

STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

8:30 a.m. · Alamitos Bay Room, USU

MINUTES

Attendees: Carmen Taylor, Sharon Taylor, Joe Nino, Sofia Musman, Jordan Doering, Alexander Trimm, Genesis Jara, Mindy Vo, Jessica Pandya, Nancy Eckhous, Marianne Hata, Kathleen Engberg, Veronica Hernandez, John Fugatt, Charity Bowles

1. Welcome and Introductions

Carmen Taylor convened the meeting at 8:35 a.m. and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. *Approval of Agenda and Minutes (*Attachment 1*)

Minutes of Meeting held October 6, 2017

Carmen Taylor asked for approval of the agenda. With that change, there was a motion to accept the agenda and it was seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Carmen Taylor asked for approval of the minutes from the meeting held October 6, 2017. Joe Nino noted that the date on the minutes was incorrect as well as several typos and a request to have the agenda sent before the meeting. There was a motion to accept the agenda and it was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with the changes.

3. *Japanese Garden Proposal for Admission Fee – (*Attachment 2*)

Jeanette Schelin, Sr. Director, Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden; Janice Hatanaka, Associate VP, Alumni Relations

Carmen Taylor explained to SFAC that the Japanese Gardens were asked to present to the committee in order to provide feedback to the President, not as a voting item, since the fee is not governed by EO 1102.

Presentation: Jeanette Schelin presented on the impact of charging admission fees to non-CSULB community members and groups, excluding students, staff, faculty, administrators, their guests and university partners (especially Long Beach College Promise partners). The fees will be used to make necessary facility improvements. Specific details are in Attachments 2 and 2b.

Discussion: Questions concerning revenue projections of the fees were raised. Schelin responded that all revenues go directly back into the Gardens and conservative estimates are \$30,000 per year. She also explained their wish to find donors to sponsor a “free community day” to offset impact and maintain connection with the community. Reduced and alternative fee structures for schools and community groups were also addressed by Schelin. Camps or other groups that charge participants will have arrangements for sharing revenue with the Gardens. The charges for events are not covered in this fee proposal.

Schelin explained the benefits of becoming a “Friend of the Japanese Garden for CSULB and community members including free access for the year to the Gardens, other national gardens, as well as priority invitations to events and performances.

Carmen Taylor asked if there was committee support regarding this item. The item received unanimous support.

4. *Request to Increase a CAT III Fee, Research in Tropical Marine Ecology (BIOL 454A/554A) Spring 2018– (Attachment 3)

Dr. Bengt Allen, Professor in Biological Sciences

Presentation and Discussion: Dr. Allen presented that the proposed fee increase was to create parity and stable funding for student travel between the marine and terrestrial biology student research field experiences. Specific details are in Attachment 3. The research experiences take place during spring break for 14 students as part of the courses. The proposal is to increase fees for travel from \$500 per student in the marine course to match the \$750 per student paid in the terrestrial course. Previously, the shortfall of \$250/student for the 14 students was covered by the department, but it is unsustainable. All other fees for the course are covered by IRA funding. Although registration for the Spring 2018 semester has already begun, Dr. Allen explained that the students were already notified on the application for the class that the expected fee is \$750.

Carmen Taylor asked if there was committee support regarding this item. Pandya motioned to approve. Jordan Doering seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. *Request for ASI Fee Referendum to Remove Restrictions on CAT II ASI Fee – (Attachment 4)

Richard Haller, Executive Director, Associated Students Inc.,

Presentation: Richard Haller presented on the historical context of the Beach Pride fee referendum and subsequent changes to the fee structures and written agreements with the campus and Athletics. The request is to decrease contributions by 10% each year to three programs administered by Athletics but funded by the ASI Beach Pride fee (pep squad, spirit band, and athletic scholarships) in order to offset increasing payroll costs caused by minimum wage increases for approximately 600 student workers. ASI contends that students should have the right to determine how it spends its fees and that the current earmark structure is outdated to meet the needs of its fiscal responsibilities. Specific details are in Attachments 4 and 4b.

Discussion: There was substantial questioning from the committee concerning ASI’s request considering the number of ASI fee increases and funding offsets from the university since 2011. Comments from the committee included the following concerns: why is Athletics being disproportionately impacted instead of spreading the cuts out evenly, especially since Athletics is flat funded; why can’t ASI internally manage the new payroll costs since Student Excellence Fees (SEF \$500,000) and other fee or inflation increases (2011, 2014-15, 2017-18) have increased ASI funding since 2011 and Athletics has not been given increases; and what is the comparable impact to students when cutting from Athletics’ versus ASI’s budgets.

ASI Student leadership responded that they consulted with Athletics before this

presentation and received reluctant support for moving forward; this proposal came from the ASI Student Board because students raised questions about how the fees were being spent; there are new issues compared to 17 years ago and ASI should have the ability to allocate its funding to meet current student needs; Athletics will see an infusion in their funding with alcohol sales and the previous SEF funding infusion in 2011; ASI is independently funded and must meet its internal responsibilities, and it still cares about Athletes; and ASI asked for transparency of Athletics' budget to weigh real impact.

AVP Sharon Taylor recommended that ASI create the Pros/Cons brochure for the next meeting before the committee makes recommendations to President Conoley. ASI President Joe Nino asked that the vote be postponed until the December 8 meeting because student representatives were no longer the majority in the meeting. Richard Haller also recommended coming back on December 8 with the additional information.

VP Carmen Taylor put to the committee that this action be deferred until December 8 with the following items to take place and be ready for the December 8 meeting: she will convene a meeting with ASI and Athletic leadership to discuss budget impacts; Athletics will be invited to the December 8th SFAC meeting; ASI must make sure 7 students are present for the vote; ASI must have the Pros/Cons drafted to present to the committee.

6. Student Fee Activity Report, 2017-2018 Year to Date (Attachment 5)
Veronica Hernandez, Financial Operations Analyst

Veronica Hernandez provided a brief overview of the Student Fee Activity Report.

7. Update on EO 1102 Fee Process –
Nancy Eckhous, AVP Student Affairs

Eckhous updated the committee members on the updated process flows, forms, and website for the Student Fee Advisory Committee.

Carmen Taylor asked Eckhous to present the processes in more detail at the December 8 meeting.

8. Adjournment – Carmen Taylor

Joe Nino requested that Agenda and Minutes be sent one week in advance.

Sofia Musman requested that future meetings be held consistently on Fridays in order to maintain student representation on the committee.

Carmen Taylor thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.