

Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 2025

Location: USU-205

Members Present

- Beth Lesen, Chair
- Neil Hultgren
- Marianne Hata
- Andre Achacon
- Praveen Soni
- Milton Ordonez
- Veronica Hernandez
- Nicholas Nieto
- Saniya Debose
- Alexis Suttle
- Nikki Majidi

1. Welcome

Beth Lesen, Chair

Beth Lesen called the meeting to order and reviewed the purpose, process, and goals of the Student Fee Advisory Committee.

Reviewed the process and goals of the committee.

2. Student Orientation, Advising & Registration (SOAR) Fee

Jesse Ramirez, Director, NSFP

Jesse Ramirez presented a proposed increase to the SOAR fee, from \$62 to \$95, noting that the fee was last increased in 2010. He explained that although SOAR is marketed as a one-day experience, it functions as an ongoing program supporting students beyond orientation.

Key points of discussion included:

- Increased costs related to supplies, wages, catering, facility rentals, lifeguard staffing, parking, and student materials, including swag (which some students would otherwise be unable to afford).
- NSFP is fully student-fee supported.

- Without a fee increase, the program is projected to operate at a deficit within two years.
- Even with the increase, SOAR would remain the second lowest orientation fee in the CSU, and still fall within the middle range systemwide.

Jesse proposed setting the fee at \$95 with a CPI-based increase thereafter (approximately 3% over three years, increasing to \$98 and then \$101) to prevent future large adjustments.

Committee discussion included:

- Nikki asked how SOAR compares to SDSU's orientation, given their higher fee.
- Praveen Soni asked whether the request was for a three-year approval. Jesse clarified that the request is for the \$95 fee with CPI adjustments as costs increase.
- Milton Ordonez asked whether other programs support SOAR. Jesse noted that other programs use their own state funding.
- Beth Lesen emphasized that funding is set aside to ensure students who cannot afford the fee can still attend orientation.
- Praveen asked about reserve levels and best practices. Jesse clarified that NSFP receives General Funds but does not maintain a set reserve target.
- Saniya Debose asked whether reserves were included. Beth explained that reserves have been used to supplement fees but are nearly depleted, reinforcing the need for CPI increases.
- Claudia Plaza stated that the fee request reflects projected needs rather than building excess reserves.
- Veronica asked whether the parent orientation fee would also increase. Jesse shared that this is currently being explored.
- Andre Achacon asked whether the proposed increase covers only existing services. Jesse confirmed that it includes current offerings such as parking.

Praveen noted that the fee could potentially be higher and stated that CPI increases should have been implemented earlier to avoid a large increase now.

Approved unanimously.

3. **CPaCE Fees: May Intersession, Winter Intersession, Open University**
Tom Owen, ASM, CPaCE



Tom Owen presented proposed CPaCE fees for May Intersession, Winter Intersession, and Open University. The committee found the proposal to be straightforward, and no discussion was requested.

Approved unanimously.

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:45 a.m.**