Members Present: Jamie Beyhmer, Spencer Moir, Jacob Goroski, Alex Stangel, Colton Bruhn, Noor Abdelhamid, Mario Jimenez, Joe Manoles, Carla Gross, Amelia Asperin, Kevin Brooks, Michael Krush, Tim Alvarez, Barb Lonbaken

Guests: Michael Harwood, Assistant Dean of Student Life
        Rian Nostrum, Director of Residence Life
        Darren Peterson, Director of Dining

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm by Chair Beyhmer with a welcome & introduction of members.

VP Alvarez announced that the guests would be sharing Dining and Residence Life proposed rates for 2017-2018. The Advisory Board would not be approving the rates, but would be provided the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Harwood provided context for the process, which was initiated 16 years ago; Residence Life and Dining begin looking at budgets in October; the State Board of Higher Education identifies the information to be included in the proposals; proposals are shared with RHA for endorsement.

Peterson shared the Dining Rate Proposal handout, which included: background information, meal plan rate history, proposed 6% average increase in meal plan prices for FY 2018, capital facility and equipment improvements, peer university board rate comparisons, and the fiscal year 2017 budget.

Other points made: funds/revenue used for food, salaries and benefits, improvements, capital projects, expansion projects (able to pay for projects without going externally for funds); food costs increase 8-9% per year; Dining Dollars removed; and peer increases are about 3-6% per year.

Nostrum distributed the Residence Hall Rate Proposal with background information, RHA and hall government roles, rate history, last year and current budget, proposed increase of 5%, new revenue and expenses, other proposed projects, as well as comparative room rates by institution.

Additional information included: 5% increase will result in new revenue of $692,000; staffing and facilities are the highest cost; health insurance is the highest percentage increase; current projects (renovation of common area bathrooms, Churchill and Burgum halls, elevators); authorization for new residence hall near HR lot being requested, as well as University Village replacement.

Guests ended by entertaining questions form Advisory Board members.
Small group discussion took place on the article “Rich students flock to elite colleges, study finds, but graduating college levels playing field” by Emily Tate. Guided reflection questions were:

- Does attending a more prestigious school matter in terms of life time earnings?
- Why do you think some schools have higher mobility rates than others?
- Do you think there is a relationship between parents’ income and students’ future earnings?
- What do you think we are doing to have a positive influence on the mobility rate at NDSU?

Members’ comments included: factors include location of school (more money on east and west coasts), land grant (higher mobility rate), residential vs. commuter campus (engagement level), community support of school, drive/motivation, communication, and values.

The next meeting will be February 27 with a presentation on CollegiateLink.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Lonbaken
Assistant Vice President for Student Wellness