

**Tuition & Fee Proposal Committee**  
**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Meeting Minutes**  
**Location: BSE 2.102**  
**Time: 8:00am**

**In attendance:**

**Student Members:** Robert Allums, Christina Gomez, David C. Matiella, Yelena Nevel, John Schieferle Uhlenbrock, Tommy Thompson

**Faculty Members:** Dr. Victoria Jones

**Ex-Officios:** Janet Parker, Candie Sagehorn, Terry Wilson, Sam Gonzales

**Executives:** Kerry Kennedy

**Guests:** Dr. Mehdi Shadaram, Dr. Robert Baron, Jackie Hobson, Lynn Bishop, Lynn Hickey, Ross Cobb, Vincent Castellanos, Gary Lott, Lenora Chapman, Sue McManus, Rosanne Gorny, Candy Schlueter

**Absent Student Members:** Matthew Deleon, Ashleigh Ervin, Corey Green, Sara Hohne, Joseph Hopkins, Briana Rogler-Brown, Paula Salas, Shannon Simmons, Raheel Veerani, Nicole White, Ayeza Zafar.

**Absent Faculty Members:** Dr. Arturo Ayon, Dr. Keith Fairchild

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**Janet Parker** opened the meeting with a review of the agenda and introductions around the table.

**ATHLETICS FEE**

**Lynn Hickey**, Director of Athletics, presented uses of the Athletic Fee revenue and proposed increase. She referenced the budget handout and reminded the group that State law requires Athletics receives no state funding. The Athletic fee is the bulk of their funding with remainder coming from private donations and corporate sponsors. In 2003, UTSA received legislative permission to take a vote to the students to split from the Student Services Fee, of which Athletics received 34%. In 2004, students approved the Athletic fee to support the 16 Varsity teams at the NCAA Division 1 level; some support is also provided to the Spirit teams.

Presently the fee funds 129.3 scholarships as allowed by NCAA, costing over \$2M. In addition to scholarships, fee provides funding for team travel, equipment, recruitment costs, maintenance, wages and benefits. The proposed 08/09 fee rate goes up \$1 per SCH and will generate slightly more than \$600K; the 09/10 fee rate will go up another \$2 per SCH to \$13.00/SCH and will generate an additional \$1.2M. Next year housekeeping/maintenance will be added as a line item to the Athletics budget (minimum

\$100,000). Surplus funding will be used for renovations to the Convocation Center, improved study facilities for student athletes; \$250,000 will be retained in reserves for emergencies (medical, maintenance, gas expense increases).

**Question from Dr. Jones:** How many students attend athletic events? Lynn answered that 1,000 students attended the 1<sup>st</sup> basketball game. There are 28,500 season ticket holders; students get in free to all events. Baseball averages about 200-300 students (keeping in mind that last year was the first year with lights); previously played at Wolff Stadium. No concessions and small restrooms limit attendance; working on options. Student track event attendance is an estimate as they are held at high school facilities; 2,000 people attend but that includes high school students. 600-800 people attend soccer events. In comparison with other schools in the Southland Conference, UTSA draws a higher rate of attendance.

**Question from Student David Matiella:** Will the new study facilities for students be for athletes only? Yes. Lynn talked about NCAA academic requirements for student athletes and the need for combining academic and athletic resources to provide for student academic success.

**Question from Dr. Jones:** What is the graduation rate for athletes at 4 years and 7 years? The overall graduation rate for student athletes is 40% which is higher than the rate for other UTSA students. Lynn talked about new NCAA rules and restrictions; prove retaining and graduating of student athletes. If not, we could lose scholarships. Graduation rate for student athletes who play their full four years of their eligibility is 90%.

**Question from Student Robert Allums:** What is the number of student athletes? There are 300 student athletes.

**Question from Dr. Jones:** Did the referendum promise football? No. The funds are to be used to support all of the Division I sports. However, had the referendum been voted down by students, football would not even be a possibility for UTSA. This was the first step to moving ahead to see whether we can raise sufficient funds from the community and donors to support a football program. Portion of fee increase that would go toward football if implemented has not been determined.

**Question from Student John Schieferle Uhlenbrock:** When will the plan to implement football begin? Answer: Not until after President Romo and UTSA determine to move ahead on football and then we would need to receive Board of Regents' approval. John asked whether there will be problems in receiving approval. Kerry Kennedy said he could not speak directly to how the Board will respond, but without the students' approval, football was a "no go".

## COLLEGE of ENGINEERING

**Dr. Mehdi Shadaram**, Associate Dean, College of Engineering, introduced the COE Technical Support Fee (which will be specific to Engineering students). Fee Justification/Purpose overhead was shared.

**Vincent Castellanos**, Fiscal Manager, College of Engineering, presented a Brief History sharing pictures of former and current labs. The Current Fee Structure is \$5/SCH. The Proposed Fee Structure is \$10/SCH (which will generate \$107,000 additional revenue.) The fee revenue budget for the current year was presented as well as the proposed 08-09 budget of \$210,702. The outcome of the fee increase will allow for extended hours of

operation; creation of a 3-year refresh cycle for lab equipment replacement; software updates and equipment maintenance before the equipment breaks down. The Student forum results indicate student support for this fee increase.

**Student John Schieferle Uhlenbrock:** asked about toner and paper costs. COE now limits students to 200 pages free printing and then they must pay for requirement in excess of the initial 200. Vincent explained that 1 ½ years ago COE was spending \$1,000 on printing. After other colleges implemented the PrintSmart system which limited students to 200 free pages per semester, COE's printing costs went up to \$8,000 as students came to COE labs to print. COE implemented the PrintSmart system 4 months ago. Vincent indicated that COE may consider increasing the number of pages COE students are allowed to print at no cost.

**Student John Schieferle Uhlenbrock:** asked why now a 3-year refresh cycle versus the 5-year cycle presented to the student forum? Adjustments needed to be made subsequent to that presentation.

**Student Tommy Thompson:** asked how the students were recruited for the forum? Students were recruited from student organizations and the meeting was advertised (although in a short time frame).

#### COLLEGE of ARCHITECTURE

**Interim Dean Robert Baron,** College of Architecture, presented the new fee for the College of Architecture. The new fee will provide services not presently available and will support computer labs. \$77,000 in revenue will be generated and will provide Kinko-like services that will also be available on weekends: \$35,000 to provide for lab monitors (Info Tech Associates); \$35,000 for supplies; and \$7,700 to rent a 3D printer, laser cutters and state of the art equipment for their architectural models. This is a competitive fee rate. Dr. Baron stated that Interior Design students also support this fee.

**Student John Schieferle Uhlenbrock:** How did students indicate their support of this fee? By raising their hands (there was no dissension).

#### COLLEGE of BUSINESS

**Dr. Victoria Jones,** College of Business, presented the Global Business Skills Fee which is not really a new fee. It replaces the International Education Fee for which approval was rescinded because it was not allowed to be used for study abroad because there is already an International Education fee assessed for that express purpose. COB is changing the name of the fee and the allowed justification, not the rate. The impact is revenue neutral. Dr. Jones talked about the programmatic changes and immersion programs.

**Student David Matiella:** asked where the Asian immersion program will be traveling to? Dr. Jones answered most likely China.

**Student Yelena Nevel:** asked if the immersion program costs the student anything? Student pays their tuition, but the programmatic costs will be covered from the fee.

#### RETURNED CHECK NSF FEE

**Gary Lott,** Financial Services and University Bursar presented the Returned Check Fee increase. The current rate is \$15 per NSF and has remained at that rate since 1995. Gary identified the additional effort for handling NSF checks in addition to the potential lost

revenue. UTS 166 – Cash Management & Cash Handling Policy recommends at least \$25 fee. Gary is requesting \$25 per the recommendation.

#### CHILD CARE REPLACEMENT KEY

**Janet Parker** presented the Child Care Key Swipe Replacement Fee. The proposal is for a \$10 replacement fee.

**Student John Schieferle Uhlenbrock:** asked why not use the student's UTSA card? The user may not be a student and security issues require a separate card.

#### ORIENTATION FEE

**Sam Gonzales**, Associate Vice President for Administration and Student Services, presented the Orientation Fee change. The proposed change is in the policy and not the rate which will remain at \$150. The first policy change would require a prepayment of \$50, as there are sunk costs that we must cover if a student decides either not to come to the orientation session (when they have a reservation to attend) or decides not to attend UTSA (as the current policy is to charge the \$150 with their tuition and fee bill.) The remaining \$100 charge would be collected when the Fall semester tuition and fee bill is due. The second policy change would charge an enrolled student who did not attend the in-person orientation to pay \$55 for on-line orientation. There was a unanimous student vote for both policy changes. In fact, originally, the prepayment was proposed by administration at \$35 and students recommended that the prepayment amount be increased to \$50 dollars.

**Lynn Bishop** asked if the fee changes are effective for the Fall semester? Yes.

#### **General Discussion, Questions & Answers from all three Committee meetings:**

**Dr. Jones** wants to endorse the technical fees. They are critical.

**John Schieferle Uhlenbrock** was in agreement but also asked about the accountability of these fees.

**Tommy Thompson** asked about a review process for existing fees and the new fees.

Janet Parker talked about a financial assessment process comparing budget to actual as a means toward accountability and review. This is a priority of the administration as well.

**Dr. Jones** said that COB has a process to assure that the fee is being expended for only those items allowed by the justification.

**Terry Wilson** indicated that this is a required process within Academic Affairs.

In conclusion to this discussion the committee favorably recommends all proposed incidental and course fees and increases.

Janet recapped the increase proposal for Designated Tuition.

**Student David Matiella** asked about the Energy Fee, which was originally a two-year fee, and subsequent increases. Since the fee will now be rolled into Designated Tuition any

increases would be reflected in the Tuition rate. Kerry Kennedy shared some of the history of the Energy Fee.

**Student David Matiella** asked how we are tracking the efficiency of utility costs of the new buildings. Kerry Kennedy responded with the statement that the new buildings are energy efficient. He also mentioned that UTSA has an Energy Conservation Committee that looks at how we use energy.

The committee agreed to the proposed Designated Tuition increases.

Janet recapped the proposed increase to the Medical Services Fee.

**Student Christina Gomez** asked about the Recreation Wellness Fee that was approved a couple years ago as it relates to medical costs. Sam Gonzales answered that the Recreation Wellness Fee was not intended to cover any medical services, but construction only.

Janet recapped the proposed increase to the University Center fee. UC fee is based on 2003 referendum.

Janet recapped the proposed increase to the Athletic Fee and Transportation Fee. Both are based on referenda completed this fall.

**Student John Schieferle Uhlenbrock** asked why the savings is not being applied to more types of parking permits, e.g. flex and garage permits? Janet Parker indicated that the committee could recommend that the discounts be spread over other parking permit types.

**Dr. Jones** is concerned about the presentation of the University Center Fee and the Transportation Fee at the previous Committee meetings.

**Student Tommy Thompson** mentioned that Janet Parker met with the Student Government Association on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> regarding the Tuition and Fee Proposal.

**Tommy Thompson** asked about the Transportation Fee reserves.

Kerry Kennedy presented the following intended uses of the \$4.5M reserve:

- \$200K to buy 2 buses
- \$150K for parking lot repairs
- \$1.2M for a reserve for the South parking garage for debt service (for 1 ½ years)
- \$100K for the Master Plan for transportation
- \$700K for Signage and Way-finding (for consultation and implementation costs)
- \$200K to repair sidewalks and build sidewalks from parking areas
- \$1.85M - \$1.9M for the expansion of the North parking lot.

Any savings from these estimates would be used to moderate permit increases.

Additionally with a \$4M to \$5M revenue stream, 10% should be set aside for a reserve.

**Dr. Jones** asked how the Transportation Fee will help students. Kerry Kennedy answered that 3,500 to 5,000 students living around the campus will benefit from the new shuttle routes.

Kerry Kennedy mentioned in comparison to other universities, our proposed Transportation Fee is on the low side. The additional spaces coming on line in the spring along with the Sam Barshop Blvd. connecting road will help to ease congestion.

**Student Christina Gomez** asked what determines which complexes get a shuttle route.

VP Kennedy answered that mostly location and cost efficiency are the determining factors. **Jackie Hobson** mentioned that back in 2003 the students voted down a transportation fee.

**Student David Matiella** asked about other plans for the use of the fee other than buses, what about providing bikes? VP Kennedy likes the idea of bike lanes but not buying bikes which may be discarded and will need repairs. Also there are liability issues with campus owned bikes.

**Lynn Bishop** asked whether the buses will allow for bike carriers. Transportation Committee will need to address this issue but it is an excellent idea.

**Dr. Jones** recommends a feasibility study of campus parking and indicated that parking is a big dissatisfier. Kerry Kennedy indicated we will continue to make improvements to parking on campus, but consistent with other universities across the country, parking will probably always be a dissatisfier.

**Dr. Jones** expressed appreciation for the opportunity for discussion today and for the additional information provided on agenda items from previous Committee meetings.

**Dr. Jones** expressed some concerns about the impact of the changes to UTSA's admissions standards on African American students given this group of minority students comprises 7% of the total student body and that number is statistically significant.

Janet Parker stated that she would contact Gerry Dizinno to clarify his comments about the N being too small to predict a meaningful impact on that group of students.

Tommy Thompson wants headway on the review of existing fees. Janet Parker agreed that there would be effort expended in examining these so UTSA can be accountable to its stakeholders and more strategic in its use of revenues.

Janet Parker closed the Tuition & Fees Committee meeting by:

- Reminding all about the Open Forum to be held Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Indicating that the DRAFT Proposal will be presented to President Romo and CMO (Committee on Management and Operations) Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- DRAFT will also be provided to the Committee members and will be posted on the Tuition and Fees website after the President and CMO have completed their review.

Action Item	Assigned To	Due Date
Impact of changes to UTSA's admissions standards on African American students	Janet Parker will provide information from Dr. Dizinno.	Data will be distributed along with Minutes from November 13 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:25 a.m.