

## CAMPUS FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 22, 2021

### MINUTES

#### **ATTENDEES**

Members:	Amanda Fuller	Ashley Tejada
	David Ely	Karina Esteban
	Mary Anne Kremicki	Shawki Moore
	Rashmi Praba	Jennifer Schenkenfelder
	T'Ante Sims	Stephen Jackson
	Mark Bruno	Alexia Oduro
	Mikhail Portnoy	Carlos Fitch
	Hala Madanat	Erika Gutierrez
	Savanna Schuermann	
Guests:	Crystal Little	Matias Farre
	Beth Warren	Feion Villodas
	Adam C. Adams	Ted Gonzalez
	Aniesha Mitchell	Tonika Green

The meeting was called to order 11:05 A.M. by T'Ante Sims, CFAC Chair.

#### **Review and Approval of October 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- a. Mr. Sims asked if there were any questions or comments for last meeting's minutes before he motioned to approve. There were none. Mr. Sims motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Bruno second. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Informational Items**

- a. Graduate Student Experience Fee Proposal

Dr. Green began by stating the mission of the Office of Graduate Life and Diversity as well as listing the current programs offered. She continued that this proposed fee would increase outreach, support, and impact. Dr. Green noted that current staffing provides the capacity to serve 5% of the graduate student population. She stated that they would like to provide opportunities for monthly speakers and experts from diverse backgrounds to promote multidisciplinary research collaborations and teaching pedagogies which will allow students networking opportunities. Dr. Green proposed that this fee would open opportunities for a graduate student mentorship program. She added that they would like to provide more one on one support where they can develop an individualized development plan. She noted that there are currently 40 graduated students of color who are on academic probation. They would like to change that and be able to provide them with support. Dr. Green concluded that this fee would cover staffing, new services, equipment, and hospitality and events. She continued that the proposal is for the Graduate Student Experience Fee of \$300 and that this is a voluntary fee. The hope is to support 1,500+ students, the projected revenue and expenditures would be about \$478,500, and return to aid 3%. Dr. Green noted that the return to aid is for students who are unable to pay this fee and apply through ECRT.

Mr. Sims opened it up for questions. Ms. Kremicki asked if graduate students will have access to the support presented in this proposal if they are not able to pay the fee. Dr. Green stated that this is what the return to aid would support, if a student is unable to pay the \$330 fee, they can go through ECRT and get support. She added that all students can access some of the programs through this center such as mental health, academic support and workshops. They will be able to participate in those programs regardless of if they opted into paying this fee. Ms. Kremicki then asked if Dr. Love, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, was brought into the conversation. Dr. Green confirmed that they have had conversations and collaborated with Dr. Love. Dr. Villodas added that she was in conversations with Dr. Bohonak to start as Dr. Love was not in her current position when they first opened this office, however, she has since had conversations with her. However, she noted that majority of the conversations were with Dr. Bohonak. Ms. Kremicki followed up asking if Dr. Love and Dr. Bohonak are supportive of this

proposal. Dr. Villodas answered that their goal is to support graduate students especially when it comes to mental health programs. She added that from the conversations she had, they were very supportive of this proposal.

Ms. Schermann asked that if this is representative of all grad students and noticed in the proposal that this was information gathered from the feedback from graduate students from the graduate life and diversity program. She also added that some feedback she received from graduate students are that they cannot afford more fees as they already are struggling financially and living paycheck to paycheck. Dr. Villodas stated that she was involved with several focus groups with graduate students and that there was a lot of research going into what was needed. She noted that these programs have helped underrepresented graduate students immensely. Dr. Green followed up by stating that she agrees that financial burdens are an issue for graduate students, she continued that her goal as well as the center's goal is to help students, especially those who cannot afford it, have access to return to aid through ECRT. She added that the other concern is that they want to retain graduate students and if they do not have the support to succeed academically, they would leave SDSU and their goal is to retain these students.

Ms. Tejada voiced that she was very appreciative of the time they took to present this to CFAC. She added that this would benefit graduate students. Ms. Tejada continued that she was supportive of this and appreciated the return to aid or opt out options.

Mr. Fitch asked if this fee will be implemented at the Imperial Valley Campus. Dr. Green answered that they have been working closely with Mr. Villegas at the Imperial Valley Campus about how to support graduate students who are there. She continued that this fee is currently going to be implemented at the SDSU Main Campus but will look more into this to verify its validity. Dr. Villodas added that some Imperial Valley Campus graduate students are already taking advantage of the services offered. Since they are all offered through Zoom, Imperial Valley Campus graduate students have access to these resources. Mr. Fitch asked if Postbaccalaureate and Credential students will be offered this fee and services. Dr. Villodas answered that only students enrolled in the graduate program will have this option.

Ms. Schuermann asked why this program needs to be funded by students and not by the University. She also asked if there were any discussions with the University on funding this. Dr. Villodas emphasized that this fee is voluntary. Students are not required to participate in this if they choose not to. She added that the students she spoke with stated that this was well worth the money to invest in their academic success. Dr. Green added that there was a first-year experience voluntary fee that occurred this year where students chose to take part in and pay for this program that helped guide them through their first year at the University. She noted that they received positive feedback and learned that there is a need for these programs and that students want them. This is also why it is voluntary as not every student would want to opt into a program.

Mr. Fitch asked if it was possible if the committee could see the statistics of the feedback received from the focus groups and from those that participated in providing the feedback. He asked if the Graduate Student Association had been made aware of this fee and if they were supportive of it. Dr. Green stated that Dr. Villodas had the statistics and would provide it to the committee. She continued that Dr. Villodas was in constant communication with the Graduate Student Association and that they are in support of these services.

Ms. Tejada asked if this fee is available to first year graduate students or second year graduate students. Dr. Green clarified that this would be offered to graduate students in year two and beyond.

#### b. Educational & Restorative Fee Proposal

Ms. Mitchell began her presentation and stated that this proposal is currently modeled after the ASPIRE fee (approved Category IV fee) which is a scheduling fee charged to students who are found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct with alcohol or other drug violation. Ms. Mitchell stated that if this fee is approved, it would be administered through the Office of Restorative Practices. She listed the current staff/ team of this department and added that they are currently being funded through HEERF.

Ms. Mitchell listed the current services their office offers. She then stated that the educational and restorative fee would apply to students found responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct. Students found responsible will be required to complete an educational and restorative sanction with ORP and pay this fee. She added that this fee would be considered a scheduling fee for services. Ms. Mitchell continued that students who are found to have violated the Student Code of Conduct will only be required to pay one scheduling fee per conduct case. Ms. Mitchell stated that they are aware that students may not be able to pay this fee, therefore, they have various options. Those options include resolution agreements, return to aid, ECRT and fee waivers. Ms. Mitchell then reviewed the projected revenue and expenditures. They noted that the projected number of students paying this fee would be around 2,200, educational and restorative fee of \$100, projected revenue and expenditures would be \$220,000. Revenue collected would go towards staff salaries and operating expenses.

Mr. Fitch asked if this fee is in total \$300 including the \$200 for the ASPIRE fee. Ms. Mitchell clarified that this is a separate fee from the ASPIRE fee and that this proposal is for \$100. She added that this fee was modeled after the ASPIRE fee, but they are not related and that if a student needed to pay the ASPIRE fee, they would not be required to pay any additional fees if it stems from the same conduct case.

Mr. Bruno asked if there is an appeal process built into this. Ms. Mitchell confirmed that there is an appeals process. She added that students are not assigned any fees or sanctions until they have exhausted all their opportunities for due process. Students have the opportunity to respond to allegations and once a decision has been made based on the evidence. If the student does not agree with the outcome, they are given the option to appeal.

Mr. Fitch asked what the process would be for implementing this fee. Ms. Mitchell responded that the target semester to have this implemented would be Summer or Fall 2022. She added that if students are required to pay this fee, this will be included in their settlement agreements.

#### **Action Items**

- a. None

#### **Requests**

- a. None

#### **New Business**

Ms. Little informed the committee of an update on the process of how these fees are approved due to the conversation brought up by Ms. Tejada at the last meeting. Category IV fee proposals will be brought to CFAC as an informational item before being sent to the President for approval. The committee will then be notified of the President's decision.

Mr. Fitch asked for clarity on the process of fee proposals. Ms. Little explained the process and noted that an orientation will be provided to all new members and scheduling is being worked on.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Fitch added that these fees and these proposals are something that really needs student involvement before implementing because at the end of the day students are the ones paying these and these directly affect students.

Ms. Schenkenfelder mentioned today is the first day of Aztec Rocks Hunger. She added there are signs promoting to donate and that 20% goes back to ECRT. The end of the campaign is November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sims motioned to adjourn the meeting.  
Mr. Sims adjourned the meeting at 12:01 P.M.

**Reminder:** Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 A.M. via Zoom.