**STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2013-14 Academic Year

Meeting #2

Friday, December 6, 2013

8:30 a.m., USU-205

Members Present: Takemoto (chair), Bolin, Colburn, Gallagher, Gucyski, Haberstroh, Hata, Phillips, Rice, Smith, Soni, Taylor

Members Absent:

Staff Attendees: Eckhous, Fugatt, Hernandez, Sanchez, Williams

Guests: Richard Haller-ASI Executive Director

1. Welcome and Introductions. Interim Vice President Takemoto, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 8:40am and welcomed the committee members. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

*Rice arrived 8:45am*

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes. The committee reviewed the minutes of the November 1, 2013 meeting. Haberstroh moved, Colburn seconded to approve the minutes and agenda for today’s meeting. The motion passed unanimously (11-0-0).

*Bolin arrived 8:48am*

1. Review of Student Fee Activity Report, 2013-2014 Year to Date. (Taken out of order, pending arrival of guest speaker) Fugatt reviewed the Student Fee Activity report, which is now complete as to which fees were added or deleted due to the Student Excellence Fund (SEF). The Art Tier I & II category III fees were reduced because the university has obtained a campus based site license for Adobe Creative Suite, thereby reducing the course fee.

Soni asked how much has been saved since the SEF. Hata responded that approximately $177, 000 or a 34-36 percent savings. Soni asked if it is expected that more courses will be reduced due to the SEF. Hata said courses will be evaluated and adjusted accordingly.

1. Request for SFAC to Conduct a Student Fee Referendum in February, 2014 to increase the Associated Student, Inc. Fee. Haller gave a Power Point presentation on the need for a $16 increase in the ASI fee. The request was presented to this committee in May, 2013 but the method for approval was not compliant to Ed Code.

Power Point Overview:

* Without a significant increase in revenue and/or a significant decrease in expenses, Associated students will not be able to: tackle $750,000 in deferred maintenance, replace outdated property and equipment, implement minimum wage increase, provide competitive wages for student workers, weather the volatility of sudden changes in the recycled commodities market, fund the Retiree Medical Benefits liability, build reserves and consistently operate “in the black”.
* Deferred maintenance: Facility condition analysis identified the need for repair and replacement for the IPCDC is currently estimated at $450,000. CSULB does not have sufficient budget to make repairs not deemed “currently critical” at the IPCDC. Repair and replacement for the Soroptimist House is currently estimated at $300,000.
* A.S. has not been adequately replacing property and equipment.
* Competitive wages: Currently A.S. pay scale for childcare workers is $8.00-$9.95 per hour for caregivers; LBUSD currently pays their caregivers $12.55-$15.95 per hour.
* The A.S. fund has operated at a loss for 4 of the last 5 years.
* For the last 12 years, A.S. has relied almost exclusively on enrollment growth to fund increases in operating expenses. This is not a sustainable practice. Annual enrollment would need to grow approximately 9,201 students to fund all the above.
* Associated Students Fee. The A.S. fee is fixed. It does not automatically adjust to inflation; $44 in 2001 has the buying power of $28 today.

Proposal:

* $16 fee increase effective fall 2014 to make up for the cumulative loss of purchasing power since 2001.
* Indexing of the A.S. fee to the Consumer Price Index so it can be adjusted for inflation every three years, subject to SFAC review.
* Revision of A.S. Policy on Reserves to match the reserve policies of the University Student Union, where applicable.
* Reform of the A.S. budgeting process to require annual investments in facility maintenance, capital replacement and facility renovation.

Application of revenue to go towards: minimum wage increase; underwriting for Recycling Center; deferred maintenance at the IPCDC and Soroptimist House; contributions to VEBA, reserves, and expenditures budget. Proposed program additions include: major program series, 24 hour study center, study abroad grants and student research grants.

Soni asked why did the chancellor not approve the fee increase. Haller said that under Ed Code Section 89300, any increase to a student body fee has to be approved by a majority of students in a referendum.

Eckhous asked how the proposed increase will be presented to students. Haller said they have a marketing unit, which will be working on an educational campaign as to what the fee will go towards. They also will rely on ASI senators to promote it in their colleges.

Eckhous said that E.O. 1054 has requirements for conducting a referendum. A subcommittee will be assigned the task of complying with these requirements. The referendum may be conducted by the university or ASI; it is to be paid for by the university. A measure passes when a majority of the voting students approve it.

Haller requested that the referendum be conducted prior to the ASI general election, with a preferred date in late February 2014.

Soni asked if a majority of students approve the fee increase, what would be the next step. Haller answered that the outcome of the referendum is advisory to the president.

Soni asked if $16 increase would be for the academic year or semester. Haller responded that the fee increase would be per semester, bringing the total ASI fee to $60 per semester. He added that the increase for the summer fee would be $12, bringing the total to $45.

Taylor asked if CCPE (College of Continuing and Professional Education) students would pay the fee or only matriculated students. Eckhous answered that only matriculated students pay the ASI fee.

Colburn asked if ASI has considered closing the Recycling Center. Haller said this has been discussed but the students decided to keep the center open. He added that the ASI is in discussions with the university to create a comprehensive sustainability center.

Eckhous asked if the Soroptimist house and the Child Development Center are state buildings. Haller answered that the CDC is a state building that the ASI leases and operates with Student Services. The ASI owns the Soroptimist House and leases the land.

Taylor said that although the CDC is a state building, how it is used is determined by ASI. Therefore, it is not a university maintenance issue. The ASI has the responsibility to run and maintain the building.

Soni said that the ASI may want to consider an operational audit for the Recycling Center, the CDC, and other operations, as some efficiencies may be found.

Gucyski expressed concern that there may not be enough time to meet the requirements of E.O. 1054.

Colburn moved that the request for SFAC to conduct a student fee referendum in spring 2014 be approved. Bolin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (12-0-0).

*Soni left meeting at 9:55am*

The committee decided that the subcommittee will generate the materials for the referendum for the SFAC’s review in January or in enough time prior to proposed date of referendum to meet the requirements of E.O. 1054.

The following individuals volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Eckhous, Gallagher, Gucyski, Takemoto, with the intention to meet after finals.

1. Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 10am

Tami Williams, Division of Student Services

(these minutes approved on 01/13/14)