 

**MEETING MINUTES**

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**Date: 1/21/22**

**Topic: Public Meeting**

**Present:**

**- Voting members:** Erin Boas, Najee Rodriquez, Noah Robertson, Sean Terrey, Claire Kelling, Schönn Franklin, Megan Minnich, Latisha Franklin, Xiaoru (Tony) Shi, Warren Sipe, Nora Van Horn

**- Nonvoting members:** Yidi Wang, Alexa Clayton, Kate Rutter, Barry Bram

**Absent:** Erin Boas (excused- left at 9:25), Jake Snyder (excused)

**Agenda:**

1. **Call to Order and Opening Roll Call**

*Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m.*

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

*Motioned, seconded, no objections.*

1. **Adoption of the Minutes (January 14, 2022)**

*Motioned, seconded, no objections.*

1. **Public Comment**

*No public comment.*

1. **Old Business**

*No old business.*

1. **New Business**

*No new business.*

1. **Topics of Discussion**
   1. **Campus Rec Hearing**

Campus Rec (Laura Hall): Why we feel its so important for you to invest in Campus Rec and why it is impactful for students. 300% growth in student employment opportunities in the last 4 years, expanded our hours, reduced participation fees across the board and started charging non-students which was not the case 5 years ago. Asking for $4,937,809 for financial accessibility, student employment opportunities and health and holistic wellbeing. Intend to use the funds to mitigate out-of-pocket expenses for students participating on our programs, return student fee funding to students through student employment and continuity of programming to support wellbeing. Try to stay afloat during the pandemic. Lost $3,000,000 in revenue. When very student pays into the fee, we then feel it is our reasonability to support those students. We need our spaces for our students have a sense or safety and belonging. We have included trading’s in our student staff meetings for the last 4 years. What can you do from a student led position? A lot of micro efforts nicely support our macro efforts especially in environmental sustainability. Providing opportunities for physical and mental sustainability is very important especially during this time. Restorative yoga was the very first thing pitched to the fee board. Its free. We get referrals from CAPS and UHS. A little more than 8—student apply for jobs and make fair wages. At minimum at entry levels make anywhere from $9.50 to $16.50 an hour. We are open to our students (staff) mental and physical health. We provide student employment opportunities and are dedicating to supporting and training our students especially during Covid.

Claire: I love you connecting the value to students. It seems like last year there was an going 2% inflation, I was surprised to see a flat request this year.

Laura Hall: We accumulated some salary savings. Instead of coing back and asking for more, we are using the savings as the 2.5%.

Nora: Do you see increases in the need for student fee and that inflation cost for the future?

Laura Hall: We made a commitment that we would have a reasonable cost. Aside from cost of living, we would try our best to sustain that 2.5%. As a pandemic hopefully subsides, we are looking to boos that revenue back up. We are already revisiting revenue regeneration. What are other sources of revenue? Sports or new facilities?

Claire: Campus Rec is the largest allocation by the student fee by 1 million dollars.

Latisha: Activities in the lower level

Laura Hall: It is through Health Promotions and Wellness that I can investigate. I cant answer the question

Najee: More insight into funding. What is the student fee contribution used for?

Laura: Student fee covers the operational side of things. No operating costs identified and why the building closed at 9 pm. We came to the fee board saying we have a great space, with endless opportunities which was great for people who could afford it but that is only a margin of students. This is what established the relationship with the fee from the start.

Yidi: how will you improve advertisement?

Laura: We were able to hire our own marketing person. She started 2 months ago and she is working on how to reach students. Social media is good but from a marketing perspective, it has limited reach. We have created a student team who has broader reach.

Noah: Talk more about the club sports program.

Laura: Generally speaking for club sports, we were able to allocate $100,000 more dollars. It is financially inaccessible to some students because of the cost. We wanted to make it accessible for all students. How many spots can you hold in your club for students who need financial support. Adventure trips, any activity we offer has a $10 or less option. You can come to the facilities to learn about the activities for your own adventures if you can’t afford the weeklong trips. We keep the bottom line as low as we possibly can with the fee in place.

Claire: We are going to need to document why there isn’t an increase this year. Is there any way we can get more details on the salary savings?

Laura: We can show you the number of vacancies in the salaries savings and send that to you.

Latisha: Accessibility of campus recreation for student disability?

Laura: We are super proud of our accommodations. A workout guide has been provided to one of our students without sight. Providing an accessible locker, accessible fitness equipment. Wheelchair accessible. New position for inclusive recreation being added to Campus Rec.

* 1. **University Health Services Hearing**

Becky Simcik: The ask is the same as previous years at $420,000 to provide STI testing at no cost to UP students for the first 10,000 requestors for 2022-23. Removing the cost to students removes a barrier to getting tested. In our program right now, it treats all eligible PSU students. Self STI testing program has been available since 2015. 30 staff generally speaking. There is no exam needed although there are appointments with clinicians available. Results are received within a few hours and given through a resident portal. Other STI testing (not a part of this request) is Herpes, trichomonas, HIV and hepatitis C. Student billing goes to insurance, bursar or out of pocket. UHS is partner with the CDC in April 2018. Study indicated self-testing is efficient and effective and increased STI test uptake. The fact that you don’t need an exam or talk to someone has removed a physical barrier. Higher risk students were coming in more during the time of this study. Confidentiality, no clinician appointment, ease of testing and cost were reasons students liked the self-testing program. In Fall 2019, UHS got equipotent for gonorrhea and chlamydia specimens. We can control the cost of the test since we control it in our own lab. UHS has kept the price of testing the same with no plans to increase in. UHS will give a 30% reduction on a test with a pay discount. Reference lab costs > $200 without insurance. Results within hours are better for students’ piece of mind and public health. Why the $420,00? 5492 gonorrhea and chlamydia tests performed, 75% of them paid at the time of the service. In 2021, excluding December, 3735 tests were performance due to the pandemic with remote learning). Good news is that our numbers are going up. Subsidization of the tests result in $) cost to the student. Number of tests expected to double from 5,000 to 10,000. Students have the option for syphilis testing as well with this request ($14 without the discount, $9 with it). 10,000 tests at $42 a test comes to the $420,000 request. STI tested enhances wellness outside the classroom. Benefit to confidentiality and privacy concerns. By making this test free, we hope it empowers students to seek care for a treatable infection. We take provide in our sexual reproductive program and we know eliminating the cost barrier will get more kids tested.

Claire: I noticed in the presentation, there were additional costs and the fee board emphasized the no additional costs.

Schonn: What was the most common STI? Was it at Penn State or worldwide? Are costs of other tests included?

Becky: Chlamydia is the cost common STI worldwide and STI test request here on campus. I don’t have the numbers, but they are not covered under this request.

Warren: Why do you think after the pandemic, there is such a large increase?

Becky: We think an extended outreach is going to increase it.

Najee: Insight about potential expansion for universal coverage for all STIs pertaining to HIV testing

Becky: HIV testing is still a send out test, not an in-house test since we are at the mercy of the send out test location. It is one of my goals to bring back HIV testing to UHS to control the costs and rapid testing like the gonorrhea and chlamydia testing. I feel most strongly about HIV testing to move in-house.

Andrea: UHS also has a new staff responsible for community health who is on the call and will be able to assist with the larger messages going forward.

Nora: Is you actively seeking a grant?

Becky: In terms of the STI program there is no active grants. There is interest in pursuing grants, but I don’t know of any active plans right now.

Nora: I am curious, what plans are in the works for these programs? (Being flexible to gender affirming care)

Becky: Time for a rejuvenation. I know there are plans for students to meet with UHS and the advisory board. What are ways students can get involved in these programs?

Claire: You don’t want another pilot. The pilot program is a benefit to UHS’s program. Why don’t you want another pilot?

Becky: A pilot program can only continue for so long. I am happy to make a pilot again if that’s what the fee board wants. The worry is that UHS won’t commit or perception.

Claire: UHS has always applied for a standing allocation, but the fee board has chosen a pilot program because it allows for flexibility and we don’t want to adjust the final standing allocation until we understand utilization. Do you have a calculation for utilization this upcoming year?

Becky: I don’t have it calculated out but I can get that information.

Tony: What will UHS do to secure the privacy of students on the billing side?

Becky: In terms of privacy, unfortunately a lot of the billing is controlled by universal sources. It would need to come from changes in laws well above us. Health insurance billing its a dependent in a tough spot when it comes to privacy.

* 1. **Paul Robeson Cultural Center Hearing**

Carlos Wiley: The PRCC will be celebrating the 50-year anniversary this year. The UPSFB allocation of $198,000 is used to provide students with programs and speakers, special justice retreat, women empowerment symposium, etc. Struggle with Covid-19 restrictions. Budget total is $206,00. $57,000 for cultural enrichment. $39,000 for racial identity, politics, and social responsibility. The allocation is used to provide resources and programs to promote positive racial identity development. Education, social and physical programs are promoted by the PRCC. We wanted to provide resources for students and programming. Stopping Asian Hate and Black and Jew Dialogues were two of the events from 2021 programming. We promote through our Instagram and Facebook and stream through our YouTube channel. Upcoming events in spring 2022 include Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Social Justice Advocate Program, Paul Roberson Birthday Bash, etc.

Warren: Just for clarification, it says at the top you are requesting $198,000 but the budget total is $206,000

Carlos: The bottom number $206,000 is correct.

Nora: Is the 8000 aligned with last years funding? How much are you going to use this year?

Carlos: Based on what organizations were looking for, we think their total bill was $2,200. With increasing, who know what we will be facing next year with the liaison board. We added in fees in that process and will see If a cheaper option is feasible. This number will be feasible for what we are looking for.

Claire: Just to clarify, any organizations through UPAC can’t use funding for food.

Alexa: How are students involved in the section of speakers?

Carlos: The liaison board will be utilized and a student survey online to see how many people are coming and provide 2 entertainers/speakers they would like to see.

Claire: Question about the allocation. Not an allocating body. The student fee is not another allocating body.

Sean: There was a recent sexual assault claim. Is there anything the PRCC is doing about that.

Carlos: No answer

Latisha: Do you have any concerns about resources that the PRCC provides? Is there any plans to renew information?

Carlos: There are opportunities for our advocacy offices through NSO to put out a survey for services they might be interested in. We were given access to these lists for this information. In the height of Covid, 90% of students were in the PRCC for first year students since upperclassman were remote and off campus. We are trying to get access to Starfish so we can communicate with all students and reorganize the PRCC. Lots of plan to increase resources for all students. We also have weekly discussions with our marketing teams to focus on what the PRCC is all about.

1. **Subcommittee Reports**
   1. **Facilities**

*L. Franklin: No report*

* 1. **Environmental Sustainability**

*N. Van Horn: No update*

* 1. **Standardization**

*S. Franklin: Meeting on Wednesday*

* 1. **Communication**

*N. Robertson: Meeting this week*

* 1. **Zero-Waste**

*Nora: No report*

* 1. **Equity Fund**

*Najee: Follow-up emails, made a deadline for the request*

1. **Chair Report**

*C. Kelling: New fee request hearings are scheduled. New fee request was brought up during this meeting (UHS). Not a standing allocation yet even though we have funded them for a few years now. Working on scheduling the ESF hearings. Will be done with hearings on February 25th. Initial recommendations are due by SME’s on February 28th. Only exception is ESF which meetings are right before the deadline. Equity fund proposal is also due the 28th.*

*Off-cycle meetings are on Monday 14th 6-8:30, Saturday the 19th from 2-4 and Monday the 21st from 4-5 (all in March). Facilities meeting on January 25th*

*Ground rules for recommendations are in the google drive. Schedule for the vote and deadline will be put in this folder as well. I am happy to meet with anyone with questions.*

1. **UPAC Chair Report**

*Alexa: Allocated around $2.9 million dollars which will go into the funding request forms for next year.*

1. **Communications Intern Report**

*Kate: Onward State will be attending meetings and revamping its pieces on the student fee. I have reached out to the Collegian as well.*

1. **Comments for Good of the Order**
2. **Closing Roll Call**

*Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.*