



## **Student Fee Advisory Committee Minutes**

April 2, 2024

Attendees: Rosalinda Garcia, Fred Juarez, Preston Salazar, Arturo Soto, Carolina Ramirez, Rodolfo Rendon and Mayra Hernandez

Other attendees: Rosabel Ramos, Roberto Garza, Denise Botello, Dr. Nicholas Hudson, Mario Lopez

Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Juarez. Seconded by Carolina. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation on Accounts Covered by Student Fees

### Student Services Fee: Counseling – Rosabel Ramos

Ms. Rosabel Ramos presented the Student Counseling (SSF) account that shows \$41,933 in operational expenses.

### Health Fee: Counseling – Rosabel Ramos

Ms. Rosabel Ramos presented the Student Counseling (HF) account that shows \$2,500 in operational expenses.

Arturo asked if the \$2,500 was coming from the referendum increase. Ms. Ramos responded yes. Ms. Garcia added that Ms. Ramos presented on the operational expenses, but the increased health fee also included the salary for a new counselor. Rodolfo asked if the professional development budget for retreats and conferences etc. is mainly for staff. Ms. Ramos confirmed it was specifically for counselors' professional development. She shared that there are currently 8 counselors who provide services to students but there will be a total of 9 with the additional one position.

Ms. Garcia provided an update on the TELUS health app. She shared that it is being used a lot more than expected.

### Rec Fee: Rec - Robert Garza

Mr. Robert Garza presented the Rec Sports (RSF) account that shows \$365,824 in operational expenses.

Rodolfo asked for clarification on the two categories for custodial. He asked if the custodial line item was for staff and the cleaning supplies line item was for the actual supplies. Mr. Garza confirmed. He said that one is to pay for the personnel providing the service and the other is to buy the necessary cleaning supplies.

Jesus asked how long the debt service would be paid. Mr. Juarez responded saying it is a 20-year loan expected to be paid off in 2039. Rodolfo asked if the debt service was entirely paid by the

student fee or if it was funded by other accounts. Mr. Garza confirmed. Mr. Juarez clarified stating it is the Rec Sports fee and not the SSF. Ms. Garcia added that to her understanding, previous students had voted to increase the rec sports fee years ago because they wanted to expand the facilities/services. A student asked if the rec sports fee only covered operational expenses, to which Mr. Garza responded no. He stated that it covers both salaries and operational cost, but his presentation was solely on the operational budget. Ms. Garcia mentions that the salary component for all departments was in the budget sheet that was previously provided via email.

#### Student Services Fee: SGA – Nicholas Hudson

Mr. Nicholas Hudson presented the SGA account that shows \$38,500 in operational expenses.

Ms. Garcia asked if SGA meets to allocate the funds. Carolina responded and said that typically the senate will vote on the budget during the first meeting or discuss changes. Dr. Hudson added that their constitution no longer allows for reallocations after the budget has been approved. Ms. Garcia asked the students if there is anything that is currently not funded by SGA that they would like. Carolina mentioned a previous concern about paying SGA officers for their service and asked if that was possible. Ms. Garcia reminded Carolina that the SFAC is discussing operational expenses not salaries. However, paying SGA officers is something we'd like to do.

#### Student Services Fee: Orientation – Nicholas Hudson

Mr. Nicholas Hudson presented the Student Orientation account that shows \$20,000 in operational expenses.

Rodolfo asked if the expenses were based on what was spent last year. Dr. Hudson agreed and explained that the type of events could change. Carolina asked if the department is dependent on funding from other organizations for these events. He added that Welcome Week is not sponsored or collaborated with CAB. Although they do have the option to participate.

#### Student Services Fee: CAB – Nicholas Hudson

Mr. Nicholas Hudson presented the Campus Activities Board (CAB) account that shows \$40,000 in operational expenses.

Ms. Hernandez asked if CAB was encouraged or if there are any opportunities to partner with other student organizations. Dr. Hudson said they do but that their budget must be set as the school year starts. The budget is set for the entire year. Rodolfo added that typically if the committee has decided to pursue a specific topic or has an idea for an event, they will reach out to the student organizations. Dr. Hudson stated that CAB won't provide the organization with money. They will instead partner with them. Rodolfo said that most often CAB will fund the event and the student organization will provide volunteers to work the event.

#### Student Services Fee: Activities and Leadership – Nicholas Hudson

Dr. Nicholas Hudson presented the Student Activities & Leadership account that shows \$17,500 in operational expenses. There were no questions.

#### Student Services Fee: Greek Council – Nicholas Hudson

Mr. Nicholas Hudson presented the Greek Council account that shows \$10,000 in operational expenses. There were no questions.

#### Student Services Fee: Student Life Special Events – Nicholas Hudson

Dr. Nicholas Hudson presented the Student Life Special Events account that shows \$14,450 in operational expenses. There were no questions.

Student Services Fee: Student Conduct – Mayra Hernandez

Ms. Mayra Hernandez presented the Student Conduct account that shows \$10,500 in operational expenses. There were no questions.

Discussion of Next Steps

After having seen most of the presentations, Ms. Garcia asked the committee for their opinions. There was discussion on the different views of what constitutes an expense labeled as “a student service.” The student members of the committee reiterated that they want to make sure student service fee monies are being used for services that directly serve students. Ms. Garcia discussed how providing student services requires equipment such as office supplies and software systems. That’s why those expenses are found in the budgets the committee has reviewed. Students reported feeling that the following offices are not as closely tied to student services: admissions, enrollment management, and financial aid. They don’t think that the link between those offices and student services is as direct. They felt that there are other offices that provide services that are more closely tied to student services such as career services or ACE.

Carolina asked if the committee could get the total amount of funding brought in by the Student Fees. Ms. Garcia reminded the group that this information was presented to the committee by Mr. Juarez last semester. It can certainly be provided again.

Preston asked how the finance office determines where funds go. Mr. Juarez described the budget process and explained that the funds are not only based on enrollment but also how much is collected. He advised that their office must also consider installment plans, waivers and other factors. Although there is an increase in enrollment there may not always be an increase in funds.

Ms. Garcia asked if the 12k would be an amount the committee could depend on for the future. She suggests that maybe that money could be used to pay for the SGA President and Vice President position. Preston expressed that although he agrees they should be paid that there should be a more concrete solution rather than depending on the 12k. Mr. Juarez and Mrs. Botello advised that it could fluctuate depending on enrollment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.