



May 6, 2024

Dear Dr. Arenaz,

The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) held five open meetings during the 2023-2024 academic year. A review of the proposed budget for FY25 was provided to the committee on November 10, 2023, by Mr. Fred Juarez, Associate Vice President of Finance & Administration. A good portion of the fall semester meetings was dedicated to work around the Health Fee referendum and the SFAC funding account.

The spring semester meetings focused on presentations provided by TAMIU staff members who oversee accounts funded by the Student Services Fee, Health Fee, Recreational Fee, and Student Center Fee. In total, SFAC met with 11 different individuals who collectively reviewed a total of 24 different budgets.

Recommendation #1

In reflecting on the information presented, some members of the committee questioned the practice of funding the following offices via student fees: the Office of Admissions, Enrollment Management, the Registrar's Office, and the Financial Aid Office. The student members of the committee would like the University to direct student fees towards offices that have a more direct impact on all students, such as ACE, Career Services, and International Engagement. Therefore, the committee recommends implementing an accounting swap to align with this recommendation.

Recommendation #2

While deliberating on the Committee's recommendations, student members began suggesting a second one. Because it focused on the funding of an office directed by one SFAC committee member (Ms. Hernandez) and two offices under the supervision of another committee member (Ms. Garcia), everyone decided it would be best for the conversation to be tabled so that student members could instead discuss it independently to avoid any conflicts of interest. It was also decided that if the students wanted to include this as part of the Committee's report, it would be written by them.

Please accept the following from the student members of the Committee:

"Having the privilege of going through an exercise that most students do not get the chance to see for themselves, we were able to engage with directors and staff and also identify certain departments that appear underfunded. These departments include but are not limited to the Office of Student Conduct Community Engagement and the office of Student Orientation

Leadership and Engagement. We believe that it is our duty to ensure all departments with direct impact on students, emergency services and those classified under the Texas Education Code are both properly funded and recognized.

With that being said, we urge both the Office of the President and the other members of the SFAC to further investigate the needs of these offices and departments. This can be done through prior budget reviews or surveying of offices funded by the Student Service Fee. The findings of this investigation will both educate us properly on the needs of each office and department within the university and will allow for us to create future discussions for later SFAC meetings."

Sincerely,

The Student Fee Advisory Committee

Committee Members

Alfredo Duncan-Perez
SFAC Student Member

Rosalinda Garcia
Vice President, Student Engagement
SFAC Co-Chair

Dr. Tatiana Gorbunova
Assistant Professional, Department of Fine & Performing Arts

Mayra Hernandez
Director, Student Conduct & Community Engagement

Fred Juarez
Associate Vice President, Finance and Administration
SFAC Co-Chair

Carolina Ramirez
SFAC Student Member

Rodolfo Rendon
SFAC Student Member

Preston Salazar
SFAC Student Member

Jesus A. Soto
SFAC Student Member