

## **Student Fee Advisory Committee MINUTES**

February 3, 2023 @ 9am

USU-205

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 Jeremy Ramos (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

Beth began the meeting at 9:02am with a round of introductions.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Instructional Related Activities Fee (cont.)**  
Ted Kadowaki, Athletics

Ted was joined by Tiffany Edlin, Alan Knipe and student athletes.

Ted presented a spreadsheet that covered 8 years of finances. Tiffany Edlin agreed to share this electronically. It was pointed out that Personnel has gone up, and so has Mental Health resource needs and Scholarship costs to compete with the "USCs of the world". It was mentioned that team operations (equipment, travel, uniforms) are fixed expenditures. About \$20 million. Dependable revenue is \$16 M. Not a sustainable business model.

Survey has gone out. Hoping to get to 3700 responses.

Positive comments shared by community.

If fee goes through, it plugs in the deficit gap.

Infrastructure repairs are going up (recent flooding in Pyramid).

No more volunteer coach allowed, so if we eliminate, there's less support.

Alan Knipe spoke about perception – 27 athletes, 4 scholarships. 83% grad rate for athletics. 5 national championships in the last 6 years. It's important for the perspective.

Teresa asked about the percentage of international student athletes and if they qualify for scholarships.

Alan mentioned that the head coach of the team picks their roster. Regarding scholarships, every team has a limit put on by NCAA. Must work with that budget. Must go after talented athletes. Lots of work to recruit internationally.

Norbert voiced that athletics does not represent the university, they don't use the name "California State University, Long Beach" (vs Long Beach State). It creates good will if Athletics fixes that. He mentioned that he did not find the survey compelling and that it's not a random sample. It didn't ask if you are willing to commit every student to pay \$128 extra every year to support all this. All were "feel good" questions. He asked what has been done to reduce expenses?

Ted mentioned they are working hard on the self-generated number, working with Dan Montoya to synergize efforts and do better in raising contributions. Ticket revenue depends on how well Athletics does. Even if it can be generated, it's not dependable, and doesn't happen every year. All efforts have been explored and exhausted. Personnel costs are fixed. Scholarships are fixed for the next 4 years. Those are 2 biggest cost items and nothing we can do. Athletics is continuously looking at expenditures. Travel, for example. Does everyone have to attend? Can we take a bus vs airplane?

Tiffany mentioned that handful of positions haven't been filled. Down 2 senior staff members. Others have absorbed that workload.

Norbert mentioned that his department as the same issue with being down 2 staff members and asking students for money was out of the question.

Mitali asked if when surveying, do students know it's alternative consultation and know about fee increasing?

Tiffany answered that they invite student to games and share surveys and links to gather opinions on Athletics. We engaged 2000 students at Week of Welcome. It was shared about student fees as "investments".

Anthony Regina noted that he hasn't come across an athletics survey, even when he's gone to games.

Tiffany inquired about what other groups should Athletics go into and engage with. Their next step is to go into Housing and Student Clubs. Meet with Greek Life. They dedicate games to attend events and setup opportunities to outreach for every home game.

Teresa suggested that Athletics needs to be very transparent about the fee increase. You'll get more honest feedback. Must be clear about the deficit and the proposed fee. IF this does go into play, what's the plan when you finally clear the deficit?

Tiffany mentioned that student fees cover team operations, and they aren't used to cover administrative costs.

Fatima asked to hear a bit more how this money would impact the student athlete directly. Are there additional resources that would be provided?

Christine (student athlete) shared her experience. Increase in Mental Health resources has been elevated and she has seen the benefits of being extremely supported. Not having to pay out of pocket for that has been very helpful.

Ted reiterated that the fees will only cover the deficit. Nothing more.

Diamond stated that she is a huge fan athletics and has seen how it's changed lives, etc. She asked how long the deficit will take to be removed with passing the fee.

Ted said it is needed annually to balance the budget.

Diamond asked about the possibility of less of a fee increase.

Ted replied that Athletics should be asking for more. He went on to explain why we went the Alternative Consultation route. Athletics is in dire circumstances at this point. Without this, they would have to make some major cuts.

Beth invited everyone to stay and ask questions but must adjourn the meeting due to time. Athletics to return to SFAC with survey results.

**4. Adjournment**  
**Meeting adjourned at 10am.**