

UFFAB Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 27th, 2014
303 GSB Large Conference Room

Members Present: Jenna Muniz, ULC, Chair
Lexi Evans, Warner College of Natural Resources, Vice Chair
Ashley Cypress, College of Health and Human Sciences
Michelle Staros, College of VMBS
Jeff Cook, Graduate School
Amber Weimer, College of Natural Sciences
Matt Lancto, College of Liberal Arts
Matt Fergen, College of Business
Alex Brown, College of Engineering
Lance Oles, College of Agricultural Sciences

Members Not

Present:

Members at Large Present: Sam Guinn, ASCSU Representative

Members at Large Not Present:

Associate Members Present: Robert Edwards, College of Natural Sciences
Annalis Norman, CVMBS

Present:

Ex – Officio Members Present: Steve Hultin, Faculty Advisor
Becca Wren, Staff Support
Lindsay Brown, Staff Support
Cassidy Collins, Staff Support
Andrew Olson, SFRB Liaison
Tamla Blunt, Ex-Officio Member

Ex – Officio Members Not Present:

Visitors:

I. Call to Order at 5:00 PM

- a. Jenna called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 6th, 2014.

- a. Lance made a motion to approve the minutes from March 6th.

- b. Lexi seconded the motion.
- c. All approved, none opposed, none abstained. Minutes approved.

III. Student Survey Results

- a. Becca began summarizing the student survey results. The document shows the questions pertaining to the University Facility Fee and all comments addressing all fee areas, with UFFAB and construction comments highlighted. In general, the majority of respondents of the survey were satisfied with the facility fee and would not change it. The comments showed a large concern with the price of a college education, in general.
- b. 20% of the respondents said they have never benefitted from the facility fee. Given the large scope of UFFAB projects, this is an unusually high figure. The bigger challenge here is that students are unaware of the work of the facility fee and might not know where that fee is allocated. There seems to be a disconnect in the communication between UFFAB and the larger student body.
- c. Andrew added that he believes the survey respondents might have ignored the information about the fee area, which was provided in the survey.
- d. Becca asked how the students who received the survey were chosen.
 - i. Andrew answered that it was completely random.
- d. Jeff mentioned that the plaques for each UFFAB funded building should be educating people about the facility fee.
 - i. Lexi added that there are already small plaques in Eddy for remodeled classrooms.
 - ii. Matt Lancto added that he thinks the plaques are ineffective.
- e. Jenna asked how the Board wants to use this data to make the decision on the fee increase.
 - i. Jeff said that the students' satisfaction is very ambiguous. It would be very hard to guess the opinions of the respondents.
 - ii. Matt Lancto disagreed and said that he thinks it's pretty clear that students don't want the fee to be increased.
 - iii. Amber agreed and said many people could be thinking this fee is included in tuition, and they do not fully understand the use of the fee.
 - iv. Lexi added that it's troubling to see that this survey just shows a knowledge gap between the Board and the campus. She questioned the relevance of the responses, given such open-endedness.
- f. Amber added that we could put an article in The Collegian.
 - i. Jeff mentioned that we do not have enough time before voting on the fee increase to put an article in The Collegian. He also questioned the effectiveness of an article.
- h. Alex stated that it is each representative's duty to go to their college's organization to investigate how they would feel about an increase. He added that the survey is just opinion based and may not be accurate.
 - i. Jeff added that he believes the Board members should vote based on how their college feels about this, to be true college representatives.
- j. Lexi suggested going back to the College Council meeting and discussing the potential increase, before making a final vote. Most of the details have changed, and the fee amounts have been adjusted. The College Council opinions should be reevaluated, as well.
- k. Jenna began to transition into Fee Options by mentioning that at the President's Student Fee Advisory Council, Provost Miranda said that the Biology project will not reach more than \$8 million in donor funding.

IV. Fee Options

- a. Steve began explaining the fee table, which outlined the fees associated with both a complete 5-story building (\$81.6 million) as well as a shelled 5th floor building (\$74.8 million).
- b. To finish the interior of the fifth floor eventually, it would cost more than the \$6.7 million savings, due to the drawing and bidding process. It will be more financially logical to build it all at once.

- c. A 3-story building will bring the price of the building into the \$50 million range, but it would still be an inadequate amount of space. The Biology program would not succeed in a 3-story building, according to the program plan.
- d. Steve shared his insight as Facilities Director. In the City of Fort Collins, some citizens are struggling with urbanization and city growth. There are many newspaper articles discussing large (5-7 floor) buildings. Steve mentioned that to be most effective, the Board should consider the campus population, which is growing.
- e. The effectiveness of both the project and the site of the project will be lost with a 3-story building. It is also important to consider the network of underground utilities, already in place. If the Biology building is too small to serve the program, the site and the funds will go to waste.
- f. Steve suggested that if the Board is supportive of the project, a 5-story building should be built, either fully or with a shelled floor. Otherwise, the program will implode.
- g. Jenna asked if the College could provide funding to complete the shelled floor, in that scenario.
 - i. Steve suggested asking Dean Nerger that question when she visits the Board.
- ii. Lexi asked what all is included in the \$81.6 million and should UTFAB or other committees take over some of that funding?
 - 1. Steve answered that the figure includes all of the lab equipment and full furnishings. He said this would also make for a good question for Dean Nerger.
- iii. Lexi asked if UFFAB is allowed to fund the technology.
 - 1. Steve answered yes.
- iv. Ashley asked if after the Biology building is paid off, would the fee increase sunset.
 - 1. Steve answered yes, after the 30-year bond debt is paid, the fee could sunset.
- h. Jenna asked what the Board thinks about shelling the fifth floor vs. paying for the whole thing.
 - i. Amber answered that funding the building in whole would be ideal, but if the floor is left as a shell, she thinks the college would make it a priority to finish it. There is no way the college would leave an unfinished fifth floor.
 - 1. Jeff added that there is no much of a difference between the shelled option and the full building option. The Board may save money now by choosing the shelled option, but the department will probably come back and ask for the funding of the shelled floor later.
- i. Robert mentioned that he discussed the building with Dean Nerger and he said that with less funding, general assignment classrooms are likely to be lost.
- j. Matt Lancto asked the Board to consider if that loss of space is worth \$6 million.
- k. Jenna called for a straw poll of shelling the fifth floor vs. funding the whole building.
 - i. Full building - 7 votes
 - ii. Fifth floor - 2
 - iii. Abstentions - 2

V. Preparation for Meeting with Dean Jan Nerger

- a. Jenna introduced the handout listing questions already written, and called for more.
- b. Matt asked if the Chem/Bio concept was still feasible and if it would save the Board money.
 - i. Steve answered yes, that is still an option but the details are still up in the air.
- c. Amber said that it seems that there are many questions asking about lack of fundraising. What would happen if we postponed accepting the building until some fundraising has occurred? Maybe they could come back next year?
- d. Lexi said that it is possible that the Board will not fund the Bio building at all, and in that case do they have a contingency plan?

- e. Jeff added that the college may not have wealthy donors, and it may not be fair to ask that college to find donor funds.
- f. Matt Lancto added that the UFFAB has not funded anything more than \$40 million dollars. The administration may come back in the future and ask full funding of even more large-scale projects.
- g. Jeff mentioned that whether it comes out of this Board or the tuition, the funding will still come out of the pockets of the students.
- h. Alex asked how things like this were funded before UFFAB?
 - i. The answer was state dollars. The state has decreased their support of higher education to 10%. The last dollar CSU got from the state was in 2003 for DMC. Colorado is one of the lowest in the country for funding higher education. Tony Frank could find funds from the general fund, which contains tuition funds and state funds. This general fund is made of tuition funds, so students are the only option.
 - ii. Steve pointed the Board's attention to the bar graph.
- i. Alex mentioned that everyone blames the colleges for their funding issues, but it's really the states fault for not providing what they promised. The students should be informed that the state has not been funding higher education initiative like other states do.
- j. Jeff mentioned that maybe President Frank should put that in an email to the students and show his support for the fee increase. He believes that President Frank should be owning this increase.
- k. Tamla asked if President Frank discussed state dollars in the video regarding tuition dollars.
 - i. Jeff added that yes he may have mentioned how much the state provides, but he didn't mention where CSU allocates that money.
- l. Jenna added that she appreciates that Dr.Frank has taken a back seat to wait for the students to show support.
- m. Jeff said that maybe it is time to step in and get Dr.Frank to show more public support, before and after the vote. Jeff added that maybe the Chair should invite Dr. Frank to the SFRB meeting to gain their support.
- n. Andrew agreed to invite both President Frank and Provost Miranda to UFFAB's presentation to SFRB, which is scheduled on April 15th.

VI. Next meeting April 3rd, 2014.

VII. Adjourn at 5:56 PM