



## **Student Fee Advisory Committee**

April 9, 2024

Attendees: Rosalinda Garcia, Tatiana Gorbunova, Mayra Hernandez, Carolina Ramirez, Preston Salazar, Rodolfo Rendon, and Arturo Soto.

Other Attendees: Elizabeth Vasquez, Thomas Brown, and Claudia Beltran.

Motion to approve minutes of April 2, 2024, by Jesus A. Soto. Seconded by Preston. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation on Accounts Covered by Student Fees

### Student Services Fee: The Bridge – Thomas Brown

Mr. Brown presented the Bridge Student Newspaper's account, which shows \$14,400 in operational expenses.

Ms. Hernandez inquired about the newspaper's staffing, and Mr. Brown explained that all members are volunteers, with about 12-13 student volunteers, though only 5 are active. The others contribute by taking photos or writing stories. When asked about stipends, Mr. Brown noted that the students do not receive any, but he believes they should, citing his own experience of receiving a scholarship and campus job funds for his work with the newspaper. He emphasized that incentivizing students could help them meet deadlines.

Ms. Hernandez also asked if students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their information. Mr. Brown confirmed that students are taught verification methods in their journalism classes, but he cannot guarantee compliance. However, he mentioned that regular checks are conducted to ensure accuracy.

### Student Services Fee: Academic Partnerships – Fred Juarez

Ms. Garcia presented the Academic Partnerships (SSF) account that shows \$254,199 in operational expenses.

Rodolfo inquired whether the operational expenses covered the full partnership fee or if funds were drawn from other sources. Ms. Garcia was unsure but noted she would ask Mr. Juarez for clarification. Rodolfo also asked if the programs are mainly for graduate students, to which Ms. Garcia indicated they primarily target graduate levels, but there may be options for undergraduates as well.

Carolina asked how many programs are fully online, and Ms. Garcia responded that there are four online programs. Mayra questioned whether the initiatives are aimed at recruiting students to TAMIU or promoting online programs. Ms. Garcia expressed a desire for the target audience to include traditional students. However, it was noted that no one present had experience with the discussed programs, and it was unclear if TAMIU was purchasing specific advertising services to promote these programs.

Student Center Fee: Deferred Maintenance & Debt Maintenance – Fred Juarez

Ms. Garcia presented the Deferred Maintenance & Debt Maintenance (SCF) account that shows \$1,024,782 in operational expenses.

Rodolfo asked if the debt service is like the Rec. SC building original construction two referendums renovation and expansion of dining area, sky bridge and game room. They discussed changes made this summer and future costs related to infrastructure changes.

Preston asked what total amount of debt was allotted for the Student Center and how much of that has been paid down.

Ms. Garcia mentioned that funds from the state cannot be used to cover essential parts of the Student Center maintenance.

Student Center Fee: Community Relations & Special – Fred Juarez (Has no operational budget)

Ms. Garcia informed the committee that it does not have any operational budget, just salaries and benefits.

Health Fee: Health – Claudia Beltran

Mrs. Beltran presented the Health Services (HF) account that shows \$81,036 in operational expenses.

Mrs. Beltran shared additional information on health services ongoing and upcoming events.

Ms. Beltran additionally shared the student visits to the health center, yielding an approximate annual range of 1765 current to 2100 visits. She proceeded to list the record of visits so far this year:

- 381 Doctor Visit
- 140 Nurse practitioner
- 572 Nurse visit
- 348 Vaccines
- 232 Tuberculosis test
- 61 Texas vaccines for children
- 31 STI Testing

Carolina asked since when has student health been located at their current location to which Ms. Beltran mentioned she is unsure but can confirm it has been there at least since 2009.

Dr. Gorbunova asked what marketing tools are used for these services and asked why they are so low to which Ms. Beltran mentioned they buy T-shirts and other marketing methods, usually not

flyers. They also try to provide information to students as much as possible, they do their best efforts to promote their services to students.

Ms. Hernandez mentioned that she thinks its great that a doctor who is available three times a week only charges 35K and also takes phone calls when needed.

Rodolfo asked questions regarding the online module. Ms. Beltran responded that it is a free program, not classified within the health center's expenses.

Caro asked about lactation spaces. Ms. Garcia responded that they have not received any requests for available lactation spaces so far this semester, although they typically have one student per year who does apply.

#### Health Fee: Student Disability Services – Liz Vasquez

Ms. Vasquez presented the Student Disability Services (HF) account, which shows \$116,000 in operational expenses.

Rodolfo inquired about the source of funds allocated when there is an increased need for sign language interpreters or when the number of students requesting services is unknown. Ms. Garcia noted that it's difficult to predict a fixed number of students but emphasized the legal obligation to provide accommodation. She concluded by highlighting the need for a full-time interpreter could be more of an economical approach.

#### Health Fee: Disability Services – Liz Vasquez

Ms. Vasquez presented the Disability Services (HF) account that shows \$16,000 in operational expenses.

No questions were asked.

#### Student Services Fee: Student Life –Rosalinda Garcia

Ms. Garcia presented the Student Life (SSF) account that shows \$30,870 in operational expenses.

Ms. Hernandez highlighted community engagement activities in the fall, such as advertising and events like coffee breaks during exam week, along with various partnership-related programs.

She also proposed providing additional support for transfer student initiatives, or for SCCE office's uncovered expenses that doesn't have funding. Questions arose regarding the use of funds for the same type of event/expenses from multiple offices/accounts.

Student Member Terms

Discuss Next Steps

The committee will have a working meeting on April 16, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20p.m.