

## **Student Fee Advisory Committee**

April 28, 2023 @ 10am

USU-306

In attendance: Beth Lesen, Norbert Schurer, Milton Ordonez, Praveen Soni, Rico Ovalles, Marianne Hata, Isaac Julian (student), Anthony Regina (student), Fatima Zeferino (student), Mitali Jain (student), Diamond Byrd (student), and Jeremy Ramos (student). Miles Nevin, Sylvana Cicero, various ASI staff members and student leaders also attended. Veronica Hernandez and Anthony Saucedo attended as support staff.

### **1. Welcome**

Beth Lesen, Chair

Beth Lesen began the meeting at 10:00am.

### **2. Future U: Student Body Center Fee**

Sylvana Cicero, ASI

Jeremy Ramos, ASI

Sylvana and Jeremy presented the Student Body Center Fee, which focuses on a major renovation of the University Student Union. The presentation began with the main drivers for the project.

- Address deferred maintenance and systems upgrades within the USU
- Expand and update spaces to meet student needs
- Create a long-term plan to operate, program, and care for the USU

Sylvana mentioned that this project would align with Beach 2030 by being Student-Ready while fostering a community of belonging, prioritizing health and well-being and Future-Ready by integrating future thinking into organization culture.

Sylvana presented historical context which included the 2011 USU Master Plan, 2017-2018 USU Facility Assessment, followed by a halt due to Covid in 2020. In 2022, a dining survey was completed followed by initial concept planning, campus visits to explore other student unions, and concept and campaign development. The official "Future U" campaign was launched in November 2022 and has maximized student engagement at all ASI-sponsored events.

#### Current USU concerns mentioned

- Not enough space to serve students
- Lack of food services
- Infrastructure failures
- Lack of accessibility between upper and lower campus

#### Renovation concepts mentioned

- Replacement of UDP with new 50,000 sq. ft. building
- Substantial renovation of the USU
- Wellness Center and Basic Needs Wing
- Parent/Family Lounge

Jeremy Ramos discussed ASI's student engagement efforts which includes in-person and digital outreach. The engagement outreach total was 707,215. He also mentioned that current students aren't using the USU due to limited food options and lack of space. It was found that 86% of survey respondents assess a high or moderate value to a Wellness Center, which was considered a "top three favorite space". 84% also placed a similar value on the Career Center providing services in the USU and increasing indoor/outdoor dining spaces.

John Barcelona, current student and previous ASI VP of Finance, mentioned that different fee structures were discussed at ASI Senate meetings with student leaders, and one was agreed upon and selected to be presented to the Student Fee Advisory Committee.

- \$220 is the current semester fee with \$475 being the new total semester fee
- The fee increase to begin Fall 2025
- There will be a 3% increase starting Fall 2028 to account for escalation of expenses

Isaac Julian discussed exploring options to reduce costs/fee levels which include

- Reducing new construction footprint
- Reducing investment in existing USU
- Reconfiguring bookstore space to house ASI and USU staff
- Revisiting staff workspace utilization to maximize existing space

Exploring possible university capital campaign/fundraising efforts was also mentioned. It was noted that approximately \$10M in reduced project cost equals \$10 in student fees. As the project moves forward, student input and engagement will continue. Isaac also suggested exploring ways that alumni can also stay connected and not feel that they are "paying for nothing" should the renovation be completed after graduation.

Praveen Soni acknowledged the hard work that is happening and congratulated ASI. Norbert Schurer suggested that faculty should also contribute monetarily to the USU since it also greatly serves them (dining, event space, etc.).

Miles Nevin presented the student mandatory fees across all CSUs, and even with the increase, we would still place somewhere in the middle, between lowest to highest in the system while remaining a highly valued, student-centered campus.

This concluded the presentation. Everyone was dismissed while the Student Fee Advisory Committee members remained for discussion.

Beth Lesen asked the committee to share any concern as to why this fee should not pass knowing the history of infrastructure failure and the needs of our current and future student body. Diamond Byrd mentioned that she previously was against the fee and had concerns, but after exploring all the benefits, she became in favor of. No other concerns were shared.

Out of 11 voting members present, 10 voted in favor of recommending the fee and 1 abstained.

**3. Adjournment at 10:59am.**