Student Fee Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2017

Present: Alice Malmberg, Sylvia Grape, Kiryl Karpiak, Amanda Kazden, Lisa Bishop, Ben Leeds Carson, Cathy Thomas, Gina Tu, Lucy Rojas, Aaron Manzano, Grace Shefcik

1. Approval of Agenda, Minutes, Announcements
   a. Gina makes a motion to amend minutes. Last page, Alice’s name is misspelled. Discussion, vote for summer fees, second bullet. Current fees are set at $287. Aaron seconds the motion. Motion passes. Gina motions to approve the minutes. Amanda seconds the motion. Motion carries.
   b. Gina motions to approve the agenda. Amanda seconds the motion. Motion carries.
   c. Announcements
      i. Jessica has resigned her position on SFAC; she has been appointed as the Vice President of Academic Affairs for SUA. We are looking for a new College 10 rep to replace Jessica. Lucy will send a formal request to SCOC.
      ii. Alice explains that she received a call from Tamra Owens yesterday who offered to come back to the space to offer further explanation about the Measure 8 Amendment. Discussion: mixed feedback on whether to accept Tamra’s offer. Alice takes a straw poll; outcome is that more members vote to not have Tamra return to the space. Summary: there have been multiple opportunities for author of referendum to address SFAC.
      iii. Gina announces that the Academic Senate is hosting a forum today at 2:30 pm regarding student success.
   d. Funding Proposal Evaluation: Alice shares that we will begin discussing proposals next Friday. If you have not yet completed the evaluation process, please do so as soon as possible.

2. Summer Campus Based Fees Rate for 2017
   a. Lisa explains that she met with the director of summer session yesterday.
   b. Lisa reviews the methodology that was used in the past that resulted in a $287 fee in the past. There is an attached spreadsheet.
   c. Lisa clarifies that these charges are only charged to students who are enrolled in summer session.
   d. Alice clarifies that this is the process that has been used by SFAC in the past.
   e. Lisa makes a motion to approve the summer campus based fees rate at $287. The motion is seconded by Ben. Motion goes to a vote. Vote: 9-Yes. 0-No. 0-Abstention. Motion passes

3. Referendum Discussion
   a. Measure 8 Increase
      i. Alice shares the SUA 2016-2017 budget with the group
      ii. Discussion from Senates
         1. Aaron shares that his Senate was also concerned that they had not heard about the increase proposal to the fee prior to SFAC’s consultation. Concerns regarding SOFA only meeting once per quarter; minutes have not been posted since November. Things don’t seem transparent.
         2. Gina shares that students in her space are concerned that there is little activity that reflects what the SUA budget is being used on. Kiryl asks a follow up question about what was meant by the budget comment, because the SUA assembly voted on the budget in November. Gina responds that there is little
public outreach about what SUA has been working on and there have been many closed sessions. Kiryl responds that this year has been unique because of the SUA President stepping down and there have been many closed sessions related to replacing that position and a subsequent process to replace the VPAA.

3. Alice shares that Cowell was concerned about why part of the fee pays the salary of the adviser. Lucy explains that at some point in SUA’s history, they determined the need to have a staff person support their operations. This is a model that is followed by many student groups such as e2, Campus Sustainability Council, Student Media, etc.

iii. Aaron mentions that it seems like this proposal is for the general student body, and our role is to be more analytical.

iv. Kiryl says that if the group cannot agree, we should not endorse or take a negative opinion. We may not have enough information.

v. Cathy shares that when she brought this item forward to the GSA, it sparked conversation about its own fee.

vi. After additional discussion, the group decides to invite Tamra to join the group.

1. Aaron says that when he brought this up to his college government, the reps to SUA said they did not know about the proposed fee increase. Tamra responds that she sent a survey to the Assembly email group to inform them in December 2016. Tamra shares that she also included the other SUA officers in the consultation process.

2. Tamra says that she took the lead; there were some officers that were involved in SUA last year that were part of the preliminary discussions.

3. Gina shares that her space had a concern about the food pantry, and also that the food pantry line item would be funding the SUA adviser. Tamra directs everyone to the email that she sent earlier in the week that clarified some of the questions that were posed. Tamra explains that the annual line item for $30,000 is to establish a savings account to establish a food pantry off campus. Real Estate Office stated it would take about $100,000 in start-up costs to open an off campus food pantry.

4. Gina asks how long will the $20,000 last in support of the food pantry. Tamra states that SUA does have a reserve of $40,000.

5. Gina asks about the short term food pantry line item. After 10-15 years, would there need to come back to the space to ask for a fee increase to cover increasing costs.

6. Aaron asks about what is the Legacy Project. Tamra responds that this year, SUA received a grant from VC Latham to implement a project that would have long lasting impact on students. Tamra states that the Legacy Project would be something that the officers would work on together, leaving a legacy for future students.

7. Aaron asks about this year’s budget for SOFA and the name of the fund. On the budget SOFA funds are identified as SUP: Sponsorship for Undergraduate Programming.

8. Sylvia asks about the officer salaries. Tamra says that currently, officers are paid $900 per month. The fee increase would allow for an increase to $1,000
per month. Pay would also be increased for interns. Alice mentions that Cowell Senate had questions about paying interns a stipend, when they may not be working the full hours they should be. Tamra encourages SUA assembly members to bring this forward to the Assembly. She will also bring up to the officers.

9. Aaron asks what projects and events would SUA implement if the fee passes, that they can’t offer now. Tamra says that she is planning a concert in late April with the Dean of Students events person. Also, the Quarry Amphitheater will come online in the fall and there will be opportunities to put on campus wide events. Gina asks for clarification on the programming budget. Tamra says that the current budget is $71,000; there was a large carryforward from last year. She is planning a comedy show, and SUA will also be funding Holifestival. Alice asks what SUA’s programming budget has been in previous years; Tamra says that past budgets should be available online.

10. Gina asks about how college representatives will be paid. Tamra states that the payments would be made via stipend and would require maintaining office hours and making quarterly reports, and consistently attending committees. Tamra says that currently, there is no incentive for reps to meet these requirements as there is no pay. To hold members accountable, the stipend could be offered. Gina asks how we will know that the funds will be utilized appropriately. Tamra mentions that she currently uses a tracker to share information on how she is spending her officer budget.

11. Cathy asks what will happen if the fee increase doesn’t pass? Tamra says that concurrently there is a SUA Constitutional Amendment that will be on the ballot that will propose divesting from United States Student Association, which is an annual $20,000 contribution. These funds could be used for the food pantry.

12. Sylvia asks about how many hours per week an officer works. Tamra says that officers are in the office about 5 hours per day, they serve on committees, etc.

13. Gina asks a hypothetical question: $300,000 additional funds will be generated per year; $50,000 will be used for stipends for officers and assembly members. How is this justifiable to people who may not know what these people do? Tamra responds that the officers and assembly members put a lot of work in and often students don’t see this and go without appreciation. The assembly members are not currently paid.

14. Tamra leaves the meeting.

15. Alice asks if this was helpful? Response is yes and three year budget also helps.

16. Sylvia says that she appreciates that Tamra uses the tracker; Gina adds that other officers do not use a tracker. She is concerned about transparency. Aaron adds that the issue is not the proposed referendum, it’s with the space. Gina adds that she doesn’t think that using salary as an incentive for reps to do their minimum requirements is a good use of student fees. Grace explains that it’s not fair to expect students to put in 20 hours of volunteer work per week and not receive any kind of compensation. Discussion continues.
17. Lisa suggests that for next week, each person come back with a position and some bullets in support of the position.
18. Sylvia says that she would be fine with endorsing with the caveat that transparency and accountability be highlighted.
19. Alice says that we learned a lot of new information that should help us make a decision next week.

b. Athletics
   i. Questions for Paul and Andrea: 3 year projection – how were they able to get their revenues and expenses to balance in years 2 and 3. Why are expenses flat lining? How are they projecting the revenue/licensing/ticket sales – increase seems too optimistic. Seems like they are creating numbers so the expenses balance out. How is FFE managed and how can you predict the investment will grow? FFE needs to be clarified as a line item.

4. Adjournment
   a. Aaron motions to adjourn. Gina seconds the motion. Motion carries.