

# University Facility Fee Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

303 GSB

**Members Present:** Ashley Cypress - Chair  
Sam Laffey – Vice Chair  
Noah Taherkhani – College of Engineering  
Annalis Norman – College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Robert Edwards – College of Natural Sciences

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

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

## Ex – Officio

**Members Present:** Steve Hultin – Facilities Management, Advisor  
Becca Wren – Staff Support  
Savanna Bunnell – Staff Support

**Visitors:** Rick Miranda, Provost  
Amy Parsons, Vice President for University Operations

### I. Call to Order at 5:00 PM

- a) Meeting was called to order.

### II. Introductions

### III. UFFAB - Fee Increase Review

- a) Dr. Miranda began the discussion by thanking the Board for dedication to an important process.
- b) The facility fee is arguably the most important student fee board as it affects the most students.
- c) Though the fee cause a bit of controversy last year, Dr. Miranda firmly believes it was an important and necessary action, which will help several colleges and many students.
  - i. The UFFAB will not be asked to consider another fee increase for many years.
  - ii. The Biology department will not ask for any additional funds from UFFAB; they are now focused on the progression of the project.
  - iii. The building will create an opportunity of space expansion for many other programs.
  - iv. Construction is set to begin in 2015 with completion in 2016.
- d) A board member asked about the fundraising progress of the Biology building.
  - i. CNS has robust fundraising plan that will kick off very soon.
  - ii. The \$72 million cost of the building will allow for a 5 story building, with the 5<sup>th</sup> floor left as core and shell.
  - iii. Shell can be filled in with donor funds later.
  - iv. Project has \$57 million from UFFAB, \$5 million from central funding, \$10 million from donors, and a few other sources to be secured.

### IV. PVM Grad Student – Fee Cap

- a) Dr. Miranda stated that a fee cap at 18 credits for PVM grads would have no effect on the progress of the Biology building, as the loss of revenue is too small.
- b) He also shared insight on the PVM program and the required credit load:
  - i. No other programs on campus are required to take such a heavy course load (24+ credits).

- ii. The PVM grad students are paying upwards of 50% more than other students for the facilities, which they may or may not be using.
- iii. Very few, if any, graduate students choose to take 18 credits or more.
- c) Dr. Miranda would be supportive of a fee cap of 18 for PVM students only, as their course load requirements are high.
  - i. He would not be supportive of a general fee cap for non-PVM students choosing to take more than 18 credits.
- d) Ashley mentioned that the Board was sympathetic to the PVM scenario due to their high credit load and resulting facility fee but is concerned about the perception other students might have about a fee cap.
  - i. Dr. Miranda agreed that other students might find the fee cap unfair but given the reasoning behind the cap, students will understand the need for such a cap.

## **V. Flipped Classroom Concept**

- a) Dr. Miranda and higher administration is excited about the flipped classroom model and the potential for learning benefits.
- b) Engineering E-Wing and Aylesworth has UFFAB-funded classrooms, and BSB and other areas are considering the model.
- c) Faculty have expressed the desire to teach in flipped classrooms for better classroom experience.
- d) The range of classrooms sizes is being experimented with; are classrooms of 120 or more capable of being flipped?
- e) Cost effectiveness is debatable but the flipped classrooms are being studied.
  - i. Data will be analyzed and the cost effectiveness of the classrooms can be better understood.
- f) If the Board finds a flipped classroom proposal compelling, they should allocated funds towards it.

## **VI. Other Campus Priorities**

- a) Amy is enthusiastic about classroom remodels and would be supportive of the Board allocating funding to classroom/building remodels.
- b) Remodels have a bigger benefit to many more students for a lower cost than new construction.
- c) Amy is an advocate for investing in the resources already on campus.
- d) The need of the remodel is also important, i.e. Visual Arts has a lower cost/student but is in dire need of a remodel.
- e) Sam asked Dr. Miranda to choose his top 2 priorities for the University and how UFFAB can contribute to the progress of each
- f) Dr. Miranda had more than just 2 priorities
  - i. Finish the WCNR fundraising efforts to get the project underway.
  - ii. Equine Hospital and IBTT on South Campus
  - iii. A/Z addition
  - iv. UFFAB has contributed significantly to many of these projects, for which Dr. Miranda is very appreciative.
- g) Dr. Miranda and his staff are always thinking of the next step in the campus progression, i.e. what is the next residence hall, what is the next academic need, etc.
- h) Amy is working to upgrade much of the campus' utility infrastructure, which is not glamorous but critical to the function of the University.
- i) Robert asked if the UFFAB could fund the utility infrastructure projects
  - i. Amy answered, no, the main method for funding a project like that would be a Public, Private Partnership due to a lack of State funding.
- j) Sam asked if the Stadium is built, would it include classroom space.
  - i. Dr. Miranda answered that the proposed stadium designs account for a lot of space but the configurations and program need are unclear.
  - ii. The other options surrounding the stadium will not account for new program space.
- k) Ashley thanked Dr. Miranda and Amy Parsons for joining the Board.

Next meeting: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-6:00 pm – 303 GSB

**Adjourn at 6:00 PM**