



Student Fee Board

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 4/7/23

Topic: Public Meeting

Present:

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

Absent:

- **Voting members:** Zander Golden
- **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 (April 2nd, 2023)

Motioned, seconded.

IV. Public Comment

Lawrence: When we're starting to move into votings, last year's SFB' chairs noted to think about impact on students, if voting is going to make a student's life better, is this something a student needs? Even a dollar can determine whether a student struggles for his/her next meal.

V. Old Business

A. Deliberations

1. Zero Emissions

Cierra: We recommended full funding with contingency of meeting yearly metrics, in line with ESF's goals. I think this is similar to Bird Strike Proposal, in a sense that there would be students who would be funded, part of research and implementation. This is very much research heavy, so I'm a little cautious from recommending this as well from the feedback we got from last meeting. Last point, overall, for ESF, all proposals seem to be very research heavy, so there's a line to cross. This would improve the student experience, but for the actual day-to-day, it is more research based than experience based.

Najee: I feel the same way. I think indirectly it does better student lives - increase in air quality. But I think it is more in line with research and not in line with full impact with students.

2. Student Leadership & Involvement

Conor: Focusing on SPA, seeing they've had more consistent engagement at concerts, rather than lectures. Focusing on inflation, partial funding. Justification on the next slides. A recent addendum involving student leaders, Tyler requested we only cover their top 5, so decreasing overall cost of paying student leaders.

Lawrence: The addendum is an addition of \$21,000. I asked Conor to make new recommendation in general. Costs for concerts increase from \$550K to \$650K. Also talking with Andrea about student leader payment. We won't be voting. Got some answers, didn't know what

student operations expenses - this is student insurance, a quote already given. HUB-Robeson expenses - this is what HUB approached SL&I for. Any further questions for SPA about this?

Brian: Where is increase distributed?

Lawrence: Going from \$550K to \$659.

Tyler: Concerts is currently \$454K, and lectures is \$260K.

Dallas: Regarding second slide of removal of \$690K from paying students. Is that resolving paid E-Board?

Lawrence: One of Conor's recommendations is talking about possibility of paid E-Board. This is not a paid leadership allocation. This is what we will vote on today with extra money for concerts, for example. Extra \$20,000 for the top 5 members of the organization would be opportunity of talking about next week.

Najee: I was curious about what does funding E-Board look like for other offices within SL&I.

Tyler: Want to meet standards at 90% of other universities. Want to take feedback from fee board of phasing fee in. Domino effect has to start somewhere. Very abnormal for programming boards to not be paid. Want to move toward Homecoming, maybe even branch to GPSA.

Najee: Curious about concerts or programming - what is contracting and how has that influenced itself to increase?

Tyler: Starting with concerts - artist fees have increased significantly. An artist we brought two years ago for \$45K now will not look at offers unless \$100K. Rate at artist pricing is constantly growing. Goal of SPA is so that students don't have to leave campus for these experiences.

Trying to coordinate based on artists' routes. Stopping by State College when going from Philly to Ohio, for example. Cost of labor has also gone up significantly (sound tech, lighting tech). Other operational costs - safety equipment, new communication at events and shows (we use radios during shows, but now want to use visual communication). Prices are inflated for artists.

Remainder of lectures - Jennete McCurdy, Ross Lynch were 600-700 in attendance. Always happy to listen to feedback from fee board.

Barry: Biggest concern is this office has never been told about decreases. Only office that ever got a decrease in the past was the BJC and only after sharing our concerns. BJC was cut 12.5% last year.

Najee: Also feel this is lack of proactiveness as we're uncovering things.

VI. New Business

Lawrence: Sheet we will be using today is "Voting Numbers" in the Voting Materials folder.

Alexa: Proxy process - voting member would have to contact nonvoting member to vote on his/her behalf.

Lawrence: Only one absent is Zander. Also can send a survey to absent voting members.

A. 23-24 Voting

Bryce Jordan Center

Lawrence: \$25,000 increase. We have yet to see forward-facing proactiveness of getting student advisory board. Recommend that we see concrete effort. BJC tends to use all money, but main concern was student oversight board was to focus discount on shows students want to see more.

Brian: Pertaining to BJC, we're being harder, but giving an increase. According to Zander, BJC is not being proactive.

Jada: Annual difference column?

Lawrence: Difference between recommendation this year from last year's allocation.

Cierra: This is just ticket subsidies?

Sydney: Right, if we want to see more ticket subsidies.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Campus Rec

Lawrence: Allocated \$4,937,809 last year. Recommendation is to increase by \$207,500.

Brian: I recommend full funding. Data they presented suggest they are recovering tremendously from COVID. One of largest employers. Retain lot of visits, he gave updated metrics. Steady increase. Utilizing funds well. Only reason for increase is to subsidize increase in student wages. Could be difference between whether student workers pay their rent or not. Promote good health and physical well-being.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

GPSA, UPUA, CCSG

Lawrence: Voting as a block. This will be voted on by at-large members only. Voting for full flat funding.

Sydney: We're trying to be better stewards of student fee. Trying to decrease and minimize inflation effects by being more efficient where we spend more money

Jada: GPSA didn't see enough data to justify increase.

Yay: 4

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Will also send vote to Alexa to vote on for fifth vote of at-large member.

Center for Performing Arts

Lawrence: Requesting increase of \$13,600 to \$235,000.

Cierra: Reason for increase is to dedicate more money to student-initiated shows. Paying for more student interns and also giving experience for students to lead their own shows.

Brian: Remember reading specification of utilizing funds to create space?

Cierra: Will still be there. This is in new fee request, their space allocation.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

CSGS

Lawrence: Asking for flat funding.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Child Care Subsidy

Lawrence: Funding 50%, we will decrease by ~\$51K as part of cost sharing plan with central funding.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Gender Equity Center

Lawrence: Flat funding.

Dallas: Self-defense is through other funding sources?

Lawrence: Right.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

HUB

Lawrence: Flat funding.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Lion's Pantry

Lawrence: Provide a service that helps students experiencing food insecurity. Seem to be using funding fairly well. Also very communicative with us. Already spent all money this year. Increase of ~\$46K to \$196.7K.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

OGEEP

Lawrence: Asking for increase of \$16,107.08 to \$197,915.

Najee: This is adjustment to salaries.

Yay: 9

Nay: 1

Abstain: 1

Paul Robeson Cultural Center

Lawrence: Asking for flat funding and asking for \$403,500 addendum for community coordinators. Do we split this to vote on?

Sydney: Talked about doing advocacy for cost-sharing. Is it possible for us to delay vote until we have conversations?

Lawrence: We can do that, and move addendum to next week, at the same time as voting on student leader positions.

Najee: Bendapaudi is having DEI town hall. Community coordinator has been in thought space for the past 2 years. If they're asking for support, it's important to have centralized identity based support. Unlikely to redistribute central funding. Seems like perfect investment for DEIB support.

Sydney: The town hall is in two Thursdays.

Lawrence: We need to vote on this. Since we will have money from facilities reserve. We're not going to commit money until we do. Based on carry forward and facilities reserve, if we want to wait and see but still vote, we can make recommendation they hire these people. We're just voting on \$206,000 flat funding.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Student Disability Services

Lawrence: Asking for a decrease to 0, given they did not spend money. Decrease of \$65,000.

Cierra: They don't have authorization to hire?

Lawrence: Right, said they will try to come with new proposal next spring.

Yay: 10

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1

Student Farm

Lawrence: Requesting \$14,366 increase to \$230,166.

Yay: 10

Nay: 1

Abstain: 0

Student Leadership and Involvement

Lawrence: Asking for increase of \$34,078 to \$1,884,618. We will vote on student leadership payment next week.

Sydney: Still making recommendation to decrease marketing?

Lawrence: Still have over \$300K left to spend this year. I'm in disagreement with marketing cost. Itemized list that Conor and I worked on is in Google Drive of SL&I.

Najee: Wish we could be on top of them for next year. We hear misuse of money. I'm in support of concert increase, but I have many questions about leadership position payment. I wish they provided more detail. I hope they are more accountable next year in recording what they purchase. Specifically SPA. Wish there were more concrete support for how they chose positions and responsibilities to warrant being paid.

Barry: They got rid of administrative board in lieu of five executive positions.

Najee: Think there needs to be more communication for purchasing materials between entities. They need to be aware of that.

Lawrence: I understand that Tyler said it needed to start somewhere, but I think it's inappropriate to start here. I would want whole student body to vote on paying executive board. They are one of 60 organizations invited to student leader roundtable.

Brian: My personal belief is to deny student leaders from being paid to this extent. Not in favor.

Lawrence: Given SL&I has money, we can make recommendation they pay, and they can make the decision. Not have it come from us, however. SL&I pays. Recommendation is to pay major student organizations - SPA, HOCO, UPAC, MLK, THON.

Barry: I think this needs time. Vote yes or no on SPA, then think about ramifications.

Cierra: Position to utilize their funds, given carry-forward. I was also curious about campus programming. Seems like a significant decrease.

Lawrence: One of big problems - they weren't using money. Problems with how they requested. Money leftover and increase of money. Hiring 4 more people means they each spend \$800K. Want this to be a spending of a useful amount of money. Overspending with utilization with greater student good, when this is major part of student fee. We can also prescribe money, but only send when they demonstrate utilization of money. This vote is everything on itemized sheet, solely operational. The next vote is solely about wages. Nothing we decreased is close to peak numbers.

Brian: I would also increase poster printing, with what they're requesting. Advocacy for their organization could be better.

Lawrence: Poster printing is student organization marketing, rather than their marketing. They're also a non-UPAC funded organization. Not large part of their money, and they could shift budget around.

Sydney: Don't want this to be covered by UPAC, or that they don't fund this.

Lawrence: In justification letter, we could better clarify without going by line item.

If we say no in vote, that means new recommendation.

Yay: 1

Nay: 4

Abstain: 6

Lawrence: We need a new recommendation for them. By next week, please work together to create a new recommendation. If you need more information, I need that by Tuesday at the latest.

We'll also recommend they separate SPA and SL&I.

Student Legal Services

Lawrence: Requesting increase of \$60K to \$545K.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Student Orientation and Transition Programs

Lawrence: Consistently \$80K under full. Recommendation is \$100K, they requested \$104K.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Sustainability Institute

Lawrence: Requesting decrease of \$32,460 due to cost saving measures. Requesting \$58,040.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

UHS STI Testing

Lawrence: Requesting increase of \$55K to \$370K.

Najee: This was something fought for by UPUA for some years. Think this is in line with what UHS does.

Yay: 11

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

UPAC

Lawrence: Requesting increase due to Movin' On - inflationary costs and security. Then tend to use most of money. Requesting \$4.6M. Annual increase is \$421,500.

Yay: 10

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

New Fee Requests: ESF and Equity Fund

Bird Strike Proposal

Sydney: This wouldn't change student fee. This would go to reserve if not approved. Do think there are projects that contribute to student life better.

Brian: Don't think it's a good project for students.

Cierra: I do see a connection. You don't want to see a bird on the side of the road and see there is something we can do. I'm really impressed there are students on this campus that are concerned about the environment and sustainability. But I do understand that there may be projects in the future that may have a direct impact. But to me, this does impact the environment.

Najee: I agree with Cierra's point. It's a grappling of what will impact the student experience. I get the sentiment of the proposal, but I think it's responsible to move this allocation to reserves.

Brian: Other ways to demonstrate climate activism. I think there are better options. It wouldn't impact the fee, but I would consider long-term. In my mind, this is not something the student body would support.

Jada: I like this proposal and don't feel like request is too much. Don't think it's fair that it's not something the community doesn't want to see.

Cierra: I understand. I would just reiterate this comes from concerned students. This is in general acknowledging there are ways we can improve our footprint on this space. Also, we only received two requests. These are people who came to the board. I understand, and there may be proposals that better utilize the funds in future years.

Yay: 5

Nay: 5

Abstain: 1

Lawrence: This tie will come down to Zander's vote.

Zero Emissions Fleet Implementation Plan

Brian: How would this evolve from a pilot program?

Cierra: A large part of this would be going towards a feasibility study. Two interns to manage relationship with consulting firm that would be running feasibility study. Already guaranteed money for engines for fleet.

Brian: Would this not provide direct effect?

Lawrence: Right.

Yay: 9

Nay: 0

Abstain: 2

Basic Needs Support

Lawrence: I will contact Andrea about this. We will vote on this next week.

OMPECC

Lawrence: One time request of \$2.3M. I have received 67 new emails in support of this program since January 27th. In total, 145 emails in support, 1 email against.

Najee: In all honesty, they have well-refined advocacy groups like EcoReps. I don't think this is the year to advance this.

Brian: This support is not the defining factor. Don't think there's significant justification - primary justification is they don't have any other sources of funding. Timeline for this to happen is also very short.

Lawrence: No future funding plans?

Jada: Right.

Conor: I want to make it clear that I'm support of this. Every item student recycles goes to the landfill. This is a \$2.3M allocation, but it is spread out for 2 years. At the same time, I understand there a lot of other important fees.

Lawrence: We do have \$10M of reserves. I can talk to Andrea. I am in disagreement that the 100 or so emails are not important. These are student voices. To ignore any student voice, that is not representative of what representatives should be doing.

Sydney: I want to wait until you talk to Andrea about using facilities reserve. I would also want to see cost sharing, shouldn't be entirely on the student fee. Advocating for us to wait another week. Would be in favor of using facilities reserve on this.

Najee: The university isn't following through with compost infrastructure fully.

Cierra: Just to add, if you have compostable plates or utensils, those do not become composted.

Yay: 2

Nay: 1

Abstain: 8

Lawrence: Next week, we will vote again.

VII. UPAC Chair Report

Alexa: Allocated \$3.8M.

VIII. Chair Report

A. Meeting with Jolinda

Lawrence: Had a chance to talk about reserves and how we can move money around. The facilities reserve currently has \$30M, we can't take it out. But for yearly contribution, we can move around. Can start to slowly increase fee, rather than having one large jump. Talking to see and limit fee increases. About \$103 per student that can now be shifted around. Also talked about carry-forwards. Barry and I had a conversation for how that can look like with offices like Student Leadership & Involvement. Per student rate is 45,302 students per year. That's for the fall and spring. There's an estimate of 5,000 students in the summer, and they pay 75% of the student fee.

Najee: Enrollment protection - cushioning?

Lawrence: The only function of the enrollment protection is rounding to a whole number. I'd like to take it out of the facilities reserve. Jolinda will also see percentage increase for plan. This will be voted on next week.

B. Meeting with Andrea

Lawrence: Talking about handbook language.

C. Follow Up From General Counsel

Lawrence: Language is we won't fund anything that is found to not be in line with University's rules, including x, y, z. Still figuring out what is not in compliance.

D. Recommendations

By Wednesday, please have your recommendation slides. You can use ground rules. Going to have office, what was allocation last year, what was request this year, and what was their recommendation. This is not the final recommendations, we have to vote on that. After that, we start justification letters. I need recommendation slide of SL&I by Tuesday. For OMPECC, please reach out to them by today.

IX. Comments for Good of the Order

Brian: Glad to note decrease in fees.

X. Closing Roll Call

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.