

University Facility Fee Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 16th, 2014

303 GSB Large Conference Room

Members Present: Ashley Cypress - Chair
Sam Laffey – Vice Chair
Elly Bingaman – College of Business
Noah Taherkhani – College of Engineering
Annalis Norman – College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Zack Alves – College of Health and Human Sciences
Robert Edwards – College of Natural Sciences
Rachel Largay – Warner College of Natural Resources
Jeff Cook – Graduate College

Members Not Present: Clayton King – College of Liberal Arts

Members at Large Present: Jeff Seligman - College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Associate Members Present: Grace Fenske – College of Liberal Arts
Liz Danke - College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Ex – Officio

Members Present: Steve Hultin – Facilities Management, Advisor
Becca Wren – Staff Support
Savanna Bunnell – Staff Support
Pat Burns – Dean of Libraries
Tamla Blunt – Ex-Officio

Visitors: Haven Levitt – PVM Grad Student
Sam Guinn – ASCSU President

I. Call to Order at 5:00 PM

A. Meeting was called to order.

II. Introductions

a) All Board members were introduced as well as two guests; Haven Levitt, a grad student from CVMBS, and Sam Guinn, ASCSU President

III. Approval of Minutes

a) Jeff Cook made a motion to approve the minutes from September 18th, 2014.
b) Noah seconded.
c) All approved, none opposed, none abstained.
d) Minutes accepted.

IV. Discussion of Potential Fee Cap

a) The Board began a discussion of a potential fee cap on the newly adopted facility fee.

- b) Haven Levitt is a Profession Veterinary Medicine graduate student, who made a statement to the Board.
- a. The PVM program has about 550 students, which is 15% of the graduate student body.
 - b. The four-year program requires students to take over 20 credits per semester.
 - c. Some students take as many as 26 credits in one semester and out of state students will pay up to \$28,000/year.
 - d. The PVM students also have a higher salary/debt ratio upon graduation.
 - e. The PVM students feel the new facility fee, which has been approved as a total of \$20.75/credit/semester, is disproportional to the rest of the University.
 - f. They have requested that the Board consider capping the fee at 12 credits for all students.
 - g. Originally, the PVM program requested exemption from the fee completely, as they feel they will not be using either facility (Biology or Warner addition) which the fee will fund.
 - h. Annalis asked if the cost of attendance for the PVM program was comparable to other Universities.
 - i. Haven believes CSU charges a higher cost of attendance, which speaks to the caliber of the program.
 - ii. Jeff Seligman believes that CSU is the third most expensive veterinary school in the nation.
 - i. Sam asked if the PVM students pay other fees at the same rate or if they have a cap in another fee area.
 - i. Haven said the students understand the importance of fees and do pay the full amounts of other fees.
 - ii. She is asking for consideration of the higher burden on PVM students.
 - j. Based on a fee cap at 18 credits, the loss of revenue UFFAB could expect would be \$105,000.
 - i. This loss would not be recovered and roughly 10% of funds would be lost.
 - k. Noah asked if the regulations of the fee process allow for a “singling out” of a group for the fee increase. Is it possible to impose a fee cap?
 - i. Pat Burns suggested that the Board focus on what they believe is the right thing to do. There are legal obligations associated with fees but the Board should focus on doing the right thing.
 - l. Jeff Cook asked if there were other programs that might ask for a fee cap based on a higher credit load.
 - m. Ashley noted that many students could argue that they would never use the Biology building or the Warner addition and therefore, they should not have to pay the fee either.
 - i. A fee cap could cause controversy to some students.
 - ii. Annalis countered that because the grad students are already paying more than undergrads, an 18 credit cap would be a fair compromise.
 - n. Jeff Cook requested more data from Steve and Becca about revenue loss, based on a fee cap of 18 credits for all students, 21 credits for all students, 12 credits for all students, and 12 for just graduate students.
 - o. Noah asked for data about average credit hours for both undergraduate and graduate students, to better understand course loads.
 - i. Steve and Becca will have this data at a future meeting, most likely in November.
 - p. Ashley reminded the Board that they must make a feasible recommendation to the Vice President of University Operations.
 - i. The Biology building and Warner addition are depending on partial funding from the fees so the recommendation should be reasonable.

- q. Pat Burns also reminded the Board to share the information about the potential fee cap with their College constituents at a College Council meeting.
 - i. College Councils should be aware of this and should also have the opportunity to provide feedback.
- r. This topic will be revisited over the course of the semester, with additional data provided by Steve and the College Councils.
- s. Amy Parsons, Vice President for University Operations, and Dr. Rick Miranda, University Provost will appear at a UFFAB meeting at some point.
 - i. The Board would like to hear their opinion on this topic before providing a recommendation.

A. Discussion of Fee Increase in Bylaws

- a. In the event that the facility fee should ever be increased again, should the Board consider adding a clause to the bylaws outlining a process by which to do so?
- b. Another option could be to prepare a stand alone document, or series of documents, describing the fee adjustment process both from 2010 and 2014.
- c. Noah suggested the Board create a summary set of guidelines for future boards, independent of the bylaws.
 - i. The bylaws may be too restrictive and binding.
 - ii. Future boards can improve upon the process from 2014 outside of the bylaws.
- d. Jeff agree that incorporating the fee adjustment process into the bylaws would be too strong.
 - i. The bylaws could refer to the guidelines but should not include them.
- e. Tamla has a wealth of UFFAB institutional knowledge and recommended that the Board avoid requiring strict guidelines via the bylaws.
- f. A small task force of UFFAB members will be created to review the summary and associated information before it is approved by the Board. The task force will include -
 - i. Jeff Cook
 - ii. Ashley Cypress
 - iii. Annalis Norman
 - iv. Tamla Blunt
 - v. Becca Wren

Next meeting: **October 30th, 2014, 5:00-6:00 pm – Animal Science 2nd Floor Conference Room**

B. Adjourn at 6:00 PM