

Student Fee Referenda Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2013

Action items are in RED

Members Present: Max Gee, Kelsey Finn, Hugh Graham, Mark Lucia, Paula Lofgren, Claudia Covello, Fabrizio Mejia, Rose Chan Gee, Donna-Jo Pepito

1. Welcome and Introductions

Fabrizio Mejia, new chair for the year, introduced Paula Lofgren who will be co-chair for year.

Fabrizio will send email verification of Paula's new role.

2. Purpose of Committee

Q. Chair asks members to speak on what they believe the purpose of this committee to be.

Answers:

Kelsey Finn – create the procedures/policy around the referendum process working with ASUC in partnership on how to move ref. through the process so that vetting is happening on timeline and with the right people. So that when it is on the ballot it can actually be implemented if passed. Procedural and advisory board.

Claudia Covello – Sub-committee for CACSSF, Chair reports into CACSSF via EOY report. We want to make sure that things are going well by having continuous conversations with the student leaders to make sure that everyone is on the same page. Trying to put a safety net in place for the initiatives.

Hugh Graham – CFO makes sure that all of the language is in place to make the referendums implementable as written. We have no say on what we think about the proposal but to look at the technical side of the proposals and provide advice to the students and who they are partnering with.

Q. Where is the committee's webpage?

The list of the members and the policies should be posted to the Student Affairs website when it is back up but on the interim the content will be on the CFO's budget website.

3. Goals for the Year

Fabrizio – Analyze if the timeline is feasible for the students to see if it works/needs to be changed. There needs to be an effort to try to adhere to the timeline.

Mark – Adding pieces of the timeline to the by-laws of the ASUC so that it is a part of the process. DJ will talk to the senate about doing this.

DJ – Planning a meeting of this body with the new president right after elections in the Spring. This should be the last meeting with this body and should include the current and new president i.e. De-brief/Transition meeting.

4. Updates from students re: possible Referendum

Bahar, Nolan, Max and DJ have met to talk about fees below.

- Student tech fee is still an option, they are trying to work through the priorities. They are going to software based proposals. They are thinking of setting up a committee to control the fees i.e. CACSSF Model. This body would take proposals from staff and students for money. The money would be staying with the campus and the body would advise. DJ is the point of contact for this fee.

- Additional ASUC and GA fee to bring more money to return to aid. This one still needs to be flushed out to provide specific earmarks for what the money is going to go for. This would be an increase to the ASUC/GA fee that is already in place. The goal is to increase the return to aid.

- Health and Wellness: Specifically to build a wellness center. They would have to remove the fitness center from the old fee referendum on health and wellness because campus is subsidizing the costs for that center. The old health and wellness ballot is still there so the senate has to go through the process of removing it. Max is the point of contact for this fee

Max has questions around the idea of implementing fees for large capital projects. He wants to ensure that there is no negative impact for future students to add referendums because there are so many fees already in place. He also has questions regarding the philanthropic capacity with building something like a wellness center. He wants ideas on additional ways to fund this that would allow them not to saddle the students with a fee for a long time.

Max will start the conversation with George Zeno to see if fundraising is an option.

Hugh Graham will arrange a meeting for Max to meet with someone in CFO to talk about if this referendum is even possible. Paula Milano and Laura (Interim CFO)

Additional Comments from the committee regarding this fee –

Donna-Jo: Undergraduate students would not put this on the ballot if there was not a commitment from the campus to contribute.

Hugh Graham: Mentioned that current fees that are in place for wellness i.e. RSF fee will expire in 2016, 2017.

Donna-Jo: There is the idea that a wellness center referendum should be on its own, separate from fitness to keep things honest for the students. If this referendum cannot go into play this year, the senate will re-evaluate the fees that will expire and strategize on how to move forward.