

STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (notes)

December 3, 2021

9:00 AM

<https://csulb.zoom.us/j/92050128305>

1. Welcome

Beth Lesen, Chair

Introduction of new AVP of Financial Services, Milton Ordonez. Went around the zoom room for introductions. Beth gave a brief explanation on what SFAC does.

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved

3. CPI Adjustment to USU Fee

Sylvana Cicero, Associate Executive Director, ASI

Sylvana presented the cpi adjustment and explained how the numbers are calculated. Also provided a historical explanation of the adjustment. The fee will go into effect after next summer.

We project out and look at expenses we will incur.

Praveen asked how often the fee is.

Neil asked about the “savings” over Covid period. Were students given lower fees or given back fees during the pandemic? Sylvana said no. These fees were mandatory so we maintained them. Any fees that were not used were put into our reserve account. We are on top of preventative maintenance and keeping up the SRWC so it doesn't fall like the USU. Also went into capital for major renovations, etc.

4. Alternative Spring Break Fee

Sandra Perez, Director, University Honors

Trace Camacho, Director, Student Conduct & Ethical Development

ASB started in the College of Business. It has transitions to undergraduate affairs and working with the honors college to revamp the process. We realized we needed to have a course fee. Proposing \$250 to cover airfare. Cost per student is \$1330.25, but we are

only asking \$250. Asking for airfare because that is the hardest to refund is necessary. Usually non refundable. Lodging, etc. is easier to refund.

Praveen asked how we went from New Orleans to now Yellowstone. Trace mentioned Environmental Stewardship is the key. The topic of the course changes per instructor but the course will still be UNIV 300. Sandra mentioned the course is a service learning course and also now working with Juan Benitez.

Praveen asked if the fee will cover the travel, how will the rest be covered. Trace said it's covered by an Instructional Related Activities (IRA) grant. Goal is usually 20-30 students. This time is 16 students due to budget. It is expensive for ground transportation.

Neil asked if this an honors course? Sandra said yes, and we are talking about creating a system for ASB that is successful and effective. Trying to pilot it then eventually shift it out to the larger campus. Sandra's intent is to still offer an honors version, but should still serve the larger campus.

Sierra asked if this fee will be renewed every year or will it change? Beth mentioned this will stay the fee. If any changes come forward, they have to come back to SFAC to propose the new fee.

Cynthia asked if there will there be scholarships or other options for those that can't afford the fee. Trace said Financial Aid covers course fees which is why we want to add it as a course fee.

Beth mentioned that if they don't qualify for FA, they would be required to pay it but there are a few ways to help. ASI grants for conference travel. Grants through the career center from revenue from passport office.

Trace mentioned we really try to keep this as cost effective as possible. The goal is to keep it no more than \$250.

Beth suggested to the group that there are a lot of fundraising opportunities for this.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Re USU fee:

Sierra – this is pretty straightforward. Student voted for it and it makes sense.

Praveen – from my experience, there used to be a very large increase because fees wouldn't be adjusted for 5-10 years at a time. This is more manageable.

Miles – some parts of the USU are over 50 years old. The plumbing is failing. Some parts have been patched twice. It's complicated but it's very important. It's the hub of campus.

Re ASB Fee

Jesus – How much funds does CDC have to use? I only get 250 back from Dreams fund. I think over time it will increase, so we need to see over time if Financial Aid will increase too. Affordability is a concern.

Sierra – I agree that it is an expensive fee. I read that 29% of students don't receive FA so we are leaving out some students. But I do see the expenses (lodging, etc.) and the fee does seem fair. I do have an issue with the cost increasing over time. If any increases still come across SFAC, I still see it as fair. I agree with the fee.

Beth – Even if we don't make this a course fee, the student still has to pay. We would have to work out available assistance into the marketing so students see that as they are interested and see the \$250 fee.

Marianne – There will be a constant review. I recommend referrals to eligible funds. The goal is to annually review and reduce the fee if possible.

VOTE

CPI adjustment: All in favor. Unanimous.

ASB Fee: All in favor. Unanimous.

4. Adjournment