Subcommittee meeting 2-27-2015
3:07 PM
Minutes recorded by Olivia Callahan( Ocallaha@uno.edu )

Introductions:
David, Olivia, Hunter, Christy (Biological Sciences Graduate Students), Shawn, Josh, Brent (Science Undergraduate), Brandon

Student Self Assessed Fees
1. Vote on by April UL System Board meeting
   a. UNO is the last school to come up on the SA fees.
      Creating a protected fee structure
      i. Constitutional committee (Hunter and David): centralizes and protects
         and autonomy
      ii. "We are aware of the monies in the program spent on campus"
      iii. Shawn: How do we take the money back?
      iv. David: Every year, the budgets will be presented to a board of directors to
decide how that money will get allocated on campus spending. Monies
will never be tied up or restricted. Not easy to do in the STF.
      v. Hunter: Example, if we cut our microsoft contract-- we would pay the
remaining fee / get sued.

2.
   i. David: What programs do we want to have protected fees? (restricted
      funds)
   ii. Brandon: These funds would go through due process to get approved
      annually? In front of the committee.
      David: Present the budgets to students for an open forum and
      voting process.
      Hunter: The committee is made of students - sub committees from
      the SGA- with one representative from the university (relevant VP
      position).
   iii. David: Students decide how much they want to pay, the committee
decides how that money is spent.

3.
   i. DAVID: Working List of Self Assessed Fees
      GIVING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO VOTE
      ON THE FEES.
   ii. SGA Self Assessed fee (we are not discussing that in this committee).
      Almost depleted, needs more money.
   iii. 1. Academics Fee: A single fee that gives an equal amount of dollars to
      operational / research for the 5 colleges. Fair cost for one college x the
      five colleges. $25 X 5 = $125 per student per semester. $2.5 million for
      the school. (Turn into a % to stay current with future costs of tuition).
VOTE for Academics Fee: passes unanimously. 4% of undergrad instate tuition projection Fall 2016.

iv. Hunter: Base this on tuition or base this on an artificial number (because of Grad Act inflation). Move away from tuition increases, increase fees. Fees are student controlled.

v. Questions: Do we want the Academic Fee to be connected to tuition?

vi. David: Cut govt funding by increasing tuition. Allow the fee mechanism to increase fees are needed NOT based on the tuition which is controlled by the state / inflation. The fees may grow larger than students can afford, fees might be larger than tuition because it is growing constantly. Different mechanism is needed- a system that supports the needs. Human needs to make the decision, not an automatic formula.

vii. Christy: Concerned with students pooling the extra funds because students work / don't work. GAs usually have to work / TA to keep their fellowships.

viii. David: Graduate students get to pay and decide these fees, too. The programs cut were Masters and PHDs. Fees save the grad programs. This is a sacrifice, but it benefits them more than it benefits the undergraduate students. Most Grad and PhD programs get cut before the undergrad programs even get considered.

ix. Shawn: Although we are fortunate enough to receive the GAships, we could contribute our own funds to fill the bucket.

x. David: Even if $500 was added to the current student payments, we would still be considerably less expensive than most colleges in the South. Well below the regional average (27% of the regional average cost of attendance).

b. David: Impact the colleges deficit largely.

c. Josh: Dr. Fos urges us to get the SA fees approved ASAP.

2. Athletics Fee: currently not supporting the athletics program (once the grant runs out). NCAA requirements for the teams / operations of the east campus.

3. Maintenance Fee:

4. Technology Fee: Currently not effective and controlled by state law.


d. Hunter: 20% of fees go to the college's councils. Already a mechanism in place. Would need an application process to keep track of the spending and funds.

e. David: Academic committee will not have the credentials to approve grants. So the College Councils will be appointed to make these decisions. Can create the requirements for the Council to get the SGA funds.

f. Shawn: Who goes to the Councils to request that money?

g. David: Department chairs go to the Dean to propose the funds to get the budget proposed. Currently there is not a standard procedure to get research money approved.

h. Christy: How can we assure the monies are evenly distributed to research projects?
i. David: Each college will get the same amount of funds to distribute.

j. Hunter: The college committees can use resources to solve the individual college’s needs. The SGA can focus on the university as a whole.

6. Excess Funds Fee (Suggested by Josh): The funds will need to be processed when the needs are specific.

>$1 Fees:

7. Counseling Services Fee:

8. Library OR Learning Resource Center:

   a. Josh: Are these fees going to be permanent or just a guideline for future students?
   b. David: These will be permanent.

Shawn: lets be prepared to represent our case!

David: Goal: Have a message for the students
Tuition will go up regardless of tuition swap.

   a. Christy: How much is too much to charge students?
   Hunter: Tuition Swap is bad because 7M will be taken from the State budget. Our budget is greater than our revenues. Grad Act: Last year we were allowed to keep the 4.4M, but that money will be taken out of our budget. So we are structurally in a steep deficit. Administration agrees we need to be a self dependant with our funds (depending on the govt is not helping us, its hurting us more). Raising tuition slightly offsets the costs of the budget deficit.
   b. David: No matter the price of each fee, students will need to decide if the cost of attending UNO is worth it. This hurts TOPS and GI Bill scholarship recipients.
   Shawn: Bucket, cost of funding the UNO, Two water sources, GOVT and INTERNAL: we are getting cut off from GOVT, we need to increase internal funding to sustain.
   c. Hunter: $800,000 budget needs across the colleges
   David: Structural Deficit: operating in the red for several years. Pulling funds from our Savings Account, we are out of those funds. We are meeting in this subcommittee to establish percentages and projects to cover the university’s deficits.

Meeting concluded at 4:36pm