

Student Fee Advisory Board

February 10th, 2017, 12:00 p.m.

President’s Conference Room

Agenda

1. Call to Order: 12:00pm
2. Roll Call:
3. Absent: Bruce Bollinger
4. General Discussion about Fee increase

* We should start from the secondary because it is under the 1% cap of $2.88 and with students not wanting an increase, we can work our way up or down from that.
* Last year the discussion was wants and needs. The secondary should be increased with departments working in the red
* The 1% cap should not be maxed because it is a comfortable increase although it might be comfortable for us it is still quite the increase for students
* This is the first year an all student survey was sent out and it was clear that students were just focused on an increase in fees and not the understanding of the student impact on an increase; less than 25% of the student body that completed the survey attended the presentation or reviewed the proposals online.
* Earnings are staying the same well expenses are increasing, for students who are against it.
* The students under this seem to be informed from who they discussed with. I think if they had more information they would understand better.
* Either there needs to be a discredit of the survey or go with what the survey says
* Not every student understands where their dollar goes and that is where we need to interpret that
* The survey in the past was only handed out at the open forum to get feedback from students who were informed on how their costs were going up
* Bismarck students are very opposed to this because they do not get to utilize the amenities that the fee’s provide. Was noted that Tech Fee is substantively used for Bismarck students’ benefit
* Students have made suggestions to cut more out of Athletics budget.
* A lot of the departments are cutting down with all the financial changes that NDSU has gone through
* A fee increase is necessary and it is starting to show in areas. We need to find the line that is comfortable with students and accomplish what we need to move forward as departments.
* Even though the student feedback from the survey mostly said do not increase fees, we also need to weigh the fact that 75% of the respondents did not attend an open forum or watch the increase proposals online.
* We can’t discredit the survey. We need to seriously consider the student feedback while still understanding that the departments asking for increases really need more fee money to continue their services to students

1. Discussion about individual fees
2. **Student Activity Fee**

* They run deficits every year in areas and a lot of depreciation and inflation hitting our areas.
* They are just trying to get back to the original budget they had FY15 which is a more sustainable number
* The union is operating deficits each year because of high use and under allocation which is now starting to show
* Student organizations are continuing to grow which is a great student opportunity we provide. We are already running deficits in student orgs and budgeting is not even over at this point.
* All sorts of depreciation is being seen around the board with sports equipment and other entities as well.
* The union is one of the highest used areas of the campus and students are capitalizing the most out of this area
* Places like the union should come up with a more proactive plan to stay efficient and ahead of these problems and so this is not a yearly thing, to ask for an increase.
* The union plans in ten years and keeps it updated and the problem is, is that they do not have the money to operate that ten year plan.
* There really aren’t any more revenue options for them. They are binded by bidding and other agreements where they cannot reach out for it.
* They are trying to modernize as time goes on. They want to keep moving forward to avoid the same problems in the future.
* Fundraising is difficult for a building such as the Union
* There can be more creative ways to fund things through the structure. If you look long range you can find ways to fund. I think it has been hindered by continuously looking to student fees.
* Students a long time ago decided that a union is what students wanted and it is hard to get an external revenue. Students should be able to say if that viewpoint has shifted or not.
* The board is comfortable with the Secondary option

1. **Library**

* This is directly correlated with student’s education. It is absolutely associated with student’s main purpose of being a student and if they choose not to use it that is one thing, but it doesn’t change the intent of the library for student to get a benefit for their education.
* People are going to other places to find what they need such as other local schools to get things like books that they need for their subjects, which is a huge concern
* They make sure that the funds are being used and well used.
* Revenue sources are limited and a good portion of the ones they have are restricted, so it really limits the amount available for each subject. They run into problems when departments are up for accreditation, and the Libraries have to start years in advance building certain collections to meet accreditation requirements.
* The secondary could provide a decent and considerably better budget with no spending restrictions where they would be able to purchase 3 to 4 times for each subject.
* An increase would be restricted to a book budget, and wouldn’t be used to cover current subscription costs. The fee increase would be to add to the Libraries’ current holdings; they would only spend what they received, and inflation would not be a factor.
* Purchasing collaborations with campus departments is better for electronic resources than for book purchases. If a department or faculty really want a book they purchase it and keep in/them within their units, in most cases.
* People are okay with moving forward with the secondary request

1. **Student Health Service**

* The last substantial increase was in 2010
* They have a ten year capitol plan which includes facilities improvement and equipment repair and replacement, for example.
* The students’ fee cover about 50% of their budget.
* The student health service provides many types of services to make sure the campus is kept safe.
* They do a lot with illness prevention
* They do a lot more than just what is provided if you walk into the student health service office
* Other facilities do charge for things such as office visits and if this is chosen not to be funded, this is a way that it might need to be covered. It will need to be covered by other means such as stated earlier.
* Students would be deterred if they could not access the health service for free.
* All of this is for students’ health and to make sure students wellbeing is be looked after.
* The board is comfortable moving forward with the secondary proposal.

1. **Technology**

* They are already running a deficit such as health services
* It would be used to refresh the STEM building which is an unfunded issue that will contribute to them running in the red

Move to approve the secondary request for Student Fee increase

In Favor: 11 Against: 1

1. Announcements:

* The secondary request is now approved and will be announced
* There will be another meeting to discuss by law review

1. Adjourn(1:03pm)