

# Student Fee Advisory Committee

March 3, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Andres Gonzalez, Erin Kelly, Nidal Zmily, Natalie Goudarzian, Ching-Yun Li, Rosemary Busta, Sarah Bana, Megan Braun, Calvin Sung, Payel Chowdhury

Absent: David Curry, Adam Van Wart, Leslie Millerd Rogers

Staff: Karen Mizumoto

Interns: Sonia Bernick

1. Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm.
2. Course Materials Fee Discussion and Vote
  - a. Studio Arts: Department requests CMF of \$14 for Studio Arts 106C (Design for Print) to cover the cost of artist-quality inkjet paper for final projects; total cost per year is about \$336.

Discussion:

    - Individual CMF in Studio Arts are not large, but the danger is that the individual CMFs can add up over the course of a year or course of study.
    - This CMF could be in lieu of what other (non-Studio Arts) students have to pay for books, etc.
    - Proposal states that students are willing to bear some of the costs, but the professor may have included this to increase the chances of the fee getting approved.
    - Total cost is not substantial. The department or school should be able to absorb \$336.

Vote: In favor = 4; Opposed = 3; Abstaining = 1
  - b. Business: The school proposes a \$100 CMF for MBA 229 (Leadership Strategies) to cover the cost of four assessment tests students will take; tests will be evaluated and incorporated into the each student's coursework and final "job plan" they will create. The market value of similar assessments taken in seminars ranges from \$5,700 - \$7,000.

Discussion:

    - This in an elective course, so students can choose not to enroll in class.
    - The CMF (\$100) is a nominal amount compared to the fair market value of leadership assessments and evaluation.
    - The students will be able to take what they learn and develop in this class and apply it to other classes and when they graduate.

Vote: In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0

- c. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: The department is requesting CMFs of \$25 for Bio 9E (Horticulture Science) and Bio E175 (Restoration Biology) for the cost of consumables, plant materials and replacement tools. Bio 9E is taught at the UCI Arboretum and students will learn the fundamentals of plant taxonomy and techniques in propagation and ecological restoration; students will take home all plants and supplies they have used during the quarter. Bio E175 will take place on an off-site location and students will work on both the theoretical and practical aspects of habitat mitigation and restoration.

Discussion:

- Bio 175: The cost of shovels (\$400) seems high? How often do they break/need to be replaced?

Vote:

- Bio 9E: In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 2
- Bio 175: In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 2(?)

- d. Biological Sciences Labs: The school proposes to increase to existing CMF for Bio Sci labs for:

- All labs: an increase of \$15 to cover the pass-through cost of the Educational Testing Service (ETS) on-line English writing feedback system.
- Bio 100LW (Experimental Biology Lab): an increase of \$5 for increased materials costs.
- M118L (Microbiology Lab): an increase of \$20 to cover increased materials costs due to the need to purchase pre-made materials (previously assembled and/or mixed and labeled by lecturers)
- D111L (Dev. & Cell Biology Lab), M114L (Biochemistry Lab), N113L (Neurobiology Lab): an increase of \$15 to cover increased materials costs due to the need to purchase pre-made materials (previously assembled and/or mixed and labeled by lecturers), and to accommodate increased enrollments from Bio Sci majors as well as majors in Public Health/Sciences.

Discussion:

- The increase for ETS costs could set a bad precedent for other departments who might want to request similar type of fee to substitute for what TAs and readers already do.
- Reading papers is part of the process of evaluating students' work.
- Not all students have a low writing proficiency, but they will be required to pay this fee and would be subsidizing students with poorer writing skills.
- Can this be optional? What is the total cost of the ETS package? Will the cost per student increase if the total cost is spread around to fewer students? (Karen will get more information from the school).
- Q (Megan): Why is the cost of materials increasing?

- A: With less lecturers and TA time, the department needs to order preassembled/pre-labeled materials. In the past lecturers and TAs mixed and assembled lab materials such as petri dishes, etc. Also the labs have not increased fees for several years and a few are running in deficit.
- Q (Megan): Can the committee vote to support the fee increase for the increased materials costs, but not the ETS support?
- A: Yes.
- Megan moves to vote only to support the materials cost increases; motion is seconded.

Vote:

- Bio 100LW: Vote to endorse a fee of \$35 (\$5 increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- D111L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$75 (\$15 increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- E112L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$45 (no increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- N113L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$75 (\$15 increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- M114L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$75 (\$15 increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- E115L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$25 (no increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- M116L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$60 (no increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- M118L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$85 (\$20 increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- M121L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$75 (no increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- M124L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$75 (no increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- E166L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$45 (no increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0
- E179L: Vote to endorse a fee of \$25 (no increase). In favor = 8; Opposed = 0; Abstaining = 0

- d. Music: The committee reopened discussion on the proposed \$450 per quarter/\$1,350 annual CMF fee for one-on-one music instruction.

Discussion:

- We can sympathize with Music and understand that they have the best interests of their students, but it would set a bad precedent for the committee to start

recommending differential fees, especially because it is being discussed at the Regental, (Presidential, Student Leadership?) level.

- There is a larger philosophical issue of differential fees.
- The highest lab fee is \$80\*; this proposed fee is substantial (\$450 per quarter/\$1,350 annually) and is not optional. (\*there is an optional residential fee for MBA students to participate in a week-long foreign residential).
- In the short-term, why couldn't the department reduce lecturers? This is better than raising fees.
- They (the Music department) didn't accept students who played certain instruments; this restricts the quality and quantity of students in Arts and will hurt the Music department.
- We are not unaware that without this CMF, the Music department may need to reorganize and reprioritize, but a lot of other departments are in this position as well. If budget cuts continue and students in other schools are not able to enroll in all of their classes, then why should we give Arts this advantage?
- The committee invited Music students to comment on the proposed CMF. No students were able to attend today's meeting, however the committee did receive comments via text message. The main concerns Music students had were: 1) The students have been told by the department that existing students will have most of their fees offset by scholarship funds, but so far the students have not seen any concrete plans on how much the department can help students with their fees; without assistance some students will need additional aid or will have to drop out. 2) Music students already have high costs for purchasing sheet music and instruments. Many students will not be able to afford the CMF as well.
- Megan suggests that the committee make a statement that the creation of differential fees is a top-level discussion at the Regental level, and until there is further discussion at higher levels, the Irvine SFAC is not willing to take a position and to make a recommendation on this CMF for Music. Additionally, the committee is not willing to make a recommendation on which type of instruction has priority, or which type of instruction should be funded.

Vote: In favor = 0; against = 7; Abstaining = 1

3. The committee will discuss the CMF proposals for Engineering. Karen will post summaries of the proposals on the Google site by Tuesday.
4. Meeting adjourned.