Tuition and Fee Committee Meeting
November 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes
9:00 -11:30 am
JPL Assembly Room

Student Members Present: Luis, Arias, Joseph Carreon, Jaciel Castro, Kate Falconer, Loy Fong, Brittany Garcia, Justin Guerra, Rachel Jendrzey, Jordan Lindsey, Karen Mejia, Aileen Montana, Arianna Pulido, Marcus Thomas,

Faculty Members Present: John Nix, Josh Thurow

Administration / Ex-Officio Members Present: Dr. Mauli Agrawal, Lenora Chapman, Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Sam Gonzales, Jackie Hobson

Guests Present: Kirsten Wilsey, Raul Huerta, Carol Rapps, Anthony ?, Debbie Howard, Gerry Sanders, J. Sharp

Lenora Chapman opened the meeting with an explanation that after running the numbers, it was determined that if we put all the fee increases in year one, they were too high. We don’t think that’s good for the students from an affordability standpoint, and also don’t think that UTSA or System leadership would approve that. Therefore, the recommended increases will be spread over two years.

Also, in working with System (especially on differential), we recalculated the increase because we were using the board-approved rates versus the actual rates. So we actually calculated the average course fees for fall semester.

Lenora also asked that the committee be prepared to vote for the various tuition and fee increase options at the conclusion of our meeting. This is our last meeting, and our recommendations need to be submitted to the committee chairs, Dr. Agrawal and Kathy Funk-Baxter and then to the President for his review before submitting to UT System on December 4 and then ultimately, to the Board of Regents.

Question: So basically this is a recommendation?
Answer: Yes, it is.

Dr. Agrawal reiterated that this is a recommendation, but is one that holds a lot of weight with leadership and asked that the committee take this very seriously.

Kathy Funk-Baxter reminded the committee that two of the proposed fee increases will require a referendum, and that will require action by student body.
Lenora reviewed the proposed Tradition Plan Option 1 for Undergraduate Resident/Non-Resident, which does not include differential tuition and Option 2, which does include differential tuition and the average course fees would vary depending on whether or not you are a COB or COE student.

Question: The course fees would go down for students in COB and COE because they would be paying through the semester credit hour differential?
Answer: System recommended that differential be applied only to upper-level courses. So until then, you pay the average course fees just like everyone else.

Question: How does waiting to apply the differential tuition only to upper-level courses affect implementation of the initiatives?
Answer: It does extend the time period to get to the full revenue that was presented. It will effectively cut it by a third. We are still collecting the existing course fees. It may extend the overall project by a year.

Question: If the differential applies, are they still paying the normal course fees?
Answer: No. In the upper division, the course fees will disappear and be replaced by differential. In the lower division, everything will be as it is today in Engineering. But in Business, they may take courses outside the COB, so differential will be charged on upper division courses taught by the College of Business.

Question: Is the cost of attendance for financial aid different for these colleges when you are at that level? How will that be represented and calculated?
Answer: You can have a different cost of attendance based on the differential.

Note: All UT Systems are moving to differential tuition, and some have already implemented it. So we will have others to consult with on how this has been done, and the details will be worked out.

Question: Can we get a summary of someone on how the students reacted to these proposals at the student forum?
Answer: The Q&As have been posted to the website.

Additional Comments from Forum:
The students definitely had some questions. One was why were proposed increases “stacked” over two years rather than the full increase implemented in the first year. If you look at the increases needed and put them all in the first year, it will be close to 5%. The Board of Regents will not approve such a high increase, and so there will be no increase. And while over two years, it will still equate to a 5% increase, we need to ramp it up slowly from a student affordability standpoint.

However, the COB and COE differential increase will be a big increase for students initially; therefore, it is very important that students are aware of why those increases are being requested and what initiatives they will fund with the differential tuition.

There were questions about:

Green Fund: Why is the salary paid the way it is? What is that money currently doing? Who’s holding it?
Athletics: Why is the increase needed? What will it be used for? Is it just for football?
Transportation: Why is that fee “upfront” rather than charged per semester credit hour?
Differential: How will financial aid work? How does it affect the affordability for me as a student?

Student Services: How does first-year experience work? What programs will be implemented? How will advising be impacted?

**Question:** Were there any fees that students seemed particularly resistant towards?

**Answer:** There wasn’t really any pushback. Most of the questions were on the fees and questions about how the money would be spent.

There was one question on why fees are capped at 12 credit hours when we encourage students to take 15. Dr. Agrawal clarified: It’s because we want to encourage students to take 15, so we cap at 12 to incentivize students to take 15. Our average credit hours taken by a student is now 13, so we are making progress. It would be more revenue if we didn’t cap, but it provides an incentive for students to do a little extra if we do cap at 12.

One fee that I have heard questions about is the Athletics Fee. Students see football as getting all of the money. Is there any information that can be provided to let students know where the money is going? **Answer:** The athletic fee is not about something specific, ie: just football. The funding for the athletics programs is currently at the bottom of Conference USA. If we want to be competitive, we need to increase funding. Also, the athletic fee has nothing to do with the green fee.

In order to help students better understand the Athletics Fee request, is there a way to line-out what the fee will be used for, ie: tutors, cameras for film breakdown, etc. We need to be as specific as possible similar to the descriptions of the initiatives that would be funded with the COE and COB differential tuition proposal. The more specifics you provide, the better chance the referendum has of passing. **Answer:** I will pass that information on.

**Question:** What is the best way to get this information to the students?

**Answer:** In the Paisano, email blasts, social media, signs and A-frames around the campus and in front of the library, on UTSA website, SGA, Blackboard.

A suggestion was made to involve athletes from all programs to gain support of the athletics fee referendum. Also, make the referendum an event: students campaigning for students and student-lead. The earliest possible time for a referendum would be late January.

Dr. Agrawal recommended that the committee vote on the proposed increases. Only student and faculty committee members can vote. A total of 14 eligible voters were present.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Abstain</th>
<th>No Vote</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Fee ($/SCH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automated Services Fee ($1.50/SCH)</td>
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<td>Green Fund Fee ($5/fall and spring and $2.50/summer)</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Increase in Designated Tuition</td>
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<td>Include COE Differential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Include COB Differential</td>
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<td>6</td>
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**Question:** Can we make recommendations to the committee about this process?

**Answer:** Yes; absolutely.

**Recommendations:**

Before voting, it would be helpful to clarify again what the items we are voting on are.

Having a goal and knowing what our goal is is important, and it was good to get that information at the first meeting. The structure and timeliness of the meetings are good.

Presentations should have clear, laid-out specifications.

1. This is where the money is going
2. This is what it is going to do
3. This is how it’s going to affect the long run

Those three items need to be key points in all the presentations.

When voting, it is important to reiterate what we are voting for and to add a process embedded into the voting process so that we can have a discussion before we vote rather than simply vote. This discussion should take place at the right before the voting takes place.

Maybe we should take a vote when the departments come to make their presentations.

A refresher is a good idea.

It is important that committee members come prepared with questions and comments, read minutes and review presentations.

A more structured voting process overall is needed. A parliamentarian to govern the voting would also be helpful.

Have an open discussion rather than “Question and Answers” after each presentation so students feel more comfortable providing feedback.

Future student forums should be held later in the afternoon if students are to be able to attend.
Tuition and Fee Committee Website:
http://www.utsa.edu/financialaffairs/TuitionFees/proposals.html