Attendees: Tabitha Turner, Ben Albert, Brad Ives, Nikkia Sheppard Lynch, Barron Matherly, Brian Smith, Dylan Russell, Shayna Hill, Harry Edwards, Laurie Burroughs, Jonathan Engle, Marie Eszenyi and Amy Singleton (note taker)

1. Presentation on Student Organization Fee

- **History:** Student Organization fee presently gets split five ways between: student organizations, Carolina Union Activities Board, WXYC Radio, UNC Television and Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

- **Proposal:** Harry Edwards began the meeting by presenting PowerPoint slides related to a proposed increase of $10 to the Student Organization fee paid by undergraduate students, while maintaining the student organization fee paid by graduate students. Under this proposal, student government (which allocates all funds it receives to various student organizations across campus) would receive $5 additional per undergraduate student and $5 less per graduate student. The Student Activities Fund Office (SAFO) would benefit under this proposal by receiving $5 from all students; bringing the number of ways the fee gets split from five to six.

- **Justification:** The fee has not been increased in at least 13 years. However, the number of student organizations requesting funding increases each year. For example, in FY 2012, 64 percent of student organizations were able to be funded as compared to only 32 percent of requests made by organizations for funding in FY 2016. In addition, SAFO’s funding has been ‘cobbled’ together each year by allowing for reversions of unspent funds, and is presently running with a deficit budget. Additional funds would decrease their annual deficit by an estimated $70K/year. And with the additional funding, they hope to hire a permanent Cash/Payroll Manager and potential Accounts Payable Manager vital to accounting of student’s income and expenses.

- **Impact:** Undergraduate students, via an approval of the majority of the student body via a referendum (planned to be put up for a vote in November), would be required for students to see an additional $10 in their student fees annually. Student organizations would benefit by an increase in funding of approximately $150k/year, for an estimated 30 percent increase to their annual budget. SAFO would decrease their annual budget deficit, and have a substantial portion of their revenue generated from a reliable source that will assist with hiring permanent staff. Student organization’s budgets would benefit by SAFO affording to be able to give all student organizations 10 free banking transactions.

2. Discussion on Student Organization Fee

- Two main caveats of this proposal are whether or not to create entirely new fees, or for the proposed fees to be treated as separate fees by SFAS. The other main consideration is how student organizations will be funded should the student referendum not pass.

- Winston thanked Harry, and stated he is in favor of the proposal. 1) The additional funding helps both graduate and undergraduate students better establish and fund their various needs/wants. A more robust student self-governance makes perfect sense. 2) There are presently over 800 recognized student organizations that will benefit from having additional
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funding. Winston further stated should the referendum pass or fail, how the money is being accounted for and what is considered a fair and equitable split will be addressed.

- Barron stated there is a precedent for having graduate and undergraduate fees broken out separately, and expressed concern as to if the referendum is approved, if the fees (as preferred by Student Government) can/should be separated out as entirely new fees.
- Brian thanked Harry, and thought the presentation was well-presented, comprehensive and made good since. He checked with the Cashier’s Office, and determined the fees could be separated out as entirely new fees, but must show on student’s tuition statement exactly how the fees were approved for collection by the General Assembly.
- Nikkia expressed concern if the fees were spread out then it may be inadvertently ‘hemming them in’ to specific expenditures with less flexibility.
- Winston stated ultimately the Tuition and Fee Advisory Task Force (TFAT) becomes the ‘governing body’ of the various components associated with the fee stewardship.
- The SFAS approved of the proposed increase to the Student Organization Fee pending approval of the student referendum planned to be put to vote in November; well ahead of when the Board of Governors is scheduled to vote on proposed fee requests. How do we utilize student body to disseminate information about the referendum to various student entities?

3. Follow-Up Discussion on the School of Dentistry Instrument Management Fee

- The School of Dentistry (SOD) presented to the SFAC a proposal to create an “Instrument Management Fee” for graduate students in the amount of $1000. This fee is presently being charged to both DDS and Dental Hygiene students, but graduate students have previously been exempt due to the fact their clinics have historically produced more revenue. However, due to increased competition, their revenue has been declining.
- The SFAC voted by a 5-2 margin to approve the fee, but due to feeling the SOD did not adequately communicate this new fee to their students, coupled with the fact they did not obtain the appropriate level of support of their graduate students as outlined by policy, SFAS tabled discussion pending further information gathering. This new fee would presently impact 62 graduate students.
- On September 20, 2016 the SOD, per request of SFAC, met and gave a brief presentation to 10 affected graduate students outlining a summary financial report with budget and expenses and a summary report of the actual dental instruments used by SOD graduate students. Harry confirmed all of the SFAC’s questions and concerns were addressed, but there was strong feedback from affected graduate students who don’t feel this fee should be imposed upon them this year.
- Barron recommended if the committee wished to ‘grandfather’ existing students from paying the fee in FY ‘17-’18, to ask the SOD to amend and submit another fee request for FY ‘18-’19. In this way, it achieves the same desired effect of not impacting present first-year graduate students with an additional large fee they were not anticipating, and will make the fee ‘cleaner’ for the cashier’s office and other approving bodies to understand. The SFAS unanimously approved this measure. Barron stated she would ask the SOD to submit another fee from specifying this fee go into effect FY ‘18-’19
4. The next meeting of the Student Fees Advisory Subcommittee is set for Friday, September 30th from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in 120 Vance Hall.