

Student Fee Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Winter Quarter Week 10, 3/13/2020
Zoom Conference Call
2:00-4:00PM

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call
- III. Motion to approve last week's minutes
- IV. Discussion
 - A. COVID-19
 - B. Student feedback: What are student's concerns about fees and school operations?
 - Explain to people what student fees are about
 1. Not sure if they're going to be refunded to people or not
 - a) Office of the President fees
 - b) Campus fees
 - c) College fees
 - (1) Alot of those fees go to funding FTEs= can't stop paying someone once students aren't on campus for a couple of weeks
 - (a) Not as simple as they might think because there's a sense that you're not using the SHW, you shouldn't pay for them but the doctors and nurses are still working!
 2. UCOP = If tuition drops, then student fees drop? No. Times when tuition has gone up and student services fee has been flat, and vice versa = no relationship between the two besides that they are all universally charged to all students via UCOP at the same rate
 - a) If I pay for something as a ratepayer, and I don't use it I want a refund
 - (1) But as a taxpayer, where we all pay a certain amount of our income to get something from our government, we take advantage of some of those things and less advantage of other things
 - (2) In a crisis situation, everyone suffers from not getting what they paid for = doesn't mean we won't get a tax refund, even though there's going to be fixed costs associated with the fees
 - (a) From a student affairs perspective, student experience is really important to us so we don't want our student sto feel ripped off

(i) Hope that the students all recognize that this is not some sort of pre-planned effort to rip of the students

(a) All trying to manage something significant and unexpected and clearly there's gaps in emergency planning because we couldn't have possibly anticipated closing down = no one has ever seen something like this

(i) Has nothing to say about it = wanting your money back is valid and I get it but it's not his decision... let's see how it goes.

3. While it is different for every student here, doesn't mean that those resources are gone
 - a) Just because you can't have walk in advising hours, and you have to go through VAC, doesn't mean advising will disappear
 - (1) CAPS IT'S A GOOD EXAMPLE = IT'S GOING ONLINE!
 - (2) RECREATION IS ALSO TRYING VIRTUAL REC OPPORTUNITIES
 - b) Amount of resources that we fund like CAPS and OASIS, allowing these units to have time to figure out what they're going to do in this situation
 - (1) Explaining that student fees nevertheless still go to this resource
 - (a) Just allow them to transition to a different interface
 - c) Differentiate between events and crucial resources/ organizations that will be more likely to have students support it
 - (1) Reiterate that staff are still serving students! Just all through Zoom! CAMPUS IS NOT CLOSED SO EVEN THOSE CLASSES ARE GOING TO BE ONLINE, THERE'S GOING TO BE CLASSES HELD HERE= Graduate Seminars of fewer than 20 may still be in person
 - (a) Obviously reduced but all these essential services are still here= campus is not closed, HDH is still functioning, international students still have a place here, etc.
4. Approach departments and see what they can do with their money to work on things for students virtually, then we can get more information on how their funding is being spent and make sure that they're reaching out to the population they're trying or supposed to be serving

C. Don't want to take action too early before we know what's going on, don't want to leave other fees to dry while we're taking care of students. They are figuring out a way to fairly compensate students for Sun God and more information will be coming out in the next week.

1. Student services fee hasn't come up as a serious conversation yet because of other pressing matters at hand

a) Has there been talk about returning student services fees?

(1) Still uncertain...health care curve?

(a) Why we're doing social distancing

(i) Because we can't handle the capacity if and when people get sick

(a) Where our priorities lie! People should be sensitive to health rather than money

2. Andy: How long is the administration willing to keep campus offline? Because there's only 5,000 acute beds in SD county, and if we need to stretch the infection out over 9 months is the administration willing to keep campus shut down for that long? We'd be lucky to get back by fall

a) John: Not sure how long they are willing to stay in this state= as long as the situation needs but that's just a guess

D. Have a limited window in which campus is still existing in some capacity, at least through end of winter quarter we have answers, but starting in spring quarter it's up in the air and nobody is going to know what is going to happen

1. Things we can answer now and getting answers out there, and if that answers changes in two weeks then we can address it now

a) The little things now are important for students

E. SFAC's role as student leaders

GOOD FOR JOB APPLICATIONS: we're part of the solution, start to embrace that this is the challenge and use that as a springboard for personal growth and improving your alma mater for the better= there is this whole set of universities struggling in the modern age, how can we help them assimilate to electronics?

1. Great opportunity in front of you that you should utilize

Two things:

1. Understanding what resources are doing and how they are communicating with students

2. Addressing student concerns where fees go (explain that student fees go to a variety of things you might not know of, emphasize the resources that are still available like CAPS, Rec, etc.)

2. Study Abroad: cancelled their trips for the summer. Didn't collect any money from the students because of that and so we don't have to process refunds but if we did we would have returned them in full. They're going to just carry on in the sense that they're trying to make a successful study abroad for next summer! The university has asked managers to create as

much physical distance between staff and students to prolong the accelerated spread of COVID. To be effective in a virtual environment, we need to telecommunicate temporary agreements. No departments will be closed. The campus is open for business and bad to say that they are going to be working at home.

- a) Expecting that students are going to want to use REC facilities and that those environments will be naturally dispersed because less students around or if we have to put on controls= everyone is just instructed to serve students the same way as they have but trying to be physically distant as possible. Guidance applies to most of the campus.
3. We're going to be issuing a statement on where your fees go and if they can be returned
- a) Maybe wait until Monday or Tuesday before something goes out:
 - (1) This is what you pay in fees
 - (a) This is why some things aren't going to be refunded because this is what it goes toward
 - (2) The person who created the petition went to AS Exec to ask what they could do for her= we do hear what you're saying and we do understand your concerns, but this is the information that we have right now!

Arbi: want to mobilize students and allow them to dig for more information; don't want to be the end all, want to redirect the students to the best available sources= don't want to overreach; we can talk about student fees because that's within our parameters, but we don't want to talk about other things with authority that we have no proper relevance over

4. John: single source of reliable information is better
- a) HAVE VCSA COMMENT ON FEES IS GOOD BUT HAVING A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE IN MIND IS ALSO SUPER IMPORTANT
 - (1) Some students are concerned that admin don't know or care about what the students are feeling
 - (a) But SFAC needs to have outreach as well as something we endorse= this is the correct information from the perspective of students because we can relate to you
5. John: Do people care about value (experience they're getting) or do they care that their money is already spent (accounting)
- a) A.S. IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT ACCOUNTING
 - (1) This is your fee, this is what it is used for, and this is how it still exists!
 - (a) Just need someone to say why this still exists and why it is still important (generally)

- F. As long as they know they're getting SOMETHING out of it, emphasize that tuition doesn't change or fluctuate based on how many units you take; that it's fixed= highlighting examples of those= then if you're okay with this, then you should be okay with paying student fees
1. Doesn't seem like this will be a permanent thing, just for one quarter potentially= dangerous precedent if we allow them to refund now because for instance, if one of the fee-funded units got absorbed to something else then student fees should go down by x amount; as long as you get something for your dollar, regardless if it's a bargain or not, is good
 - a) Ex. Study Abroad you still have to pay certain campus based fees
 2. Ex. Transportation fee
 - a) Students were able to pay out of pocket to ride the trolley or bus, but then students thought that we should spread the cost broadly was something valuable= so popular that it passed the student vote twice pretty overwhelmingly
 - (1) Transportation fee that affords transportation= those buses are going to continue to run
 - (a) Usage data= a minority of students take full advantage of that opportunity and that kind of applies to everything
 - (i) You may not be here because you're in Germany but the buses are still going to be running
 - (a) Is that a good reason not to pay the fee? Have to look at why did the fee get passed because we want the service to be applicable and available to all students
 - (i) Here to provide the amenity, so if you use the gym multiple times a day, if you aren't using it very often, change your lifestyle but at least get your money's worth! Maximize the opportunity but not a usage fee = don't charge at the door, it's a utility fee!
 - (ii) Theoretically, life would be worse on campus if it was a usage fee
 3. If they go home they're still paying this fee and they don't really like it

- a) Not that you didn't choose to not be on campus, but if there's no reason for you to be on campus there's no way to access that in the first place = why they think they shouldn't have to pay for it
- G. But a lot of these units are scrambling now as the crisis is unfolding is such in real time, but a lot of these units are going to adapt very quickly to be on a remote basis
 - 1. Ex. academic advising in colleges are trying to provide services remotely
 - a) Not sure how it's going to look like yet because it's too soon but that's what the hope is
 - (1) Going back to working with A.S. and disseminating information to our students= give time to establish to increase their presence online and impact their students in a beneficial way= receiving what they're paying for
 - (a) When we can understand what their role is, beneficial for students to hear about it= CAPs doing this, Career Services doing this, etc. and how you can access them!
 - (i) SHOULDN'T DISSEMINATE INFORMATION NOW
- H. WHAT SFAC CAN DO: Your own college fee and what's happening with that
 - 1. Grassroots movement of it all= when information is coming from our end, getting it back to your constituents is super important
 - a) Especially because a lot of this will be impacting to 1st and 2nd year students going to be living in the college campuses (in their residences)

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment