

UPFB Weekly Meeting

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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

students, units, point, fiscal year, move, budget, related, funding, representative, understanding, year, good, requests, uhs, ambulance, commentary, question, cost, president, model

06:21

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Okay, I now call this Friday, February 9 meeting to order at 9 am, and vice chancellor will be opening roll call.

06:41

\*Vice Chair Chandler takes opening roll call and quorum is met\*

07:19

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Is there anyone's name who has not been called? All right. All right, we'll now move into line item two adoption of the meeting minutes. Is there a motion to adopt meeting minutes?

\*Second\*

07:34

**Chair Rodriguez:**

We'll now move into line item three adoption of the agenda. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda?

\*Second\*

**Chair Rodriguez:**

All right, and seeing now that the agenda has been adopted, we will now move into line item 4, public comment. Is there any student here for public comment? Seeing no students here for public comment, we'll now move into line item 5, old business, fiscal year 2024-2025 budget modification request review. We will begin this by recalibrating ourselves today with going through the commentary and questions that were provided by all of you. When you were going through this last Friday, we want to make sure that this can be inclusive, conclusive way to go about getting the commentary questions that you might have with these remaining events, as it pertains to fiscal year 25 modifications, have them sent out as soon as we can and following this meeting, get those answers back. And then hopefully finalize fiscal year 25 budget modifications, if it doesn't need to get to that point for finalizing those modifications at this meeting. So we'll have a variety of ways that we can go about it. And we can reevaluate that towards the latter half of our meeting.

But to begin, we're just going to start with going through our consolidated commentary and questions, reviewing each one, and ensuring that these are okay to be sense, so that we can proceed forward with our cycle and time cycle that was afforded to us. So we'll begin with the Bryce Jordan Center. What we did is we utilized a format from to be more to go in which we identified ways to easily have the question or comment and then a response. So it's a table of two things, as you can see very innovative. So each one that was irrelevant to the other concern that someone had or question has been added to the beginning. So we'll go through that and then responses will be filled out remotely and sent back to us and if not, it will go. And if it's not sent, we'll clarify with students, staff or myself with those members. Does everyone have access to this? Okay, so I think Cierra can go ahead and set it for now but you will, you'll all be able to see it on the screen and this is also a lot of the commentary in which you've made yourself. So again, this is just clarifying those concerns.

10:06

**Representative Miller:**

Point of privilege, is the screen being shared with the Zoom?

10:13

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Good point, I don't believe it is. Thank you. All right. And Rayna, if you could permit screen sharing that you are still there, we will be getting that screen sharing process. Right. Now, thank you. All right. So beginning with the Bryce Jordan Center, any other questions related to the process today, or how we're going about tackling today? I'll go through each one, if there's commentary, this didn't capture or encapsulate what you said, and this is what the commentary questions we made, please make us aware of that. And if not, we'll keep going through and ensure that these are cited in their entirety to the relevant and unit leads that we're going to be getting with regard to the requirement that BJC checks, the student IDs for speeding tickets at the entrance was reported that it is not happening. And this is one of the requirements that should be specifically instructed here to do that. Before moving on to that next point. I just wanted, since I wasn't here last Friday, I wanted to ask a clarifying question to Administrative Liaison Bram in case he would know. Are students able to resell tickets that they buy? Okay, yes, I know that you need to put your student ID number in when you purchase the ticket itself. But I don't know if that translates to our... Tim, Representative Nevil? Okay, no, no. So, okay. Well, I will talk to Phil about that and see what that looks like. I don't really it's a matter of reselling the ticket, which I think would be the main concern. So I can get clarification on that. If that offers, clarity for everyone. Is that what that was getting at? Just want to make sure that you can...

12:09

**Representative Miller:**

Also be checking student ID status.

12:14

**Chair Rodriguez:**

If it's active or not, yeah. Thank you. Okay, so I'm gonna mark this as something to go back to them in the meeting with you just want to be sure to get that right. But if we're understanding each other any other commentary on this? I think that this was explained, okay. So I'm gonna go back to this. Okay.

12:42

All right. The next one is continuing conversation about leveraging BJC branding opportunities. I think that this is a really good point and comment to make, I think that we can build off of what they've been doing for us with the new logos and the saturation of that when they are promoting these events and things that we fund. Is that any commentary on that one on that point? Or does that encapsulate what you were getting at? Representative Concepcion?

13:12

**Representative Concepcion:**

Giselle Concepcion, UPUA appointee. Like in terms of like, I know, we're taking notes of different things that we want to sort of like follow up on after we make the allocation requests. Is there like a process in place or like something that was like a plan for us kind of like facilitating those conversations with each unit? That's we're putting specific like stipulations on them, but like, continued conversations. That makes sense.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Yeah. If I'm understanding correctly, these are going to go out to the main concerns related to the budget modification proposals. So I wouldn't necessarily say that it would have to be a process that's elongated with those discussions of, “okay, do you want to stipulate this,” it's more so getting the clarity now as we go through this so that we can communicate these to these unit leads with the understanding that a lot of what you're doing is also oriented towards fiscal year 26. So I'm glad you brought that point up. Because I also want to throw that out contextually, we can be as you know, sticklers as we want as we go through fiscal year 25. But I would just keep in the back of your head that the main priority here is fiscal year 26. And a lot of your due diligence would best be suited for fiscal year 26 rather than us be too impeded with fiscal year 25 issues that can just be resolved for the next fiscal year. If it's something you feel strongly about. Does that answer your question?

14:39

Okay, moving on to the next point, we have continuing conversations about the BJC student advisory board. We have a great solution to this so thank you for whoever brought this up. You know, it's all about the innovation and cutting-edge, exciting innovation I was trying to do the car slogan, “innovation that excites,” but especially with this one, I actually got communication from recently established group that became an RSO recently called dependency music group. They are getting heavily involved with industry-based learning related to entertainment related to concerts, BJC opportunities, student performers and getting them opportunities around Penn State. I will be meeting with them. And then I had a meeting with Phil following that discussion, because they were interested to apply to the University prior to the board. But they are of course, UPAC oriented so that wasn't exactly correct. But we did have our conversation. And we found opportunity where BJC has expressed interest in working with them to really solicit feedback on upcoming artists, performers, this group wants to be a centralized location for multicultural dance for groups to also be integrated within this student community. So I think that that's a really positive step forward, it's very tangible and feasible, given that Phil has said that they have not been really able to establish this given the nuance of the BJC. So that's my offering. And the reason why I bring that up is because I would love to continue pursuing that. If that seems like that would be a fair compromise related to this.

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller, GPSA President, I would like to just make sure that wherever they put new skills whenever they are talking to the BJC that there's at least one member from the UP Fee Board. They're part of those conversations.

16:49

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Yeah, Okay. Okay, moving on to campus recreation, and I think BJC was one of the easier ones but we'll move into the questions and commentary for Campus Recreation before we do so. Is there anything remaining for BJC? Okay, so moving into Campus Recreation, we'll begin first one. With the athletic chair. So in other clubs, sports, would it be for any student who uses these services? Is this pretty straightforward? What is the current demand for pre performance therapeutic modalities, such as athletic teams designated warm ups. Can someone elaborate on this question?

17:42

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller, GPSA President. I believe what the gist of this question is going to is what does Campus Rec currently have if their students get hurt. I believe is the main gist of it. And then also, I mean, just I guess, like reading the question, what does Campus Rec have to make sure that students don't get hurt?

18:19

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Okay. Yeah, that makes sense to me. Are you comfortable with my understanding? Okay. So any other commentary or questions related to that one? Okay. Moving to the next one. One of the larger disparities between previous spendings and projected spending for the for this year is the difference for student wages. Why is this and is this going to be a continuing problem? Question? Was there any commentary?

18:57

**Representative D’Elena:**

Hayden D’Elena, UPUA Appointee. That was my question. It got partially answered. I forget by who, but thank you. But I still think it kind of warrants a more official answer. I think it was Representative Johnson.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Chief Budget Planning Executive Kurtz.

19:16

**Chief Budget Planning Executive Kurtz:**

Chief Budget Planning Executive. Until we get their current spending report sometime within the next month, there's going to be no official answer for that.

**Representative D’Elena:**

Thank you.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

All right. Moving on to the next question. Thank you, Representative D’Elena. Can they talk to athletics in general to use one of their athletic trainers or have athletics cover to the cost? Any commentary or question about that. Administrative Liaison Bram.

19:53

**AL Bram:**

Campus Rec used to be a part of intercollegiate athletics. They... athletics could care less about club sports, they’re focused on their side. So I don't think I mean, we can ask the question. We had an athletic director or we have new kind of leadership model, but then the support that I've seen is provided to us versus the actual creation.

20:20

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Okay, would someone who, I don't know who did this, but I feel like a better way to go about this is it an inquiry on cost sharing with ICA? Would that be okay. Representative Miller.

20:30

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller, GPSA President. My main concern being Vice President Dowhower, no, Vice President Thorndike saying that athletics is trying to profit and do something in the vein of goodwill.

20:46

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Yea. Going to the next point, where do club sports athletes currently go for athletic training services? Is there a current lack of new services available to club sports athletes, which drives enough demand for new position to be created? It’s a good time also for everyone to just assess the question themselves and see if there's a way to refine it or modify or if it's good to go as it is. Any thoughts are okay. I think it's a good yeah, I get the question. I can answer that. Or I can post it well. Okay. That being said, before we conclude, is there anything further for Campus Recreation that has not already been covered? Moving to Counseling and Psychological Services, we have one question, how are they going to be able to handle the increased enrollment rate over the next few fiscal years? Representative Miller.

21:50

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller GPSA President, I proposed this question. I would like this question to speak in general expounded to all of the units, not just CAPS.

22:08

**Chair Rodriguez:**

I want to have a conversation with you later, too, because this could also be something to factor in to fiscal year 26 materials. Besides we haven't sent those out yet. Administrative Liaison Bram, would you happen to agree?

**AL Bram:**

Yeah. Certainly. I mentioned last week that all student affairs units had to provide reports to Vice President Dowhower about how increased enrollment, could impact their units and I'm wondering like before, including that materials, maybe I can find access to it to show so it's not just me repeating. Maybe like I actually have access to it.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Thank you. Any other points related to Counseling and Psychological Services? Okay, seeing none, we're now moving to the Center for Performing Arts. We have the question, can we get an engagement metric from this office regarding student participation and how many students use this? Okay, so when someone wants to do this, you're asking for the shows for student wages. Go ahead, Miller.

23:37

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller, GPSA President, I believe that Representative Nevil brought this up and was about the specific art installation like interactive art installation that they were talking about, we wanted to figure out what engagement metrics we could see based off of the installations they currently have.

24:09

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Anything else related to the Center for Performing Arts, Chief Budget and Planning Executive.

24:15

**Chief Budget Planning Executive Kurtz:**

Chief Budget Planning Executive Kurtz, this swing installation is a part of a bigger organization called... I don't remember the name of it, but they have installations across the big 10 universities and elsewhere. That's all they provided there is no... and it's obviously outdoor installation. So the engagement would come with people passing it where people go into it. And that wasn't provided and I don't know if there was even a feasibility study ran on the success of multiple locations or specific locations over the other. So at this point, unless they come back with a lot of information if they withheld I don't know if it's readily available.

24:54

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Representative Nevil.

24:56

**Representative Nevil:**

Representative Nevil, At-Large Rep. If we could just get possibly estimate they have that information that I think it was also they were increasing student workers in those spaces. And I think we were curious as to the demand or need for those student workers, what they're based on their engagement numbers.

25:20

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Any other points related to the Center for Performing Arts? Seeing none, we will now move into the Gender Equity Center. The question posed here is have there been conversation/where do the conversations currently stand on moving away from programming and increasing student workers?

Great question. Moving to the second. During our visit of the unit, they discussed the need for another case manager, was that included in any requests or discussion? Can we have future conversations about this position, given how critical this work is and how we are cutting down on other areas of spending? I'm in agreement. All right, seeing no further commentary or questions related to the Gender Equity Center, we'll now move into OGEEP, beginning with how can professional students be targeted.

26:24

**Representative Miller:**

I guess just a clarification of the graduate education programs, where the law students met speak out and how law school and medical students can be targeted.

26:39

**Chair Rodriguez:**

And when we say targeted can spur elaboration by...

**Representative Miller:**

By the office. And as a part of their marketing period. It gets to target it is across the board.

26:55

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Okay. All right. Going to our second point, what is the $35,000 cushion going to be used for or potentially used for? Administrative Liaison Bram.

27:10

**AL Bram:**

Well, I just that was the difference between the amount that we allocated versus what was potentially requested in the salary line. So the cushion was based on years of experience in human resources. I think that's correct.

27:30

**Chief Budget and Planning Executive Kurtz:**

Yeah. But yeah, when I was looking through the sheet, they're expected expense says we're about 35 less than the requested flat funding from last year. So I reached out to them a couple months ago. And I just asked, you know, just call me right away. It was like, Is there a reason for this? And they said, simply just ignore the cushion. No further expansion.

28:00

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Then we'll, I'll make a note to clarify that I'm almost wondering, is it too out of the question to wonder if this has to do with COMP ON or anticipated salary.

**AL Bram:**

They want to actually adjust those. It could be those figures and come up to us? I'll just ask.

28:25

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Okay, anything else related to OGEEP? Seeing nothing further, we'll now move into Student Legal Services. Could we get a scale on increasing Student Legal Services salaries if we were due to do so? Perfect. All right, well, I actually have something similar to that, that he sent me in documents, the director of SLS related to the peer, our Big 10 peer institutions, and what they pay their lawyers and other support staff for their student legal services. So you would actually be able to cross compare that one sent that those materials and in fact, the director is planning to come here for fiscal year 26 preparations to request that is my understanding. So hopefully, that will be a really good comprehension of where the other salaried positions are within the Big 10. And then also where we are and the direction as to why they want to increase that and how that will be compensated. That's my only contribution. I can still ask the question, but I think that what they'll do is they'll just showcase the research that they've done with comparisons across the United States. And then they would submit that for the increase that they request, nothing would be out of the ordinary it would be in line with again, what we see examples of at different universities. But hopefully that sheds some light on this question and I see that there's points so I'll begin with Representative Nevil.

30:02

**Representative Nevil:**

Are we approving 25 and a separate approval than 26? Correct?

**Chair Rodriguez:**

This is correct. Specifically with this, we were 25 budget modifications, because we technically already approved fiscal year 25. Related to the fee rate, we are generously offering for units to modify their requests, because they a lot of them, were not aware that this two-year fiscal cycle was happening. So it messed up a lot of our process, as you see right now, but yeah, hopefully that answers that.

30:38

**Representative Nevil:**

And then second part, At-Large Representative, Tim Nevil. Can I don't want to speak for the whole board, but at least my perspective is, is I wouldn't be opposed to also hearing from them during these 25 modification points, if there's like some modification that we could still do that would benefit them... for fiscal year 25, not just fiscal year 26.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Yeah, I did already pose and ask that. And they said fiscal year 26, is where they would be coming out there were to be any variations. It's a good question, because over the summer, I was curious as to why we were having these issues with recruitment, obviously, salaries were mentioned, but even more so we have vacancies that we can't fill, because we're not paying enough. And also, it's center of Pennsylvania. So I also really want you all to keep that in mind, especially moving forward. Now that you've mentioned that a lot of what we see with salaries, you really, I understand the propensity to be like, Okay, well, that's a really high number, I just don't see how. No. Fair but also, we have to think about locality pay and how we are in one of the most inconvenient locations for higher education professionals or academics. And it does require increases of locality pay or variations outside of what students via NYU would need to do. So I want to keep that in mind as we move forward. Because that's gonna be really important, especially as salaries become more critical in the future, in the next few years, with expected cuts and jobs, etc. So very important to realize that. Anything else with Student Legal Services? Seeing nothing else with Student Legal Services, I also wanted to bring up a good point because I thought this was a good one. I know that Dallas or Representative Zebrowski, and others have been pushing for just some level of just exploration of how to best connect, like the immigration clinic, for example, or how to best connect student opportunities to make a more integrated operation. That's something that I would also probably like to include as well, if everyone sounds good with that, mostly related to immigration clinic and other synergistic opportunities around campus.

33:00

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller GPSA President. Something that GPSA is working on is asking the offices who provide some sort of health care, such as CAPS or student legal or any of the basic needs services to reach out in the College of Liberal Arts to programs for global languages, because I know for a fact that a lot of the clinics on campus, the medical clinics, individual clinics have needs for medical and legal interpreters. And we have an entire Graduate School of people who are unnecessarily fluent in other languages. And I know that those students want to do the work. And I know that there's a need, and I think it'd be a great idea to get more students involved in these processes by having a training such matters.

33:49

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Yeah, I'm following your train of thought. I'm thinking specifically like that's a good support base to have in terms of communication and connections. Are you also wanting to explore and externs?

**Representative Miller:**

Yes.

34:09

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Okay, anything else related to SLS? Perfect my favorite, University Health Services. We have one question. Such a shock compared to last year. How is the basic health needs pilot work slash not work? How is getting the word out worked? They really think that this is an important question. I personally am very intrigued moving forward with the choices that we made for the health fee and what impact that those have had on students. I know that not many of us were in the meetings last year but there were discussions of different services to cover. Like for example if the if someone needs a physical like they have codes medical coding and billing where they classify these actions. Under like the code, the codes that they chose for this year of which we're currently ongoing, was very, there was programming money. And then there was community health funding, and then an increase of EMS funding and services.

35:20

**AL Bram:**

There's a big chunk of that.

35:24

Yea, so, you'll be able to see that in the previous five years, but this is one where I really wanted to keep like, this is a very impactful unit that I think everyone should have some focus on, to some extent, I hope I don't regret saying that. But what I mean by that is there are variations in which we can contribute to really meaningful and impactful work here that I don't think they necessarily perceive as the role of the Fee Board right now, one primary example would be the ambulance. I don't know who it was that that tore, but they explained that they needed a new ambulance. And when I think of that, I think we need to prioritize facilities, infrastructure, those basic services that need to be required to students. So as you look through, fiscal year 25 is a different story, obviously. But once we go into fiscal year 26, why I'm trying to push this onto you all, is because we have to consider if you're engaged within this process, if you can have extreme contributions to the student body in the future, just by inquiring about an ambulance, that's electric, right? Or saying can we incorporate that into your fiscal year 26 budget rather than this going to health promotion budget funding? I guess I don't know what that means to be honest with you. And I think we have a duplication of health efforts around this campus. But that is neither here nor there. And I will open up to general comments or concerns with everyone about UHS. Representative Nevil.

36:53

**Representative Nevil:**

Tim Nevil At-Large Representative, this might be more so question for you. Going back to our conversation earlier about sharing resources, I'm just I've always been confused by this, particularly when it comes to ambulance EMS, why there's not a more engaged role from UPPS. So public safety and their department.

37:16

**Chair Rodriguez:**

I what I mentioned, AL Bram, you can elaborate if there needs to be. But from my perspective, I think that they have distinct missions in terms of while I do see the collaboration and the opportunities that might exist within it, the UHS perspective has this institutionalized EMS program with its students. And they've been running that system separately, compared to the actual professional emergency services, I would say for lack of better words. And my thought is, I'm assuming that they haven't approached them for questions related to that, because it's not ideal or feasible. I, Bram, I don't know if you?

**AL Bram:**

Well, I mean, I again, I think they work together. And I don't know what you should choose, there's certainly not communication...

**Representative Nevil:**

It feels like there should be a space for funding from... if we could at least inquire about if that's a route that can be explored?

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Like cost sharing?

**Representative Nevil:**

Yeah, like, or at least cost-sharing for like an ambulance expenditure? Is that something that like? Can we ask them? Is that a route that can be explored?

38:33

**Chair Rodriguez:**

We can ask them, do either one of you want to answer that directly or...

38:40

**Vice Chair Chandler:**

Vice Chair Chandler, during the tour, they did say that they do have a partnership with the surrounding community with lending out their ambulance. So in a case where like our universities, even though it's just like people to get to a student, they partner with I guess, state college’s ambulance, and then vice versa. So that partnership exists. But if you're looking for more like expanding that potentially, I think that's worthwhile. I would ask that you clarify. our concern?

39:19

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Let's go to Representative Johnson. And I'll offer another clarifying point follow up on that.

39:24

**Representative Johnson:**

Brian Johnson, Representative Neville, with respect to you know, I guess, lack of a better word cost sharing for lack of a better term cost sharing. I'm not sure how well that would be received. Because the way it's our EMS, and when I say our EMS, I mean Penn State's EMS system is organized. There's like a distinct domain around which students can act and like engage with the community, you know, university community, and while they're allowed to transport patients to the hospital, etc. UHS services. I don't think the partner shift between the actual professional public services such as the EMS crew from the map any hospital, I don't think the partnerships much extended beyond the kind of mutual agreement on where students can function and operate in their domain. So I don't know how that conversation would go.

40:17

**Chair Rodriguez:**

I would also add one more thing before just again, this is a good general point, I would feel comfortable bluntly saying that we should not be expecting or expectant or relying on cost sharing at this point in time of the fiscal year. And just the state of the University. I think a lot of where we've evolved to is, we've seen reductions in people's abilities to cost share, we've had to, of course, force or implore student affairs units to cost share with what we're doing with the student fee. So it's very more than likely well, while we should definitely look into this and see if there are opportunities to reduce that burden onto students, especially through grants and other things that might be related to help or the local community which UHS and actually this is another good point philanthropy and grants as bringing up to them for alternative ways of finding or identifying funds. I almost, and Representative Nevil, I don’t know if you agree with this, I think that this would be a question that's more productive, in relation to them thinking big scale of okay, if this UPPS and ambulance can't work, and likely, I'm assuming that it's just out of ballpark thing. Let's just say okay, then maybe we can apply for this Department of Health and Human Services grant to supply some health care in this pot of money. They get pots of money. The Student Care and Advocacy does the same thing. So I think that there's definitely room to pursue that. And I think that can get us get us down the road of like seeing and identifying specifics in which we can cost-share like maybe ambulance expenses or other things. Does this make sense? Administrative Liaison Bram.

42:05

**AL Bram:**

I would also just, the ambulance is more for just more than just students. So it serves for on campus and off commuters that would have been careful about fully funding student fees. And when you're talking about... you're punishing some students.

42:24

**Chair Rodriguez:**

It's lifecycle is also surpassed now that this ambulance is everything. There's other like things to investigate with UHS, but not investigate. But yeah, to read through with UHS. But I think that's an important thing to consider too. A lot of what you're looking at, I think you all can start to identify in roles as representatives and those who have oversight with governance over the administration of the student initiated fee, it should also be within your wheelhouse to be able to look at what we're funding, which as you're now seeing an immersion, these are millions 10s of millions of dollars or 100 10s of millions of dollars, sometimes up to the hundreds that we are being entrusted to, essentially appropriate. So when you do have valid concerns related to why haven't they sought out these funding opportunities there? You'd be surprised because a lot of the time sometimes the answer can be we just don't have the bandwidth, or the manpower to be able to pursue those grants or to be able to help set up infrastructure for philanthropy or development. It's really not that hard. The UPUA can attest, others can attest with the development sphere, especially with topics that are like this. So as you start to become creative, throughout this, just consider those especially moving into fiscal year 26. We're going to be a little more creative, but I'll put that out there anything else related to UHS?

Okay, UPAC. Alright. 336,000 was asked for 2022-2023 carry forward, which will be applied to 23-24. My question is, what is the current state of this amount? To just throw something out there and Administrative Liaison Bram, if you can contribute too. I believe that with their $336,000, that was just folded into their general expenditures. So this amount would just essentially be reconciled at the end of this current fiscal year that we're in following because the carry forward is just an automated 7% contribution back.

**AL Bram:**

They request so much and carry forward because from the end of May, but actually sometime there's a gap where they don't have they don't have the funds to pay for anything reimbursing. Yeah, it's at the end of May until any summer allocation is distributed, right? So there's if any groups are doing stuff on the summer or student organizations in late April, early May, chances are that won't, doesn't get if we didn't provide a carry forward, it wouldn’t get reimbursed in such a way. And so they always request the same amount so that they have some money on hand so that organizations, students are able to do things a bit better. So again, you won't be accountable, but that's the time. And they are and to be honest, organizations just don't spend what they ask for.

45:35

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Does that result in this particular concern? I feel confident in the answer. Okay, yay. All right. Well, I believe that concludes that aspect of it. So next steps moving forward that we can discuss his will be sent out to the relevant unit leads as it pertains to them. Once we have those answers, it will be sent to all of you, I will try to get this done within 72 hours knowing that the responses will be staggered probably throughout this upcoming week. But the expectation is, now that we have an understanding of fiscal year 25, will be able to vote on its formal approval for fiscal year 25 budget modifications, which will be brought probably at our next meeting in accordance to our schedule. And then from there, that is when we can expect that vote to occur. Before I move into the regular aspects of the agenda, does everyone does anyone have any questions or commentary on that process? So today, we solidified your questions, comments or concerns, we will send these out to the units asynchronously for them to either answer a) within the box provided or b) if there needs to be further elaboration scheduled quickly meeting with you as students, staff, myself or Vice Chair Chandler, so that we can resolve these points and ultimately get you all to a point where you feel comfortable enough to vote. Okay, that being said, we'll now move back into our regular agenda. I want to make a motion to strike line item six A of new business, which is a vote.

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller. So moved.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Okay, so that has been removed. And then I want to make a motion to add line items 6.A new one to add that to discussion of budget model. So that being said, We'll now go into line item 6.A now of new business, which is the discussion of the budget model. And the reason why we modified kind of the approach to this meeting now is when I think we have a really clear idea of how we're going to go about fiscal year 25. I feel comfortable with your all you your understanding of the fiscal year and what this budget modification process was. Now we're getting into fiscal year 26, which is the good part. So with the remaining time that I have, I would like to go over some news that we received and how we're going to be getting and moving forward with fiscal year 26. So as a Thursday, I believe, which was yesterday, or the day before Wednesday, we had a meeting with the steering committee in which we decided got the budget model would be able to move forward those recommendations, and there was approval from the steering committee. The other two recommendations were not approved, because the CFB will be reviewing those still. The argument that I made is that we need to begin with the FY26 process because it's specifically pertinent to us, which I think highlights the importance of being able to begin our work and the necessity of doing that soon. So I just want to go over again, what was formally approved. So that we can go over kind of the expectations that will be expected of you as we're producing these materials, and also your understanding of it as well.

49:17

Okay, so now that we can get into the conceptual frame, this isn't the finalized one, I just can't find it because I don't have my laptop. But I just want to make sure that we all have an understanding of the conceptual undertones here because that's the main point of all of this. At the end of the day, this is a strategic approach that you know, is executed in the real world. And I'm hoping you all can get and see the how you can apply this into your future. And just the co-curricular awesomeness of this for, I like that term. But to begin the concept as it stands in its foundation is the student needs based budget model and I know we all discussed that in the past, but what this means now is that this gives you the reasoning and ability to actually be critical when it comes to these proposals, it can be very hard and difficult to critique a unit lead or someone who, you know, invest a lot of time into work. But a lot of what our responsibilities are to really be able to determine where this money would be most appropriately suited for student life. And students in general, this model allows you to do that, because it requires not only just the qualitative aspects of things, but really the quantitative aspects as well heavily with statistics, research evidence, just general research that doesn't even have to be necessarily numerical. This is how we are going to be able to make these tough decisions that we're going to have to make this upcoming year, for fiscal year 26. And this is a gift because it gives you a framework in which to make those decisions. So understanding strategic means our institutional strengths, these are all important factors that will allow us to determine how we can strategically plan for the future, because you're not just thinking about the immediate in the now you're thinking about how this impact that you made within your decisions will reach students decades from now, and obviously even more with the building projects that we will begin to learn about. So again, these are the, this is the mission of the budget model. This is the alignment with our vision. Again, the values of our budget model are going to be flexible throughout the years the UPFB can modify the budget level in the future, as long as there really is a budget model for them to use, because there needs to be some sort of structure or framework to actually make these decisions to help the students on this board. If there's anything that you gather today, related to the budget model, it will be the next of what I review. But as we move forward, remember what the goals are that we agreed to especially moving forward with our decisions–securing and basic needs for all students. So with that mentality, I really appreciate the board for adopting this perception because a student can’t fulfill or utilize services like the Gender Equity Center, CCSG, PRCC, if they can't afford their rent, or can't afford to food. So this really boils down to us even providing that door for students to enter to actually engage and enjoy what there's going to initiate the offers. So I think that this is very philosophically sound. And I appreciate all of your contributions in that regard.

Second, obviously, ensuring a sustainable future. Environmental sustainability, of course, is what we are getting at with this. So when you're considering these projects, we already have a tradition and legacy at this point of us receiving environmental sustainability related projects. However, what I will say, now that this is an official goal, and it's also part of our values, is that we have to understand that we're not just specializing on equity fund-related requests or ESF-related requests anymore, this is now folded into our general operations. And I will say, yes, a large part of it is because of our fiscal complications, but also this is just going to make funding more streamlined. And also it will allow us to provide a holistic perspective to other unit leads as to how they can incorporate sustainability within their unit plans or proposed budgets. Infrastructure and facilities, I cannot underplay this enough. Capital is everything, right? I'm not necessarily a capitalist all the way. However, what I do know from economics is that buildings, infrastructure is really important. Right for capital and whatnot. That's also the same for Penn State. So Penn State obviously will not have funding to provide for student related services or initiatives, I want to emphasize, does everyone understand that? It is very unlikely that we have any serious contributions from the central budget, or Student Affairs related capital planning. So I want to really emphasize that to really showcase the importance as to why strengthening infrastructure and facilities is important. And that's something that you can consider too. When we were at CAPS, for example, they literally saw the state of some of their facilities that students are using. That's not necessarily except one, nor is it in Boucke building, etc. So as you start to consider those proposals, and if you choose to meet with other units to learn more, I would really, really highlight the practicality of what they need. Because as I've been saying, for the past six months now, you need to make a choice between okay, let's have a fun programming tabling event or let's get furniture for students to use. But sometimes that's what it ultimately comes down to. Promoting DEIB, this will be interesting. I know that the restructuring for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging for the university is in the process of being implemented, the student government representatives would probably know more about that, once those plans are unveiled, and the reason why I wanted to really bring up the budget model today, now that it's been approved, is because once this restructuring does happen, it's very likely that there will be discussions on what we contribute to potentially this new restructuring project or what our role will be in those projects that are funding the DEIB units that we are currently funding. Bye Brian, have a good one. And then lastly, Student Programming and Involvement and Student Government and Student Voices, I'm not trying to brush past those, those are very important, but we all are aware of what those are and what they mean. Strategic priorities, main thing, if you haven't been looking or listening, you will look and listen now.

56:03

Now, so these are her strategic priorities as we move forward and look to the future. First, boosting student staff compensation and addressing essential staffing needs. I think you are ready conceptualizing the importance of this. The mentality that I want to get across is that, as we are considering, if you're reading Penn State today, the budget at Penn State is very much interconnected to what we're doing here. And I say that because I think a lot of us are already anticipating and expecting positions to be cut, units to be cut further, like their budget, we already see that happening with Student Affairs. Is it ideal? No, it's horrible. However, you have no control over what university is doing with their HR, with their internal structure. And we don't have control over that we have control over what we can change and do for students specifically. And we have to find solutions. If Student Affairs ends up having reduced staff or if they haven't continued hiring for these reasons, how can we evolve. And this is where these strategic priorities come into play here, because these units that support students no longer have the university unconditionally to support a lot of their initiatives, we will now be even more critical and crucial in supporting their essential services. If you cannot, if your position isn't approved by HR, for example, how can we make your life easier by hiring students, contributing to their well being by allowing them to have money to pay for rent to pay for food, while also simultaneously supporting the students that are supporting their peers, it's a positive feedback loop if you get into that mentality. And those are the opportunities that I want you to start looking at as we read fiscal year 26. Because again, this is our budget model. And if for example, Gender Equity Center, they don't have a case manager, okay, they need a case manager, it's critical. They're showcasing us that there are increases of utilization, and they cannot keep up. That is an example of where we come in, or where we should come in and say, let's have a discussion about this. So we can ensure that your operations can be sustained. At this point, ideally, I'd love to be, you know, telling you University go about this a different way. But we really need to focus on how we can better student life in our current capacity right now. That is at least my focus. Any questions with that strategic priority? You're about to see a lot of those within fiscal year 26 proposals, I imagine once we release this, but do you see the practicality and importance of this? Budget cuts are coming like winter is coming, as they say from Game of Thrones. So it's really important that you understand the implications of that in your role here. There has not been a University Park Fee Board that has had this situation happen. So your engagement and understanding and the concepts at least don't even have to understand the fiscal aspects, we have people for that, just understand the concepts of what is happening in the fiscal space, and you will be set for really supporting and making the right decisions for fiscal year 26.

Renovation and infrastructure development, you're already aware that we have the HUB expansion and the Well-being building potentially coming forward to us to spend. Each one was estimated about two or three years ago to be $200 million. I guess we'll see what that price has fluctuated to until then. But this will be a huge component of one of our investments that we have to make, and also the smaller, more miniscule facilities investments that we might come across as well, like renovations, different technologies to support students anything related to the fiscal space. Chief Budget and Planning Executive Kurtz.

59:52

**Chief Budget and Planning Executive Kurtz:**

Danil Kurtz. Chief Budget Planning Executive. I just wanted to interject real quick and say that outside of like the larger scale projects we have the responsibility to take on as fiscally annoying as they are. And on top of also the committed expenses that we have to launch the next few years in the various amounts. When these budget cuts start to come in 26, and as you know, we're presenting the numbers or the students that have presented the numbers that we feel is the best line of action. Because we had such an extensive and robust budget model right now, which we have not had before, you're gonna see how qualitatively and quantitatively these decisions are falling into a line, right? Because before this budget model, you know, in our head, without the implementation of some sort of line of reasoning, in words, we think, you know, every unit is that something, we want to give it to them, because it sounds like they're in need. But now, when these cuts are coming, you're gonna see that we're following this budget narrative and his budget model that if you know, isn't worth it, it's gonna make the numbers make a little more sense. Now that we have both sides, one that qualitatively and quantitatively. So I think it'll be easier to understand the more fine-tuned and analytical details that may have been a little bit confusing at the start of this year, just because a lot of these structures weren't in place yet.

1:01:12

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Yep. Second that. And lastly, we have transforming program funds for impactful collaborative campus activities, that is programming. And that's more so related to what we can do with the metrics that we can begin to incorporate. So moving into metrics within this, again, this is a very generic betting system that would allow ease and accessibility for the units themselves, when applicable. But also for us to have actual statistics when it counts and when it matters, and when it can be applied to a specific unit. And this essentially cements that. So within our fiscal 26 materials, we would essentially, state that our expectation is that there will be an adoption of some sort of metrics, or cost sharing collaboration that we have access to, because really, if we're being asked to make these decisions, because we cannot afford what we're currently spending right now, we need to be able to back that up, can't just make subjective thoughts into action. So hopefully, that can offer a lot more insight or a lot of people as we move forward with those decisions, and it offers a basic framework for you to understand. So if you don't like someone, the unit, which I know, we all have our enemies, and certainly hopefully not, but if there, it can't be cut completely, there needs to be some sort of objective foundation for us to utilize, aside from Gender Equity Center, which more so relies on case, caseloads and tracking that the more so for, like events that are programming oriented, that units might do. I hope that made sense. Again, there's more details in the document. Representative O’Toole.

1:02:57

**Representative O’Toole:**

Nora O’Toole, UPUA President, Sorry, I just have this, do you know where Gender Cquity center gets their funding, because just in my experience... I know they go to student free board, they go to Greek life, they go to UPUA a lot for funding, and it just seems like it's not really centralized. And then needs aren’t being met, as I'm sure it is across a lot of different units. But I'm just curious if there's not a better way for them to sustain the funding they need, instead of having to go to so many different organizations to secure the funding.

1:03:31

**Chair Rodriguez:**

This is an excellent point. And I think that that's appropriate to kind of bring forward and I mean, now we have the time. And I want to make sure that we're all set for success when we begin fiscal year 26. But we do have to consider the fact that this has been an ongoing trend for a while. It's very unique, and it's very sporadic to piece together and puzzle together all of these funding sources for a unit to do like an event. I think that's definitely something that we can bring up as well within our notes and commentary that we want to bring to the units and offices. But that is the main idea that I think I would offer to the board. Centralization, right. And centralization should be our goal here. This was the objective with this budget. We can't have decentralized kingdoms doing what they want, because they've been doing it for years, there has to be some level of enforcement and understanding of centralization. And that's difficult but if you all understand that, then that can easily be conveyed and relayed to the unit leads that might not be as potentially all on board with these changes, which is fair and expected. But I would love to build on that and I think you offer a unique perspective if anyone has any contributions thus far too, based on what you've heard. Action Item though, Cierra and I are putting that in because that will be really good. To get more detail on why these cost-sharing endeavors are so extensive with how they have to reach out to prepare that money.

**Representative O’Toole:**

It just confuses me that UPAC gets student fee dollars. And Gender Equity Center gets student fee dollars and UPUA gets student fee dollars, but then gender equity still goes to UPAC and still goes to UPUA to get even more Student Fee dollars. And I don't know, if we want to look at putting a limit on units that already get that funding to go get more funding from others. I don’t know. Does that makes sense?

1:05:28

**Chair Rodriguez:**

It does. I think that conceptually, from what I'm gathering from this is that we need to reduce our spending, we know, we need to centralize our spending. We don't want to be promoting like, oh, still trying to find like money for this here. The idea is, is that sacrifices need to be made where it shouldn't necessarily get to that point. And we'd really need to think about what is the best way to be reasonably conservative here so that units and other organizations can retain their own funds to an appropriate extent. Vice Chair Chandler.

1:06:08

**Vice Chair Chandler:**

Representative O’Toole, I had a question whether the requests are in efforts for cost sharing on an event? Or is it purely like we just want money, or we’re just requesting funds?

**Representative O’Toole:**

Yeah. Historically, it's always been events. It's very, very large budget for a speaker that does not getting nearly the equivalent turnout for the cost of what was. So just I think that's, I've seen that on UPUA. I know they’ve gone to Pan Hell for different funding stuff, too. And as well, UPAC, I don't know whether that's any different than what we see at UPUA, but

**Vice Chair Chandler:**

Thank you.

1:06:46

**Chair Rodriguez:**

I'll be honest, I don't really know, programming is just hard to track and difficult to track, which is why this has been a difficult time to navigate. But those are things to consider as well, like, I know you all have qualms, I know you will have come up with things in the system where you're like this makes no sense, especially from a funding perspective. So bring this forward for fiscal year 26 and leverage this as your tool to do so because this is what we all voted and agreed on. Again, this isn't the final one. This is the one I could bring out. But ultimately, to summarize, we have a plan for gradual deficit reductions. There are strategic budget reductions and strategic student fee increases. That concludes that I don’t want to waste too much of your time, but I wanted to give everyone an overview of how this hopefully will be an easier process for us, given the structure that is set forth. Representative Miller.

1:07:42

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller, GPSA President. This is kinda relates to the budget, given that we're expecting to see more and more involvement from University in general. And from that it's going to be more student fee dollars. I guess my question is, from either what you're thinking or what you're seeing, is it likely that the fees remain similar once, or similar or flat, once we see these enrolled, given these enrollment numbers, given how much more money we're going to collect?

1:08:17

**Chair Rodriguez:**

So we're basically in stagnation right now, which is what makes it even more complicated. Because yeah, we were getting these new students, which will increase the revenue, but our current systems and staff and capacities on there to be able to even support this incoming batch of students. So regardless, our spending is going to increase to meet the demand that comes with these new students. So from my understanding, we wouldn't really necessarily be turning revenue or higher profit unless we made strategic budget reductions, even with that being the case.

1:08:53

**Vice Chair Chandler:**

\*Indisitinguishable\*

1:09:21

**Representative Miller:**

Lawrence Miller, GPSA President. As a follow up to that the is it I guess it's reasonable to expect that for the 26 recommendations that are going to be coming in, I guess we'll see them in a few weeks that we're going to be seeing that sort of like a sharp jump in requests.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

I believe so. Okay. All right. Any other commentary? Questions, comments? Okay, now close the floor. We will now move to one and six, which is the chair report, my report is listed in the materials that were sent out to you will now move into line item eight, which is the Vice Chair report.

**Vice Chair Chandler:**

I would just add, there's some exciting news with the Office of Strategic Communications. I really encourage you guys to read all of our students UPFB status reports. But we're waiting to develop any marketing materials, which is exciting. So future if you have any recommendations or things that you think would be interesting to see for UPFB, you can be creative as marketing materials, please feel free to share that that's worth checking in with our Chief Strategic Communications Executive. That's it.

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Any questions? Seeing none, we will now move into line item nine executive committee reports. Those are listed in the materials. But Did anyone else have anything to add? Chief Budget and Planning Executive.

1:11:04

**Chief Budgeting Planning Executive Kurtz:**

Chief Budget and Planning Executive, outside of what's already in that executive committee report. I just want to emphasize that, you know, as we're getting towards the middle portion of this semester, any comments, concerns, materials that you guys derive yourselves, materials that you add to, just please make sure you list and date and store these deliverables or whatever they may be in the SharePoint in a centralized location. The main problem across the entire board, including the student staff materials, we saw prior to starting this academic fiscal year, is that we have to pull information from a lot of places and we're getting into the habit of creating these structures that are going to be sustainable long term for multiple fiscal years. Just making sure that we have all those reference points from the entirety of the board in the centralized location dated, you know, in good, tight wording, I guess just making sure that everything's organized because as important if what we're doing right now is in the present, all these things need to be referenced for the future.

1:12:17

**Chair Rodriguez:**

Right. Okay, seeing no further reports will now need to go into line item 11 comments for the good of the order. Are there any comments for the good? Seeing no comments for the good of the order? We'll now move into closing roll call Vice Chair Chandler will you begin in closing roll call.

1:12:40

\*Vice Chair Chandler conducts closing roll call.\*

1:13:13

**Chair Rodriguez:**

All right. That being said, I now adjourn this Friday, February 9 Meeting to order at 10:07 am. Have a great weekend.