

# STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

September 11, 2020

1:00 PM

**In attendance:** Omar Prudencio Gonzalez, Maythe Alderete Gonzalez, Adriana Andrade Rodriguez, Xan Balayan, Mateo Maya, Citlalli Ortiz, Praveen Shankar, Ann Kinsey, Praveen Soni, Marianne Hata, Tracey Richardson, Beth Lesen, Suzie Payne, Veronica Hernandez, Anthony Saucedo.

### 1. **Welcome & Introductions**

*Beth Lesen*

*Beth welcomed the group. Committee members introduced themselves.*

### 2. **Approval of Agenda**

*No additions to the agenda. Agenda approved unanimously.*

### 3. **Overview of Fee Categories**

*Travis Tamasese*

*Travis gave a brief overview of the fee categories.*

### 4. **Student Parking Permit Fee**

*Robyn Ames-Woodyard & Amy Gerety*

*Time Certain: 1:20 p.m.*

Parking and Transportation Services is requesting a five-year fee increase plan beginning with FY 2021-22. All non-bargaining unit permit rates will increase by approximately 20% annually in years 1 through 4; 10% in year 5; and in accordance with cost of living increases in FY 2026-27.

Concerns and suggestions:

1. Since increases in parking permit fees for represented faculty and staff must be negotiated with collective bargaining units, there was concern that students will shoulder a disproportionate amount of the fee increase burden because it's easier to raise their rates.
2. There were assertions that especially now when many students are facing difficult financial hardships, increasing the fees now seems "cruel".
3. There was a general sense of understanding that ultimately there will need to be a fee increase; however, there was a request for more transparency as to where the money is going. For example, what is the amount of the debt service on the parking structures? How much of the fee increase money will result in an increase in O&E or more staff positions as opposed to paying off debt service? There was a request for video and infographics posted online and shared out with students to offer transparent and specific information on where the fee increase money is going.

4. Given that sometimes outside partners may not be willing to work with campus to mitigate our parking crisis for the first few weeks of the semester, in what ways are we ensuring that every student will find a parking space when we only have 14,064 spaces available? (There was some discussion around discounted off campus parking for the first few weeks but additional solutions were requested.)
5. There was a suggestion to develop a fee waiver or price reduction program/option for low-income students.

The majority of the Committee **does not** recommend this fee request.

## 5. **Apply to Graduate Fee**

*Christopher Reese*

Time Certain: 1:40 p.m.

University Relations and Development requested an increase in the Apply to Graduate Fee that will occur over three years with fees of \$75 for the Class of 2022, \$100 for Class of 2023, and \$125 for Class of 2024. Starting with the Class of 2025, the fee will increase by 3% annually each October 1<sup>st</sup>. The fee must increase on October 2020 to be in effect for the Class of 2022. The current fee is \$45.

Concerns and suggestions:

1. There was concern about the 3% annual increase. The suggestion was to instead use the Consumer Price Index or Higher Education Price Index. The assertion was that this would be more easily justified and fair.
2. There was a suggestion that there be a cap on the fee increase to not exceed \$160. The fact that the annual increases continued in perpetuity was not well received.
3. There was a request for transparency in the form of publishing a breakdown of what the fee increases pay for and also what the whole fee pays for. It was asserted that many students don't know what the fee covers so the kind of increase being discussed is likely to raise objections when more than tripling without any idea of what it covers. The suggestion was to list that breakdown on the commencement webpage and also on students' bills or receipts so they are aware of what the fee pays for when they're required to pay it.
4. Again, there was strong advocacy for the planning of a fee waiver process for low-income students. The sentiment was that no student should ever have to miss their graduation day over finances.

The majority of the Committee **does not** recommend this fee request.

## 6. **Adjournment**

*Beth Lesen*

*The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm*