



Student Fee Board

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 12/9/22

Topic: Public Meeting

Present:

- **Voting members:** Lawrence Miller, Xiaoru (Tony) Shi, Yidi Wang, Brian Johnson, Conor Kelly, Ava Philips, Sydney Gibbard, Dallas Zebrowski, Cierra Chandler
- **Nonvoting members:** Alexa Clayton, Zander Golden, Jolinda Wilson, Barry Bram

Absent:

- **Voting members:** Jada Quinland, Noah Robertson, Najee Rodriguez
- **Nonvoting members:**

Agenda:

I. Call to Order and Opening Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Motioned, seconded.

III. Adoption of the Minutes (December 2nd, 2022)

Motioned, seconded.

IV. Public Comment

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. 8:15 - Student Farm

Vancie: Student Farm is home to many students. Many students never stepped on farm until Penn State. Empowering to grow food alongside friends.

Rebecca: Joined last year and is the treasurer. Goal is to teach about food justice and sustainability.

Will: Student Farm provides opportunity to engage with agriculture.

Vancie: Asking for \$230,000, a \$15,000 increase to cover general salary increase for full-term food systems coordinator staff and to adjust for inflation and raise in student wages of \$11 to \$12.

Allocation divided into student wage, student engagement, and staff.

Farm began out of student interest, granted a 1 acre pilot. Now, 7 years old and expanded to 4 acres.

2021 impact report: diversified vegetable farm, can walk, ride the bus or drive. Educate students and interns on different methods of growing, managed year-round by paid student interns, who can take on leadership roles. Sustainable practices to reduce waste. Community workdays and tours on the farm. Support a number of volunteer hours. Engage many classes from 8 different colleges. Reall does involve the entire student body. Usually about 39 active in student organization body of the Student Farm.

Rebecca: SF does receive funding from other sources. Have received \$2.2M since 2018. Since 2020, raised \$225,000. Additional funding sources from Schreyer Honors College, Dr. Ross, and much more.

Goals with proposed funding are to increase student employment and produce efficiently on the farm, help with transportation (which costs money), revamp hydroponics interns, reach out with volunteer opportunities.

Our projected expenses broken down into thirds. Fall 2023 highest at \$119,000. Spring 2024 is \$74,000: focused more on working on smaller hours, reduced student engagement, fundraisers. Summer 2024 is \$36,000. Total is \$230,166.

Current plans for the farm. We just installed our fourth high tunnel. We also got wifi installed, developed new fields, and upper half of the farm is developed. Projected to have our fifth high tunnel developed this spring. Outdoor kitchen, which will allow us to introduce healthy foods and healthy cooking.

Will: Food Systems Coordinator supports agricultural, educational, justice aspects of the farm. Plant Power PSU, for example. Emphasizing what SF represents to the community, bringing in volunteers and facilitating tours of the farm. Internships. Bringing together other organizations. Cooking collabs. Food Justice lecture series: seed activism, food security, labor.

Student wages for interns to make it more feasible to engage with them. 26 student interns from across 5 colleges.

In addressing food insecurity, two community gardens: rooftop garden above our vegetable cellar (mainly runs in Fall) and Schreyer pocket garden. Donating to Whitecourse, Lion's Pantry, popup market stand. More than 500 pounds donated and distributed.

Community engagement: 656 student volunteers for 1300 service hours. 40 events reached 2200 students. 14 other student organizations collaborated with or supported.

Any questions?

Brian: Any specific time period when you see influx of non-farm affiliated students?

Vancie: Depends on capstone classes we engage with. So based on semester. Also students involved in organization.

Ava: What's the difference between student intern vs. part of the club?

Vancie: Student interns will work full-time in the summer, or part-time during the school year: maintain farm, lead tours and workdays. Student club members attend meetings, volunteer.

Lawrence: How do you ensure SF club fees are coming from UPAC vs. funds from SFB?

Rebecca: I work a lot with UPAC. We've had speakers, Harvest Fest through UPAC. Had other ways to raise funds, which benefits both the club and the farm. I go through and manage the club funds.

Leslie: The club holds its own ASA account. Funds through SFB, I receive. These are separate accounts. Sometimes, case by case.

Lawrence: Do you do any outreach with graduate programs?

Leslie: Open to ideas for more engagement. One of graduate associations started advertising to come on a weekly basis. Sometimes, we have grad students who join the club as well.

Cierra: Can you detail how you engage with underrepresented communities?

Will: At least this year, worked with Indigenous Peoples' Student Association. Free soup dinners. Try to engage as much with underrepresented clubs, but focused on IPSA this fall.

Leslie: Also support Hispanic Heritage Month activities. Continue conversation with food workers, justice, and agriculture throughout year.

Tony: How will SF continue to address accessibility experiencing food insecurity? Address social stigma coming with food insecurity?

Vancie: We've been trying hard to reduce that stigma. Pay what you can market stand. Acknowledging not everyone can pay the same for fresh produce. Hope to continue programs like that. Community gardens also forms of advocacy.

Brian: Gradual decrease in student wages throughout year?

Vancie: Minimum wage raised from \$11 to \$12. Spring, summer linked to decreased student hours during those times, compared to fall.

Lawrence: Looked into Equity Fund? Subject matter expert should send materials over. How confident are you that you reached full allocation of \$215,000 from last year?

Leslie: With unit move, lost access to lot of information. But from July onwards, now tracking with more confidence and using in full. Suspect we underspent.

B. 8:45 - HUB-Robeson Center

Mary: I'm the senior director of the HUB-Robeson Center. Here to request funding for furniture, fixtures, and equipment reserve. The purpose is to purchase fixed assets, repay debts, or to fund expensnions. Look at student spaces, renovate them. Some specific reserves are created with a specific reason in mind. Back in 2001, created this reserve and has been funded \$200,000 every year since then. Do not use reserve every year. Talk to advisory board and think about how to best serve students and use funding efficiently. Past uses include renovation of student

organization offices, replacement and updating study cubicles, carpet replacement. Larger projects can cost \$1M. \$200,000 held by Controller's Office. Ideas are vetted through the HUB-Robeson Center Advisory Board and SFB before seeking approval from the VP for Student Affairs.

Present balance is \$967,671. Supply chain issues, rising costs. Major projects require million dollars. Benefits student spaces only in the HUB. Starting \$10M renovation of one of the floors.

Yidi: Could you talk a bit more about \$10M renovation?

Mary: Renovation, we're in the process with an architect design. This is from the \$10M of last year's board.

Sydney: Could you talk about HUB advisory board?

Mary: Sub-committee makes decision on who gets space. \$10M renovation, the board will be active in that. Plaque policy. Student piece is big part.

Cierra: When replacing furniture, estimated costs and what happens to old furniture?

Mary: Don't know cost, trying to re-upholster old furniture.

Cierra: When old furniture sales goes to surplus, where does it go to?

Mary: General fund.

Brian: For purchase of fixed assets, are those factored in? Or funds focused on new renovation?

Mary: This is a general definition.

Lawrence: When it comes to carry-forward, and you didn't use last year, would you have access to both carry-forward and present money?

Mary: This is a reserve, not a carry-forward. This does accumulate.

Barry: Carry-forward and reserve are different accounts. Carry-forward goes back to Student Affairs.

Alexa: Other offices want to have an advisory board. How did you put together board?

Mary: Part of Faculty Senate. Primarily students, also staff and faculty. Has its own constitution.

Brian: Sub-committee decides on who gets space, given abundance of organizations.

Mary: There's certain criteria. Sub-committee will take tours.

Alexa: When they choose who gets to use the room, organization who uses space is given preference.

C. 9:15 - CAPS

Natalie: Senior director at CAPS. Primary provider of psychological services, everything from rapid response to routine services. Employ over 50 from medication prescribers, to clinical services, and we run a robust training program. Sit on three pillars, care delivery (clinical care), equifinality (many roads lead to same place), cultural humility.

Last year, proposed record specialist, and assistant director of DEI. Two options to manage staff. If not able to hire immediately, able to provide extra care. Adjunctive relationships with Ginger and Mantra for additional clinical care. Serve about 10% of the Student Body annually. Not just

short-term. Run one of the best group programs in the country. 20-35 filled. Long-term opportunity. Real need closer to 30%. Record specialist helping with referrals.

Can fund University Wide Services. Penn State Crisis line, Crisis Text Line can be funded in large part because of the support provided by UPSFB. Students served at CAPS - moving up to 4,309. Can expect number to grow. New students screened up to 2,464. Clinicians, talk through the phone for 15 minutes.

Mental health demand increasing every year. Some theories include destigmatization efforts.

Goals of current proposal is to maintain all positions added, and fund GSI and benefit costs increases covered by UPSFB.

We have 3 case managers to help with complicated insurance needs - out of county medical assistance; also active hospitalization process. So records specialist allows case managers and clinicians to spend more time with students. Amount of time spent on case management support activities increased drastically. With insurance, hospitalizations are complicated to support a student through.

Invisible need is change of campus students. Case managers and record specialist can support getting those records.

Assistant Director of DEI. Strategic partners, group programming, outreach programs. CCMH is a Penn State organization chapter and a national resource. CCNH indicating discrimination prevalence. Discrimination impacts mental health. AD DEI progress to date: Consultation of food insecurity, housing insecurity, tabling at the We Are event, professional development, clinical on the ground care, training.

Downtown, Bank of America, Student Center locations.

Also have student wellness advisory committee.

Brian: 10% vs. 30% number. To what do you attribute inability to handle influx?

Natalie: Even tripling staff, students would still have desire for different type of care? Students who benefit most from long-term care, since we provide short-term. Would love more providers, space; idea is to hire more associate clinical staff that work remotely to provide clinical care only. Penn State trained, but less costly.

Don't have data on how many students access external care. Good portion may already be benefitting and resourced.

Cierra: Relationship with UHS?

Natalie: UHS and CAPS are big partners. Refer most students back and forth. Different electronic medical records. Most strategic wellness partners, but also independent. We don't see UHS records. Can access in an emergency.

Conor: How does CAPS compare to other universities? Where can we improve?

Natalie: Penn State has long been looked at as a model. Known as a counseling center to be efficient and effective with resources. Try to see as many students as possible with effective care. Success of groups - word of mouth. Strategic partners. Struggle with compensation. Other Big10 partners able to compensate more. Benefits package is great. Employed clinicians report love of working at CAPS.

Cierra: Other sources of your budget?

Natalie: Endowments, like class gifts. President and Provost allocation funds for red folder. Even interested in expanding Red Folder (mental health first aid). Expanding to green and yellow folder. But many lines coming into budget.

Some donors have specific goal in mind, want to fund just one topic. Hard to think about funding outside of a wellness building.

Cierra: Competitive goals for salaries?

Natalie: Feedback will go back to units to make adjustments to funds. Following HR's lead on classification. If more funds required, we'll be working with AVP of where we want to identify those funds.

VII. Topics of Discussion

VIII. Subject Matter Reports

A. Sydney

Sydney: UHS presented to the parent's council for feedback on a health fee proposal and presented to the health and wellness advisory board to get their perspective. There is good feedback and support from those people. The parents manage the Facebook group. There are interviews to get onto the council. Plus, there are a wide range of perspectives on those boards.

IX. Chair Report

Lawrence: For the BJC, has there been any updates with Phil and the student advisory panel?

Zander: Sydney sent a list of organizations to reach out to. I'll reach out again to send more organizations.

X. UPAC Chair Report

Alexa: UPAC has allocated \$2.1M.

XI. Comments for Good of the Order

Barry: Student Care and Advocacy and UHS to be submitting a new fee request.

Conor: At least two coming in for ESF.

XII. Closing Roll Call

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.