

STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2007-08 Academic Year

Meeting #1

Friday, December 14, 2007

8:30 a.m., USU-205

Members Present: Robinson (chair), Andrews, Barker, McClinton, Montano, Schwanemann, Soni, Taylor, Yutrzenka

Members Absent: Hata, Hubbard, Kearney, Rice

Staff Attendees: Eckhous, Gleason, Hernandez, Sanchez

Guests Present: Stan Olin, Christine Phu, Yuriko Toma

1. Welcome and Introductions: Vice President Robinson, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. Robinson welcomed attendees and asked them to introduce themselves.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes: The agenda for the December 14, 2007, meeting was approved (9-0-0). The minutes of the June 14, 2007 meeting were reviewed. It was noted that Item 3, paragraph 1; should read "Parking Structures II and III." It was also noted that Kearney should have been listed as being absent, rather than Hood. The minutes, as amended, were approved unanimously (9-0-0).
3. CSU Fee Policies: Eckhous reviewed the information in Attachment 2, including E.O. 740 and definitions of the fee categories, and the authority, responsibility, process and accountability for setting/adjusting them. Robinson noted that everything that is approved by this committee is sent to President Alexander for his approval.

Robinson reported that Chancellor Charles Reed has placed a system-wide moratorium on the establishment of new campus-based student fees and the adjustment of existing campus student fees while the fee policy is being reviewed at the Chancellor's Office. A new fee policy will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at a March 2008 meeting. Eckhous reported that Chancellor Reed noted some inconsistencies in the kinds of fees presented and requested clarification of the student referendum process. There are a few exceptions to the moratorium, such as Category III fees for campus auxiliary areas, such as parking and housing. Any fee adjustments made during the moratorium period will be reviewed by this committee once the review of E.O. 740 is completed.

Olin, Phu and Toma arrived at 9:10 a.m.

4. Request to Increase an Existing Fee "Beyond the Approved Range," Housing Rent Fee: Olin, director of Housing and Residential Life (HRL) said that this year the room rent fee is at the top of the existing range, and the need for a fee increase is critical due

to the need to keep up with the cost of living and the need to expand housing facilities on campus. A market research study reported that as of last year, HRL is short at least 1,700 beds. The CSULB Foundation has acquired Brooks College, which will provide 700 beds, but more beds are needed. An architect has been employed to draw up plans. The Chancellor's Office also requires a financial plan. Olin noted that since HRL is self supporting, it does not receive any state general fund monies. The cost of the building project is projected to be \$140 million. The debt service on that amount is considerable. Olin said that the Chancellor's Office has indicated that HRL's financial plan looks viable.

Attachment 11 was reviewed, including room rate history and current and projected room fees. Compared with the UC system, private colleges and other CSUs, CSULB's fees will continue to be among the lowest.

Schwanemann asked about the acquisition of Brooks College. Olin stated that the Foundation is buying the property, which will be operated as residence halls and some classrooms. The Foundation will lease rooms to HRL.

Schwanemann asked why there had been so little increase in the room fees between 1991 and 2007, while a big jump is projected for fewer years, 2008 to 2014. Olin said HRL will be building new facilities, whereas before HRL was supporting facilities built five to 30 years ago, so the facilities were at the end of their debt service. Now there will be a very large debt service for the new building project.

Schwanemann asked if there will be financial aid for the increased fee. Olin said that the Financial Aid Office takes room and board rates into consideration.

Robinson asked what other expenses HRL has on an on-going basis. Olin referred the committee to the Summary and Combined Balance Sheets in Attachment 11, which list past, current and future operating expenses.

Barker asked if, and how, the fee increases will be explained to the students living in the residence halls. Olin said that students receive an information sheet with room rates, as well as the cost of living off campus. (For nine months, room and board in the halls cost \$6,900; living off campus for the same period would cost approximately \$9,000. Hall residents also may avail themselves of free activities.)

Robinson asked when students are informed of any fee change. Olin said they receive notice in the spring for the following fall.

Barker asked if upgrades are being planned for the older halls. Olin said HRL is diligent in performing projects to maintain and upgrade the facilities.

Barker said it would be important for HRL to work with ASI and Student Services to notify students of the fee increase.

Barker moved, Soni seconded to approve the fee request.

Montano asked how HRL plans to work with the Financial Aid Office. Phu said students can submit the FAFSA beginning in January; the results will be back in March. Financial aid packages will take the increases into account. Olin said HRL will give Financial Aid the necessary information as soon as possible.

Robinson stated that the request to this committee is to approve the fees from 2008-09 through 2014-15.

There followed a discussion about the various rooms available in the residence halls.

Schwanemann asked if the new construction would be “green.” McClinton said campus buildings are required to meet standards set by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Olin said that the campus builds “green,” and that LEED is a national ranking system for environmentally responsible construction.

Soni asked for clarification as to whether our vote would approve fees or a range. Robinson said it would be to approve a range; if there is any change up or down within the range, HRL must inform this committee.

The motion passed (8-0-1).

Schwanemann moved that the committee encourage sustainable construction. Montano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

Robinson said the committee supports efforts to inform students and parents of fee increases. Olin said it is HRL’s intention to issue a press release to the *Daily Forty-Niner* about the fee increase. Robinson asked about a brochure. Olin said marketing materials will be shared with the ASI and the campus community. Gleason said she will work with Olin on publicity for this issue.

5. Review and Ratification of Annual Student Fee Reports (Attachments 5-10):
Attachment 5: Eckhous said the Chancellor’s Office compiles information from all CSUs campuses to present to the Board of Trustees. Soni moved, Montano seconded, that the committee ratify CSULB’s Annual Student Fee Report to Chancellor Reed. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).

Attachment 6, CSULB Student Fees Activity Report: The attachment was reviewed; no committee action is needed.

Attachment 7, Student Fee Activity – Category III: Eckhous reported that balances in the various fees are reviewed to see if balances are building or if programs have any start-up funds. Large balances often indicate that some of the previous fiscal year’s expenses have not been paid.

Attachment 8, CSU Fee History: This report shows the history for CSU undergraduate fees.

Attachment 9, 2006-07 CSU Comparison Institution: This report lists the fees for comparable universities nationwide. CSULB is the lowest of the master's level universities in this listing.

Attachment 10, CSU 2007-08 Academic Year Resident Undergraduate Fees: This report shows how CSULB's undergraduate fees compare to other CSUs. CSULB has the lowest fees overall.

Soni asked how the fees will be affected when the Recreation Center is built. Eckhous said the USU fee will increase from \$50 to \$160 per term.

A discussion of campus enrollment management strategies followed.

6. Report of Fall 2007 Student Fee Activity: Eckhous said that Attachment 12 provides data on student fee activity for the current fiscal year. These are informational items, including data on suspensions and reinstatements of fees.
7. Future Meeting Dates: Montano suggested that committee members hold every second Friday at 8:30 a.m. on their calendars, in the event a SFAC meeting is needed, with the understanding that there will probably only be one or two meetings in the spring 2008 semester. Robinson said that committee members would be notified well in advance of a meeting. Gleason said she will send a schedule to committee members, beginning with dates in February 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sanchez, Student Services
(These minutes have not been approved.)