

## CAMPUS FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 05, 2008

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDEES

Members:	James Poet Ethan Singer Linda Stewart	Jameson DeSantis Eric Rivera Julie Messer
Student Alternates:	Daniel Matthews Tyler Wilson	Gabriel Ruiz
Non-Voting Member:	Ray Rainer	
Guests:	Dan Cornthwaite Mark Lester Jon Cawthorne	Scott Burns Pat Francisco

The meeting was called to order by chair James Poet at 2:08 p.m.

#### **FEE REQUESTS: 2008/09 Housing Fees (Attachments 1-6)**

Ms. Pat Francisco, Director of Housing Administration, distributed a sheet detailing how revenue was calculated. She referred to the 2008-2009 Housing Fees (attachment 3); this is the third year of the 3% increase for maintenance and repair and the development of new student housing, which only leaves 2% to cover substantial increases in salaries and wages, including the new minimum wage. Housing and Residential Life employs more students than any other campus departments. The Office of Housing Administration has been substantially impacted by the salary and wage increases; it has been forced to make cuts within different areas to get by with the 2% increase in operating fund. Last year housing was expanded due to long waiting lists, but the projected enrollment for next year will be substantially lower than the prior year; the yield is 1000 fewer first-time freshmen. The Office of Housing Administration is trying to attract more returning, graduate, transfer and upper division students. Returning students will be offered double rooms as singles at the super single rate; there will be 1.5 contracts per room instead of 2 contracts. The triple units have done better than expected, but a decision was made not to offer any triples due to the new projected demand; this rate is listed just in case the need for increased housing arises.

Ms. Francisco went over some of the fees on the schedule; she mentioned the residence hall activity fee, which increased from \$20 to \$25. Aztec nights have been very successful, so they would like to have more funds available to contribute to this program. The other fees remain the same. Dr. Singer asked about the meal plans, which are not mentioned on the sheets presented today. Per Ms. Francisco, meal plans average around \$5000.

Ms. Francisco addressed University Towers (attachment 6), which is owed by Aztec Shops; there is a 5% rate increase. The doubles won't be offered as singles, unless vacancies are high. The only change is the RHA fee.

Aztec Corner was added for entering freshmen, but since fewer freshmen are expected, the Office of Housing Administration is trying to attract enough returning students to compensate for the loss of income. Returning students don't have to pay the 5% increase regardless of where they come from, i.e. traditional hall; they will basically get a 5% discount. Ms. Reilly asked if returning students have to move out and then back in; Ms. Francisco responded that students can sign a mini-lease where they would pay a daily rate for two or three weeks, so they don't have to move out.

The 5% increase also affects Piedra del Sol, which is expected to be full next year. Dr. Singer asked about a required minimum lease. Ms. Francisco responded that this was a 12-month lease by the apartment, not by the bed and it's listed this way because it is ran as an off campus apartment. The other attachments list what an individual student pays, not where they live. The 3-bedroom apartment can have four residents; its third

bedroom is very large, so it could accommodate two residents. The 4-bedroom apartments are four singles, which is the maximum occupancy per apartment.

Ms. Francisco continued with Emerald Isle, which is a new building; its swimming pool was replaced with barbeques and picnic tables. It has studios catering to graduate students. The fees were not increased in Emerald Isle, since the fees were raised when Housing Administration took over. This is a very old building with 24 units with two doubles, two singles and 20 studios.

Ms. Francisco noted an error to be corrected on the revenue sheet; the total doesn't match the total under the 2008/09 column. The rent has been increased 5% but it is not reflected on the revenue due to the expected lower occupancy; the big change is the double rate which is usually budgeted at 98% occupancy and now it's budgeted at 96% occupancy. Another difference on the revenue sheet is the SMIF (Short Term Monetary Investment Fund) interest – the fund where interest is earned from the state; the projection for 2008/2009 is \$100,000 less than the previous year.

Mr. Burns asked about changes to the number of non-revenue spaces; per Ms. Francisco, there will be more RAs (Resident Advisors) in Chapultepec, Zura and University Towers, which are paid for by a reduction in professional level positions due to the need to keep budgets low. This results in less revenue producing spaces, since housing is part of RAs compensation.

The Housing Administration is trying to post the license agreement on the Web Portal a month early, which affects the new rates, so Ms. Francisco asked if the committee could vote on this fee request today.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to move this item to action, which was seconded by Mr. Ruiz. All committee members voted in favor of moving this item to action.

**ACTION ITEM: 2008/09 Housing Fees (Attachments 1-6)**

Mr. Ruiz made a motion to approve the housing fees, which was seconded by Mr. DeSantis. The committee voted and the fee was approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM: Final Draft of voter pamphlet**

Mr. Ruiz made a motion to approve the referendum ballot, which was seconded by Mr. DeSantis. Dr. Singer addressed three references to the student library fee and suggested adding the word "group" before "research", so these read: "... for group research and collaboration" on page 4 (second bullet), page 5 (second bullet under "Summary of Ballot Issue") and page 6 (second paragraph). Mr. Poet ensured this was a friendly amendment without objections.

Ms. Stewart referred to the "Statement in Favor of Increasing the Student Body Association Fee" and suggested formatting "Facilities and Refunds for AS Facilities, Sustainability Upgrades" like the rest of the headings. Ms. Stewart also referred to the "Argument in Favor of Increasing the Library Student Use Fee" and suggested revising the second sentence on the second paragraph. She stated that the 24/7 area is not fully funded by the library use fee. It was suggested adding something like "partial" or "increased hours" since part of those 24 hours is not funded by students. Mr. Rainer suggested adding "partially" to the current statement; Mr. Cawthorne commented that "partially" is sort of technical and that the statement is fine as is. Mr. Burns added that the current statement is factually incorrect. Mr. Cornthwaite suggested "24/7 access..." The revised sentence now reads: "The 24/7 access, which is funded by the current library student use fee, has exceeded all expectations". The committee accepted the revised sentence.

Mr. Poet called for any more changes to the voter pamphlet; the additional change was to capitalize "Student Body Association Fee".

The committee moved on to approve the final draft of the voter pamphlet; it was approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM: Consideration of proposed referendum ballot language**

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the proposed referendum ballot language, which was seconded by Mr. DeSantis. The committee voted and unanimously approved the referendum ballot language.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.