not Approved

A couple of students representing Tar Heel Bikes presented a proposal to the group justifying their request to increase student fees by \$6.00 to fund the extension of a student bike sharing program. Funding would provide more bikes in more locations throughout campus and major transit hubs, locks, insurance and maintenance. Autumn presented SFAC's opinion to not fund the initiative based upon insufficient data, skewed study and funding research. Ways the committee recommends they accomplish this goal is to conduct a more inclusive study, a student-ballot referendum, include open-answer survey data, explore grant-funding opportunities and provide more comprehensive information on how the program works at the schools cited that already offer a similar service. Overall consensus from the committee was to deny this fee at this time, but if feasible, would like to have them come present again mid-cycle if possible.

4. Student Transportation/Safe Ride Fee – Deferred

Several members of the Department of Public Safety came to present to the group their justification for a \$9.00 increase to student fees in support of Student Transportation/Safe Ride fee. Jeff McCracken informed the group the transportation operation budget is in year five of a five year plan that was previously approved by the former chancellor and UNC Board of Trustees. . The fee is needed to produce the revenue to fund the operational goals set forth in the 5-year plan. This fee was not approved by SFAS or T&FAT last year. SFAC recommends that SFAS not approve the fee this year. Student fees related to transportation have increased 45% since 2010. The SFAC would like to see a current audit and a long-term sustainability study regarding these increases. By not approving it this year, the fee request will likely continue to be made again, or cuts will have to be made to transportation services because this increase is part of the approved 5-year plan. A decision was delayed pending further discussion and research.

5. Other Items

The next meeting of the SFAS is scheduled for Friday, September 12, 2014 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Room 120 Vance Hall. We are scheduled to hear from representatives from the Graduate Student Programming fee, School of Public Health Graduate Fee/Health Behavior/PHD, and AHS Physician's Assistant Program.