

CAMPUS FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 6, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Members:	David Ely	Dorian Diaz
	Tony Chung	T'Ante Sims
	Mark Wheeler	Mark Bruno
	Christian Onwuka	Kyla Blaylock
	Angelica Espinoza	Dustin Adkins
	George Scott	Sophie Chance
	Christian Holt	

Non-voting Members: Dana Smith

Guests:	Rose Pasenelli	Jessica Nare
	Jennifer Rikard	Matias Farre
	Andrea Dooley	Antionette Marbray
	Christy Samarkos	Crystal Little

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 A.M. by Christian Onwuka, CFAC Chair.

Informational Items

- a. None

Requests

- a. Mental Health and Cultural Center Fee Proposals

Mr. Onwuka introduced the Mental Health and Cultural Center Fee Proposals and asked Dr. Dooley to present. Dr. Dooley gave a brief overview of the presentation to include the fees to be increased, the alternative consultation process, the impact of fee increases on financial aid recipients, and how to maximize student engagement and participation.

Dr. Rikard gave an overview of the link between mental health and academic success and the impact(s) mental health issues can have; she noted that Counseling and Psychological Services (C&PS) exists to assist students in addressing such issues. She explained that services must occur inside and outside the department for C&PS to reach its goals even though service utilization within the office is very high. She explained that students are using the services and demand has been rising for decades; since 2011, requests for clinical services have doubled while requests for crisis intervention has nearly tripled. Dr. Rikard also noted that these trends are not unique to SDSU. She explained that the recommended therapist-to-student ratio is from 1:1000 to 1:1500; the ratio at SDSU is currently about 1:1800. Dr. Rikard stated that a fee increase would allow C&PS to maintain the services currently provided while improving access to services, adding case management, establishing an after-hours call line, and expand the C&PS graduate internship program.

Ms. Nare gave an overview of the cultural centers, all of which were created in response to expressed student need: the four existing centers include the Black Resource Center, Center for Intercultural Relations, PRIDE Center, and Women's Resource Center; the new centers this year include the Native Resource Center, LatinX Resource Center, and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Lounge. She noted that the four existing centers hosted over 300 events during the previous academic year and total attendance was over 16,000 participants. She explained that this is important because historically underserved students experience disproportionate impacts when pursuing higher education. She noted that graduation rates have continued to rise, but there is a significant equity gap for underserved students and their time to degree: current 6-year graduation rates show all SDSU students at 77 percent, LatinX students at 72 percent, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian at 71 percent, and African American and Asian American at 70 percent; the equity gap is even more significant for men of color. She stated that the existing cultural centers have robust retention programs, but the goal is to have retention programs in each of the cultural centers. Ms. Nare noted that a fee increase would allow for services such as culturally-specific mentoring, academic coaching, tutoring, supplemental instruction, engagement of student families, and professional development.

Dr. Dooley noted that the two proposed fee increases are separate, but are being presented together in order to engage students at the same time through a series of open forums. She explained that the Alternative Consultation

process is typically used when the issue is complex and to adequately and appropriately explain to students what the impact(s) of the fee would be. She further explained that the goal is to engage students in the process in similar numbers to those who would participate in a referendum vote. Dr. Dooley mentioned that the financial burden on students has been thoughtfully considered and discussions have been taking place with the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to address and resolve potential impacts. She also noted that the Student Health Services Fee has not been increased since 2010, so adding a Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) component to the fee would increase sustainability and allow for more incremental, planned increases. Dr. Dooley stated that the plan would be to hold approximately 40 open forums to engage with students; she mentioned that what was successful with the Student Success Fee (SSF) was having the forums hosted by Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). She further explained that both fees would be presented at each forum, a financial aid representative would be present to answer questions, and students would be afforded the opportunity to provide feedback via feedback forms.

Mr. Scott asked how the RSOs would be chosen to host the forums; Dr. Dooley responded that the objective would be to get as diverse set of organizations as possible. She mentioned that Associated Students could help in identifying RSOs who would be willing to host and that the forum schedule would be published weekly in the Daily Aztec.

Mr. Scott stated that he feels students should have a right to vote on such fee increases, so he asked for clarification on why the Alternative Consultation was chosen rather than a Referendum; Ms. Little responded that the fee policy allows for either method and the committee provides a recommendation, but the President makes the final decision as to which process is used. Dr. Dooley added that due to the structure of the proposed increases seeking support for any, one, or all of the options, Alternative Consultation provides for more meaningful communication.

Mr. Holt asked if the Governor has ever increased funding to the CSU for mental health; Dr. Dooley responded that there has been some one-time and ongoing funding allocated to the CSU, but the funding is not at the level we need.

Mr. Adkins asked if mental health services would decline if the fee is not increased; Dr. Dooley responded that if the fee is not increased, existing mental health services may be impacted.

Mr. Adkins asked if financial aid awards would be adjusted if the fee is increased; Ms. Pasenelli responded that the fee would be added to Cost of Attendance (COA) and there are a few options such as State University Grant (SUG) for students with an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of up to \$4,000 or Return to Aid that could be used to cover the increase.

Dr. Wheeler asked when the fees were last increased; Dr. Dooley responded that the Student Health Services Fee was last increased in Fall 2010, and Ms. Little responded that the IRA Fee was last increased in Fall 2009.

Mr. Holt asked what percentage of students have an EFC of up to \$4,000; Ms. Pasenelli responded that approximately 38 percent of students have an EFC of up to \$4,000.

Mr. Scott asked if both proposed fee increases pass or fail together; Dr. Dooley responded that each proposed fee increase has three options to best understand what students are willing to support.

Dr. Ely confirmed that the IRA Fee was last increased in Fall 2009 and recommended that the IRA Fee proposal be simplified; Ms. Nare responded that one of the concerns is understanding what level of increase students would be willing to support. Dr. Ely expressed concern that too much time would be spent explaining the differences among the proposed increases with only \$10 gaps and recommended that perhaps a single proposed amount would be better.

Mr. Holt asked if the existing cultural centers would continue to be funded without a fee increase; Ms. Nare responded that the four existing cultural centers would continue to be funded, but the new cultural centers would not. Mr. Holt asked if the university would find the funding elsewhere; Ms. Little responded that it would be considered but there are a lot of priorities on campus so funding would not be guaranteed. Dr. Wheeler added that funding should not be expected.

Mr. Bruno asked what effect the fee increase would have on the therapist-to-student ratio and for clarification on the HEPI increase; Dr. Dooley responded that the HEPI fluctuates annually and Ms. Little added that 3 percent is the standard used for projections while also noting that the IRA Fee currently has a HEPI while the Student Health Fee does not. Dr. Rikard responded that the effect of a fee increase would depend on the level of the fee increase.

Ms. Espinoza asked how students who cannot attend an open forum would be able to participate; Dr. Dooley responded that she would like to work with students to identify ways to address this issue. Ms. Little added that forums are scheduled at various times and all information is published online to accommodate as many students as possible.

Ms. Espinoza asked if forums could be livestreamed or recorded; Dr. Dooley responded that it could be considered.

Mr. Adkins asked how many of the requests for mental health services were actually fulfilled; Dr. Rikard responded that all requests represented students who were served. Mr. Adkins asked if requests are expected to increase if the fee is increased; Dr. Rikard responded that the requests will continue to rise regardless of the fee but the capacity to serve students at C&PS would be impacted.

Dr. Ely asked how students viewing a livestreamed or recorded presentation would provide feedback; Ms. Blaylock responded that the process could be similar to the way A.S. elections are conducted. Mr. Onwuka added that an online feedback form could be considered.

Mr. Onwuka asked if there were any further comments or concerns; there were none.

Action Items

- a. None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Mr. Onwuka adjourned the meeting at 11:59 A.M.

Reminder: Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 20th, at 11:00 A.M. in the Administration Building – Room 225.