

Student Fee Advisory Committee MINUTES

December 9, 2022 @ 9am

In attendance: Beth Lesen, Norbert Schurer, Milton Ordonez, Praveen Soni, Marianne Hata, Isaac Julian (student), Teresa Falcon (student), Anthony Regina (student), Fatima Zeferino (student), Mitali Jain (student), Diamond Byrd (student), and Akshay Ramesh (student). Additionally, Miles Nevin attended as a member of the community and so did Suzie Payne, Veronica Hernandez, and Anthony Saucedo as support staff.

1. Welcome

Beth Lesen, chair, welcomed the committee at 9am and started with a round of introductions.

2. Approval of Agenda

Correction on numbering. Switch 5 and 6). Norbert asked about the process of the meeting. Beth explained. Anthony also provided a link to the membership roster.

3. Instructional Related Activities Fee

Ted Kadowaki, Interim Executive Director of Athletics, joined the meeting along with Tiffany Edlin, Deputy Athletic Director/Chief of Staff, and student athletes: Mason Briggs, Men's Volleyball, Connor Burns, Baseball, Christine DeRoos, Beach Volleyball, Jadon Jones, Men's Basketball, Katie Kennedy, Indoor & Beach Volleyball, Bryce Kvick, Men's Golf, SAAC President Keeley Rasmussen, Women's Track & Field, Sydney Stevens, Beach Volleyball, Malia Talavou, Women's Track & Field.

Ted presented the the organizational chart for LBSU Athletics and described recent changes due to budget problems. He shared a snapshot of eight years of finances and emphasized on numbers in red with a highlight to a \$4.5 million deficit. He is proposing an increase in IRA fee, going from \$25 per student to \$64 per student to generate approximately \$4.8 million. There will be alternative consultation to gather broad input.

Information was presented on comparison between CSULB and other CSU Campuses. By an increase in the fee, we'd rank 18th lowest of 23 campuses. Isaac Julian asked if alternative solutions have been discussed that would help not increase the fee. Ted mentioned the \$4.5 million problem is significant and there are no other solutions than a fee increase. Anthony Regina asked how the increase would benefit the athletes. A student athlete present mentioned the support at The Beach is 2nd to none – physically, mentally, and emotionally. Mitali Jain asked in the increase will stay even after the deficit is fixed, and if other methods to decrease the deficit were explored, was there any paperwork to illustrate those efforts. Ted explained that LBSU Athletics is not trying to be a profit center and once the issue is fixed, LBSU Athletics is willing to return money to the IRA board. Teresa Falcon expressed concern on how the deficit became so big, if statements of spending can be shared, and asked what percentage goes to scholarships. Ted explained that the money goes directly to the teams, travelling, equipment, nutrition, items that directly affect the student athletes. Other sources have been identified that would cover scholarships and salaries.

Norbert Schurer mentioned that other areas of the campus have issues, and for \$4.5M, we can add ten thousand sections of classes - why should this money go to Athletics rather than academics because that is the primary mission of the university. Ted expressed that Athletics is very valuable to the university. It brings recognition locally, regionally, statewide and nationally. It adds to the image, adds alumni pride, and it's a great outreach tool for perspective students. Ted reiterated that resources have gone down

and expenditures have gone up. Personnel cost have gone up due to larger investment into health and wellness for athletes. An increase in scholarships has also increased in order to remain competitive.

Isaac Julain asked to meet (ASI with Athletics) offline to see how to better partner. Diamond Byrd mentioned that she spoke with a student athlete friend that spoke very highly about their journey with LBSU Athletics and expressed the need and want to improve funding. Beth Lesen thanked Athletics for informing the committee of embarking on the alternative consultation process.

4. Student Body Fee

Miles Nevin, Executive Director of Associated Students Inc., joined the meeting to share a routine information item that is brought to the committee every 3 years. The summer fee will adjust from \$60 to \$68 due to inflation. Teresa Falcon asked about affects due to a possible recession. Miles explained they are given a fee amount then have to budget from there. If inflation goes up, they need to adjust. Capital needs, wages and scholarships increase. Calculations are based on head count, which is about 1% increase per year. No questions at this time.

5. Film & Electronics Art Insurance Fee

Adam Moore, Department Chair for Film & Electronic Arts, explained the needed increase in fees due to rise in production insurance, on and off campus. He explained that the current course fee structure lacks equity. There are several courses that unfairly bear the burden of insurance policies that cover every production course in the department. This proposal seeks to adjust the course fee to \$25 across the department so that every production class shares the financial responsibility equally, while also keeping the department financially solvent. Also noted that FEA does not have any outside source of funding for production. **The committee had no questions and voted unanimously to pass the fee.**

6. Biological Sciences Fee

Jesse Dillon, Professor and Interim Chair for Biological Sciences, requested the increase in course fee (an additional \$50) due to an increase cost of airfare to Costa Rica (required course field trip), which occurs over Spring Break. The fee has been kept as minimal as possible, with help from ASI contributions to the IRA funding, but airfare has increased significantly. Student Mitali Jain asked about the course availability and financial coverage for students. Jesse Dillon explained that this course is taken by students taking Biology options, it's a 400 level course taken by ~15 seniors. If the airfare goes up even more after this fee, the department will then cover the difference. Students will not get asked to cover overages. It was also asked by Mitali Jain if the course is covered by Financial Aid, and it was confirmed by Marianne Hata that it is. If a student does not have financial aid, Jesse Dillon can speak with the student to see what type of financial arrangement can be made. **The committee had no further questions and voted unanimously to pass the fee.**

No further questions, and Beth Lesen adjourned the meeting at 10am. It was announced that meetings will be in-person starting Spring 2023.