Commonwealth Fee Board Meeting

Friday, March 17, 2023

4:00-5:30 p.m.

102 HUB-Robeson Center

ZOOM: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/95557803761?pwd=VG5kZitldjlwVU1KMnczYnpyaTVzdz09>

Minutes

## Welcome/Roll Call

Aashka Patel, Chair-present

Aiden Conese-present

Catherine Howard-absent

Erick Vetovich-present

Gavin Miller-present

Kara Wright-present

Kole Barclay-present

Lizbet Minchala-absent

Matthew Cascioli-present

Matthew Strupczewski-present

Raymond Ondrako-absent

Andrea Dowhower-present

Jay Arcuri-present

Ken Miller-absent

Carlos Rodriguez-present

Dan Murphy-present

Jess Heckler-present

Guest: Zachery Albright

## Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda by: Aiden Conese Seconded by: Kole Barclay Motion passes.

## Adoption of the Minutes from the last meeting

Motion to adopt the minutes by: Aiden Conese Seconded by: Erick Vetovich Motion passes.

## Items to be discussed and voted on (when noted)

* Basic needs support funding request—(vote)

Motion to fund new basic needs support in the amount of $1.91 by: Matt Cascioli

Seconded by: Kole Barclay Motion passes unanimously.

*The request is for $85,000 to fund 1 full-time case manager position, a recommendation from The Food and Housing Insecurity Task Force.*

* CAPS, Student Legal Services, CCSG funding requests—(vote)

Motion to approve slate of funding requests for CAPS, SLS, and CCSG by: Kole Barclay

Seconded by: Matt Cascioli Motion passes unanimously.

*CAPS increase from $8.58 to $8.67; SLS decrease from $3.00 to $2.83; CCSG decrease from $0.65 to $0.63.*

* Fee levels—
  + 2023-24 (vote)

*Six proposed plans:*

*Plan A—Activities increase: $4.22; Facilities increase: $3.00 = $267 / $206*

*Plan B—Activities increase: $5.22; Facilities increase: $4.00 = $269 / $208*

*Plan C—Activities increase: $7.22; Facilities increase: $9.00 (based on CPI) = $276/$211*

*Plan D—Activities increase: $4.00; Facilities increase: $9.00 = $273 / $212*

*Plan E—Activities increase: $7.00; Facilities increase: $4.00 = $271 / $210*

***Plan F—Activities increase: $9.00; Facilities increase: $9.00 = $278 / $217***

Discussion:

After discussion around various plan preferences, Jay Arcuri shared input from 2 of the smaller campuses, emphasizing that both want the maximum increase. This led to the elimination of 3 out of the 6 plans. Kole Barclay then shared that Abington needs funds to pay their student workers. Aiden Conese feels that having more funds allows us to do more. Gavin agreed that campuses rely heavily on SIF.

Motion to approve Plan F by: Kole Barclay Seconded by: Aiden Conese

Motion passes unanimously.

* CFB chair selection update—(vote)

Motion to approve the CFB chair selection for 2023-24 of Zachery Albright by: Aiden Conese Seconded by: Kole Barclay

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion:

Erick described the process and the committee’s impressions of Zack. Aashka added that she also had good impression of Zack.

* Mont Alto request approved – flexibility of funds

*Background—Mont Alto wanted to* *reallocate facility fee funds to support counseling--$160,000 to be allocated toward wages necessary for expanding campus counseling services and hiring part-time staff. The framing of the latter motion opens the floor to either hire one part-time counselor or potentially hire two part-time counselors depending on the negotiated hourly rate and the student body's needs. The approved funding is for a two-year commitment.*

*A vote was taken by a Form sent to the group. Nine of eleven members responded: 8 were in favor; 1 abstained.*

The board approved Mont Alto’s request for reallocation of facility fee funds to support counseling.

Discussion: This situation confirms that we may want to consider merging the two funds or to increase the amount of flexibility of funds to avoid this type of situation in the future.

Many members agreed that the two funds should be kept separate. Jay Arcuri also supports keeping them separate, however, he feels that there should be a process in place to handle such a situation as Mont Alto just presented or that the percentage of flexibility should be raised to 25%. Jay also offered to assist with a work group on this topic, so that they might put together a proposal by our next meeting.

Carlos Rodriguez shared that keeping the two funds separate is an “administrative nightmare” for his office. He wants to merge them as a way to increase efficiency and wants cooperation from CFB and the DSAs and plans to discuss this with the DSAs.

Discussion followed regarding whether merging the two funds would be inevitable, what merging them would then require of the campuses and the allocation boards, how having separate accounts provides an additional level of accountability, and how the already few campus allocation board members would handle such a change and the additional work it would require.

Aashka asked what the timeline is for the merging to happen. Carlos explained that he wants DSA input first and consensus.

Andrea explained that for CFB the process is more complicated as compared to the UP fee board where the money goes to UPAC for allocation.

Erick pointed out that there are not enough serving students to build in another group to manage this process.

Kole asked if board could convene when such requests as Mont Alto’s come through. Jay responded by asking if we want to convene every time a situation like this arises. He feels that there should be a maximum and, if a campus wants to move more money, they should come to this board. Kole agrees and wonders if the percentage should be increased. To change the percentage of flexibility of funds, the decision goes through this CFB board.

Motion to keep two separate accounts, one for activities and one for facilities by Matt Cascioli Seconded by Matt Strupczewski Aashka abstains. All others (7 members) in favor and motion passes

Aashka will write a proposal and send to board.

* Proposal for change to CFB Operating Procedures related to student org insurance

Dan Murphy explained that in the operating procedures, student organizations must have insurance coverage to mitigate risk. This has been paid centrally and then billed to the individual campuses. While it is recommended that the expense comes out of SIF, it is not required. 18 of the 19 campuses currently pay for it out of SIF. There is an administrative process that pulls the amounts for CAPS, SLS, etc., out before funds are sent to the campuses. This change in procedure would bundle the student org insurance with this administrative process.

Motion to approve the changes to the CFB operating procedures related to student insurance by: Aiden Conese Seconded by: Kole Barclay Motion passes unanimously.

* Fee level –2024-25 (discussion, if time)-Andrea asked that for the next meeting members think about how we formulate it. This will be a similar process to what we just did for next year. Consider anticipated inflation and need. Discuss it among yourselves and have some logic to support it.

## Additional Discussion / Public Comment

## Recommendations to the Vice President

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kole Barclay Seconded by: Erick Vetovich All in favor.

Future meeting dates: April 21—Virtual