

# Student Fee Advisory Committee

November 13, 2009  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Calvin Sung, Megan Braun, Payel Chowdhury, Andres Gonzales, Erin Kelly, Adam Van Wart, Ching-Yun Li, David Curry, Rosemary Busta, Leslie Millerd Rogers

Absent: Nidal Zmily, Natalie Gourdarzian, Sarah Bana

Staff: Karen Mizumoto

Interns: Karen Wong, Sally Yu

1. Meeting called to order at 1:14 pm.
2. Minutes from November 6 meeting approved.
3. Calvin recaps CSF meeting at UCLA
  - Three agenda items were discussed at the CSF meeting:
    - CSF will assist with re-writing guidelines for Merced, which currently does not have formal guidelines; the guidelines will serve as the model for the Reg Fee Task Force.
    - There will be a CSF report on how the campuses are doing financially, including a student fee report so students have a better understanding about the budget information, budget cuts and what is happening to their fees.
    - CSF wants a greater student presence on the Reg Fee Task Force, to have a voice in changes to the Reg Fee policy, and to focus on keeping fees from continuing to increase.
  - CSF meetings are quarterly. The next CSF meeting will be in Merced (Jan 23-24) and UCI will host the spring 2010 meeting sometime in February/March. CSF would like to add additional meetings, which will be paid for by CSF reserves.
  - CSF will be creating a CSF website.
  - All other UC campuses are going through similar budget cuts as UCI's.
  - Calvin has the minutes from the CSF meeting if anyone who wants more details or has any questions about the meeting.
4. The committee brainstorms key questions/issues for the November 20 meeting with the EVCP. Calvin distributes minutes from last year's meeting with the EVCP for reference.
  - Megan wants to ask about new proposals for course material fees and what considerations and criteria the committee should use when reviewing the proposals and in making recommendations to the EVCP.
  - Megan would like to know what is the plan is for differential fees.
  - Adam wants to know if the EVCP has any brief synopsis reports from individual departments. Megan thinks these reports might be too long to bring up. Adam asks if there were general synopsis reports. Megan believes when the committee meets with

the EVCP, we should discuss the larger pressing issues, such as fee increases, because the outcome of the Regents' vote on fee increases will be known next week.

- Megan wants to ask the EVCP what the forecast is for future student fees and what the outlook for the future budget is (the campus strategy is for future budgets and if there will be more budget cuts). Megan is also concerned about cuts to the Libraries and would like to make the Libraries' budget a priority.
- Megan says it's important to keep in mind that while the EVCP oversees the overall campus, questions about specific information should be avoided. Megan says the committee should be more focused on larger issues such as the Libraries, professors, what to do with the quality of our academics and about the furlough program, etc. Megan points out that committee should ask questions about the decisions that only the EVCP really makes rather than questions about specific departments. Megan suggests asking the EVCP questions about issues he has the most influence over.
- David asks if the committee should ask the EVCP about institutional costs rather than about costs from individual departments. Megan says there are a lot of other sources from where we can obtain info about the budget rather than using the one hour with the EVCP to discuss this.
- Adam wants a short, concise, bullet point sheet about each school's budget info. And things that affect all students, not just specific groups of students, such as parking, and libraries. Megan says these questions should be more geared toward discussions between ASUCI and campus leadership and some of this has already been done. Megan says these kinds of specific reports don't generally exist because that's not how the university runs things.
- Andres mentions there is a concern by UCOP VP of Budget Patrick Lenz (who spoke at the CSF meeting) that as the UC fees become so high, UC is becoming more of a private institution. Calvin also says the University's priorities are quality, accessibility, and affordability in that order.
- The committee discusses whether or not there are other sources funds and revenue streams (i.e., capital projects and capital debt) that can be reallocated instead of raising student fees. Megan says commitments for capital projects are made in the long-term and building contracts are made years in advance. Also the cost of breaking these contracts would be costly. David thinks you should pay off the bond for one building before starting another building. Karen says that the capital projects and debt have a different source of funding from funds for education (Reg Fees and campus-based facilities fees are a source of repayment in part for some student services buildings); capital bonds are pooled debt systemwide and are for 35-years; capital debt is a way for the University to strategically leverage their funds on a long-term planning basis; the only short-term financing is during the actual construction of the site. Megan says these buildings are built according to long-term strategic plans

for student growth, and are planned and constructed before it gets to a point where the enrollment exceeds the campus space capacity.

- Ching-Yun asks if the EVCP will consider having a unit cap. Payel says Cal Poly Pomona is doing this and it's causing students not being able to enroll into the classes that they need. The school has done this because there are not enough professors and TA's to teach this many courses. This is causing some students to not be able to graduate on time.
  - Payel would like the EVCP to address the strategy for graduate student support.
  - Karen suggests the committee review the October 16 meeting minutes, when AVC Rich Lynch visited the committee and discussed campus budget issues, so questions for the EVCP can be refined.
  - Calvin will summarize what SFAC does know to the EVCP so he won't have to spend time addressing topics/information that the committee is already aware of.
  - **Review of main questions to ask the EVCP:**
    - a. **How does the mid-year increase look like it as it relates to the budget? Will it be sufficient to cover the \$17 million gap? Are they anticipating future cuts and strategies, such as unit caps as Cal Poly Pomona is doing? What are other revenue streams the campus is considering other than increases to student fees?**
    - b. **What are the criteria for course material fees the committee should consider when making recommendations to the EVCP?**
    - c. **How will grad student support be affected by budget cuts and fee increases?**
    - d. **How are UC's interests and funding being advocated to the State; what strategy is being used to restore lost State funding?**
    - e. **Will the EVCP ask the committee to make recommendations on budget cuts as a previous committee did several years ago?**
  - Calvin will email the committee a draft of the questions to ask the EVCP.
5. Meeting adjourned 2:31pm.