Student Fee Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, December 16th, 2019

Peace Garden Room

Minutes

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

I. (8:00) Call to Order: @8:04

II. (8:00) Roll Call:

- **Mason Rademacher (Chair)**
- **Chad Blank (Student Activity Fee)**
- **Lindsey Pouliot (Voting)**
- **Lauren Singelmann (Voting)**
- **Abbi Klos (Voting)**
- **Al Schwalbe (Voting)**
- **Jason Blosser (IT)**
- **Joe Mocnik (Library)**
- **Careene Madrid (Voting)**
- **Laura Friedmann (Voting)**
- **Rhonda Kitch (Career and Advising)**
- **Cyndi Rott (Non-Voting)**
- **Ken Grafton (Non-Voting)**
- **Bruce Bollinger (Non-voting)**
- **Karin Hegstad (Wellness)**
- **Patricia Dirk (Health)**

*Highlighted members present

III. (8:05) Introduction/Updates:

a. **Mason:** Thank you all for being here. This year will be different than other years. There hasn’t been a time in a while where the request is higher than what is allowed. In previous years the chair has set the tone, but I will not be telling this group what we should and should not do. I don’t however personally believe we should request above and beyond the allowable amount.

IV. (8:10) Fee Increase Revenue Projections (Cyndi Rott):
a. **Cyndi:** I looked at the $3.44 increase and I feel like the range of revenue we can expect is $915,000-$940,000 total. All of your budgets are going down so that increase might not even offset your decrease.

V. (8:20) New Business/Proposals:

a. (10 Minutes) Library (Dean Mocnik)

i. **Joe:** I will try to cover as much as I can in the ten minutes. Your comments and questions will be very meaningful. We had an increase in 2018 to $3.60. Even if the fee was to go up our revenue may still even go down. Our projected revenue has been on a downward trend. Our costs are disproportionately high. UND and Concordia spend more per student on library resources. Not having the resources will directly impact all our research efforts and we will lag behind our competitors. This affects undergrad, grad, faculty, and researchers. We chose not to request the entire possible amount because we wanted to be specific. Option 1: $2.50/credit and Option 2: $1.50/credit. (Reference proposal for detailed explanation of both options)

1. **Mason:** One of the elements you talked about was expanding the digital fab lab and the research and tech park is doing something similar. Do you see these potentially cannibalizing?

2. **Joe:** They are looking at a larger scale. Our goal is to provide a pretty basic level of technology which is more achievable and attainable for our students. I see them as very complimentary with our offerings.
3. **Mason:** You had mentioned for increase of electrical outlets it would be $50,000. What is the dollar amount for the other things on our list?

4. **Joe:** I have ranges in our more detailed proposal.

5. **Abby:** Is VR a video game?

   a. **Joe:** There is capabilities way beyond video games. It can provide all varieties of experiences.

b. **(10 Minutes) Technology (Jason Blosser)**

   i. **Jason:** We are asking for as much of the fee you can give us. There was a increase in 2007 to $5.50, 2013 to $8.25, and 2016 to $9.07 which is where were at today. About ¼ is spent on classroom tech. ¼ is on salaries for staff related to classroom academics. 18-20% is spent on wireless infrastructure. The rest is software (10-11%). That area has increased dramatically. We are seeing huge increases, we are working with Office of Teaching and Learning with things like Qualtrics which will be increasing, and we have to absorb it. We have also had to absorb the Microsoft contract for labs. Our proposal is to stay even, there will be no increase in service or functionality, this is life support. We have a few million dollars in the bank and by the end of 2021 we will be in the red. Once we hit 2022 we are roughly down about 1 million every year. We have a three-prong approach 1) Cost savings and cutting the budget. 2) Working with university administration to see if we can get university funds. 3) Is asking this board to increase the student fee. We are appreciative of this group
and we don’t like asking for the full amount but were in a tough place. We recently cut half the staff at the TLMC and have not been filling positions. We are trying to be frugal. The tech fee is about the same as NDSCS and lake region. It’s a little more than valley city. We are 15-20% higher than UND but they use different funding models. After the increase we will still be lower than Minot and similar to Williston. We will be on par with our other institutions. We are much lower when compared to other large regional institutions.

1. **Mason:** You mentioned that this would be to hold the budget even. What would be your hold even?

2. **Joe:** I forgot to get that number, but I think it’s around 3 million a year.

3. **Mason:** I know IT is taking on additional costs. What was the cost of clickers going under IT fee and other additions?

4. **Joe:** I think it’s about $40,000 for the clickers. There were four software packages that we brought on, 1 site license, and were looking at a hit for plagiarism tool in blackboard that doesn’t actually work so we need to replace that. The total cost for all them is around $100,000.

c. (10 Minutes) Student Activity Fee (Chad Blank)

i. **Chad:** FAB can be very confusing. FAB is comprised of 10 entities that we define as Tier 1’s which are categories by how directly they affect students. For FY20 we are asking for the full fee increase because we want
to get as much as we can. All 10 are asking for the increase. We have already decreased our budgets for this year. We have $30,000 in the bank on about a 3.9-million-dollar budget. If we stay the same with no fee increase, we would owe accounting $400,000 next year. We have run numerous scenarios and a 17% cut would be the only way to stay afloat.

1. **Karin:** Are you looking at changing the disbursements to the individual entities.

2. **Chad:** We are working on building our budgets for next year.

3. **Mason:** They have been using the mentality that we all have to share the cuts, so we all get to share the increase just as evenly.

VI. **(8:50) Process Explanation and Timeline**

a. **Mason:** Each of the three entities will finalize presentations by December 26th. At least two weeks before any open forum I have to email the student body and then email them again. I have to put all of you on the Student Government website. All fee proposals will go on the website. I will put SFAB minutes and bylaws. Each entity will have to do an open forum taking place after 4:00 pm. Following these I will have to host an open forum recapping all requests. We then create a paper and online survey to collect feedback. I will then share the results with you at the second meeting next semester. Hopefully the second week back we can hold all 4 forums.

i. **Cyndi:** As a university we have to send in everything by the end of February.
ii. *Mason:* As and FYI this is the recommendation group to the president who has the ultimate power.

iii. *Cyndi:* The tech fee has to be approved by the chancellor as well.

VII. (9:00) Adjourn @9:03