Student Fee Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2015

Present: Erik Green, Serene Jneid, Carolyn Chuong, Alexandra Kasper, Miten Jain, John Steele, Free Moini, Lucy Rojas, David Machuca, Grace Shefcik, Rachel Kirkwood, Jonica Buck, Faye Crosby

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
   a. Erik asks if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. Serene motions to approve; Miten seconds. Motion passes.
   b. Miten makes a motion to approve the minutes. Carolyn seconds the motion. Motion passes.

2. Announcements
   a. Lucy announces that Campus Elections are taking place May 12 – 18th
   b. Sub-Committee Reports
      i. External Committee: Town Hall is confirmed from 12pm – 1pm in the Quarry Plaza on May 12th. Rachel has shared flyers. Please help promote the event. A draft of the brochure is being circulated. External Committee will be setting up voting stations in collaboration with Dean of Students office. External committee has a funding request for $150 for the town hall event. Rachel explains that $150 PO for Costco would be used to purchase snacks to give out at the Town Hall, including fruit, muffins, granola bar. Miten motions to approve the PO. John seconds. Motion passes.
      ii. Internal Committee: Finalized draft budget for next year. We will review next week. Sub-committee has drafted language on the committee appointment process, following consultation with the Student Committee on Committees. Draft will be shared with SCOC for consultation. Discussion on SFAC elections; proposed date for SFAC elections is May 27th.
   c. May 31st weekend meeting is confirmed 12-4pm at the Cowell Provost House
   d. Serene reminds the group that she needs photos from everyone for the Facebook page.

3. Silicon Valley Fee Discussion
   a. Serene reports that Porter College students say “make them pay.” Serene adds it would be unreasonable to ask students to pay for fees for alternative services if there is no way to confirm that the services will be rendered.
   b. Noora shares feedback via email; look for middle ground where students can receive services via an alternate method.
   c. Grace shares that College 10 Senate reports that it doesn’t make sense to ask students to pay for fees if they are not receiving services. College 9 agrees (per Rachel). Carolyn reports that Stevenson had the same opinion.
   d. David reports that College 8 was OK with students not paying the fees if they are not receiving services.
   e. Erik shares that we begin to go down a slippery slope if we begin to pick and choose which fees students pay. For instance, some fees are for the greater good like child care fee. His opinion is split. He suggests that a sub-committee could go through each fee to do a review.
   f. Free says that this consultation is somewhat informal. The SFAC could come up with a broad statement about the issue, and then Free could work up some numbers for the group to review.
   g. Erik reminds the group about Faye’s percentage idea, of taking a percentage of the total fees.
Miten reports that historically when campuses have separate locations, there is a philosophical question about “can you access” and “do you access.” For instance, these students can access services in Santa Cruz as enrolled students. Another approach is to have a completely separate fee structure for the alternate campus that’s appropriate for the students at that campus.

John states that no student benefits from every fee; there is a need to have students contribute to the overall operation of the campus.

Rachel says that she doesn’t think it would be fair for us to come up with the process. Serene adds that it would be very difficult to determine or judge who would use a fee.

Erik shares that the Silicon Valley students are getting something out of being a UCSC student, including the brand of UCSC. Philosophically, not a good idea to “split hairs” on the fees. Erik mentions that these students already pay a professional student fee; this could be the vehicle to provide students with services. Free adds that this process has a student input component.

Miten says that he understands John’s point. Miten shares that his previous graduate school had a separate fee structure; Silicon Valley is in close proximity to Santa Cruz, however it still makes sense to establish a service delivery model and fee structure that’s relevant to the needs of those students.

Summary and straw poll voting:
   i. Make them pay – mostly thumbs up and sideways thumbs
   ii. Percentage of fees – mostly sideway thumbs
   iii. Only pay certain fees – mostly thumbs down and sideways thumbs

4. Funding Proposals Discussion
   a. Colleges: funding would be used toward an electronic app to take the place of orientation guide that is used for new students.
      i. Noora reports that this initiative supports sustainability initiatives. These orientation booklets end up as door stops, etc.
      ii. Grace says that in the proposal, it does state that some hard copies will still be printed. Grace says that it’s confusing that a subscription fee is charged.
      iii. Alexandra says that this seems like a lot of money for what students are getting.
      iv. John adds that they are probably using a subscription because creating something like this within existing university resources would be time-line prohibitive.
      v. Faye adds that the amount seems high, but there is a lot of labor that is producing the content that is not being requested.
      vi. Alexandra asks whether we could ask how long the subscription would be purchased for? Alexandra motions to defer to find out exactly how the funds will be used? Grace adds can we also ask how much the current printing costs are. Miten says that if this was a student project, it could be a reasonable way to approach the project.
      vii. Lucy asks if there is general interest in this idea. Serene responds that in order to be effective, it would need to be very easy to navigate.
      viii. Miten suggests that the same effect could be achieved by sending out the information in a PDF.
      ix. Serene adds it would be great if the service could have push notifications, so students could receive notifications and reminders about meetings, etc.
      x. John says there is a tremendous amount of information; maybe we should ask to see a sample of what it’s going to look like.
xi. Miten refers to his earlier comment about having students do this project; the amount does not seem terrible given the service that is probably being provided.

xii. Erik summarizes the discussion: general speaking, we are supportive of the concept but we have a lot of questions.

xiii. Miten seconds Alexandra’s motion to defer until we have more information. Motion passes. Lucy will reach out the authors and invite them to an upcoming meeting for further discussion.

b. Police Department Proposal
   i. Three requests – app, wi-fi, furniture
   ii. Furniture
      1. David asks for clarification on the number of people who attend the BBQ event with the police department. If we purchase the furniture, will it really be used by students?
      2. Rachel says that it doesn’t seem like this is an issue of replacing broken down furniture. Rachel says that students will probably not go to the police department to study for finals.
      3. Faye mentions the Citizen’s Academy; these courses are very popular. Our Police are very student oriented.
      4. Serene motions to not fund furniture. Miten seconds. Results of 10-Yes. 0-No. 0-Abstentions. Motion passes.
   iii. Regarding wi-fi,
      1. John says this is too expensive for wi-fi.
      2. Erik adds that he is not supportive of the wi-fi, given that students will not have regular access.
      3. Serene has a question about the entire proposal – do the PD qualify for these funds. Lucy responds that all divisions are eligible for special projects that are student service related.
      4. Miten motions to not approve wi-fi. Serene seconds. Results: 10-Yes. 0-No. – Abstentions. Motion passes.
   iv. Safe Ride Program: development of an app to support the Safe Ride program, to assist with disability transit and escort service. $36,000 for one year of program funding.
      1. Miten states sounds like a great idea, very expense. There was no information on current usage levels.
      2. Noora has more questions about how this service would help.
      3. Faye says that this would be money well spent.
      4. Erik wonders whether we have capability to this ourselves? $36,000 for one year seems high.
      5. Rachel adds that lighting on campus is terrible, and bus service is spotty at night. Rachel things we should fund this.
      6. John is supportive.
      7. Serene says that there is something comforting about another student acting as an escort for other students.
      8. Discussion regarding need for more information. Lucy will follow up with authors.

5. Meeting adjourned