1. What is the name of the website where all the presentations can be found?
   The website can be found on the Financial Affairs web page. The URL is: http://www.utsa.edu/financialaffairs/TuitionFees/committee/agendas.html

2. When talking about supporting student athletics, does this also include supporting facilities in the recreation and wellness center?
   No, that is a separate fee under the Campus Recreation fee.

3. Why are the fee increases “stacked” (partial in year one and partial in year two) rather than requesting the full increase in year one and zero increase in year two?
   If we implemented the entire increase in year one, the increase would be much higher in total academic cost, so we are trying to spread the increase over two years. When we looked at implementing the full increase in year one, the increases looked very high and impacted student affordability. But we can certainly talk about that at our next committee meeting.

4. Just for clarification, is that the same concept with the Athletics Fee?
   Yes, and it really is for all the fees. In the committee presentations, most of the increases were in year one, but we split them to be half in year one and half in year two.

5. I thought the Transportation Fee was going up $36 in year one and to $38 in year two. This presentation is different.
   Yes, the proposal that was presented at our committee meeting was $36 and $38. However, when you crunched all the numbers, the total academic cost was higher, and we thought it was too high. So we looked at splitting it half in year one and half in year two. Originally, it was a $16 increase in year one and $2 increase in year two for a total of $18 over the two year
period. This proposal is to increase $9 in year one and $9 in year two, so it is still an increase of $18.

6. Considering that these are mandatory fees, is there a way to get them reduced or allow an installment payments for students who are not utilizing transportation on campus because they commute from home to school.
   We have looked at changing the fee to a non-mandatory fee; however, we would need to be able to track who does and does not use the service and we have no way of knowing who does because users simply get on and off the buses.

   Our off-campus shuttles are transporting about 7000 students to campus in peak times; therefore, keeping about 3000 cars off campus, which results in additional available parking.

7. Are there any propositions for public (Via) transportation services on campus?
   That is a conversation we have been attempting to have with our partners at Via for both the main and downtown campuses.

8. Is there any way we can follow up on that conversation?
   Absolutely. See Clay Haverland after the meeting and he can provide you with his business card.

9. It is my understanding that there is no profit made from the transportation services you provide, and that you are actually carrying some debt. Have you considered requiring students off campus to purchase a bus pass in order to use the service on campus?
   It would probably become too cost prohibitive for students to ride the bus if you are divvying it up to just a small group of people. And if it is too cost
prohibitive, they will just end up driving their own car. However, we will still need to provide the service, but we would not have the revenue source to support it.

10. How much will this fee increase provide? Will it get you out of debt?  
Transportation Services is not carrying a debt, but is operating with a subsidy from Parking right now. This fee change will get us to where we are self-sustaining and allow us to plan for the future. This will essentially get us back to zero.

11. How is the proposed Green Fund going to affect the Director of Sustainability’s position if it is set to expire in March?  
With the previous Green Fee, there was a pot of money and the Director of Sustainability was hired for a three-year term. If this proposal is approved, there would be an FTE for the office of Sustainability.

12. I remember from the last meeting, I asked how much money was left in the Green Fund account. It was mentioned that there was $200,000. If that is the remaining balance, how can the proposed initiatives be funded along with the FTE?  
The position, with benefits is approximately $90,000/year. This proposal would generate approximately $300,000. So there would still be some funding annually to fund initiatives approved by the student committee.

13. Do you know the timeline of the last initiative that was implemented?  
One of the last initiatives that was implemented was planting trees along the oval near the entrance of the campus, and that was completed more than a year ago.

14. What has been done since then?
Since the committee no longer exists, the funds have basically been sitting and waiting for discretionaries such as hydration stations and items such as that. But as Lenora already mentioned, to continue on, the Green Fund committee would need to be recreated, so this would be a student-lead effort.

15. Who has been controlling the money since the last committee?
The Office of Sustainability has discretionary funds of $10,000 per year, and the rest of the funds have been sitting in an account that is under the management of Facilities and so far there have only been small expenditures such as conference attendees and memberships to professional organizations regarding sustainability. But there hasn’t been a continuous stream of projects like there were in the first five years because there have been no student-lead committee to initiate that.

16. Where do we compare to other universities in regards to sustainability efforts?
I think that was in one of our previous presentations. I don’t have that today, but it is on the website.

We have sustainability efforts here at the university that are definitely noteworthy, but there is always room to improve. I think the students recognize that, and I believe that is why this has become an issue.

17. What would dictate the regulation of the green fund; how initiatives are implemented? Would it be through the same means as the prior fund? How would that be outlined?
I think the way that would work is that we would look at how it was done in the past and determine if that were the best set of processes to go forward. I think it was a very good set-up, but we would need to meet together in order to determine that.
18. Do you think that more student involvement, possibly from the sustainability committee from Student Government could partner up (or other organizations) to have a say in those guidelines?
Absolutely; it is a student-lead initiative.

19. Was there any student involvement on the Student Success Task Force?
Yes, Bhumi Patel, from SGA was our student representative.

20. Was the First Year Experience initiative also include who pays for the UPMs?
UPMs are zero cost to students.

21. But don’t UPMs get paid?
Yes, but that does not come from students.

22. Do we have any data on how well that is working?
Yes, we do have data on UPMs and first year experience. Since it’s been implemented we’ve seen a 2-3% increase in first year retention overall each year.

23. When we say First Year Experience, does that include the AIS course, Peer Mentorship?
It includes those initiatives that were started previously. The AIS course has been revamped to follow a Pathway model. We are piloting right now block scheduling. The goal is to roll it out to all ten of our Pathways. It would be a cohorted type model.

24. Is College Schedule Builder a mix between Google Calendar and Degreeworks?
As long as the student has an active and locked degree plan, it would read what is coming and needed and will feed off of the student’s information, show what you need to take at various levels.

25. **Will the schedule eventually replace advisor meetings over time?**
   We would hope not. We would hope that it will make advisor meetings more meaningful and different, mentoring, taking about challenges, and providing resources.

26. **Why does Degreeworks show option classes are available when they are not?**
   While it may be an option in your degree, the department may not be able to offer that particular course or various reasons.

27. **I heard rumors that we have once central academic advising center rather than advising centers in different colleges.**
   What is being looked at is one location for all advising units. We would still have advising teams, but what we would like to see is all advisors housed in one area.

28. **Do the athletic fee numbers also reflect the $10 million bond that was voted?**
   It doesn’t have anything to do with the athletic fee.

   It is also important to add that the athletic and transportation fees are both subject to a referendum. There would have to be a student-wide vote on the campus to approve those. If that fails, those fees cannot progress.

29. **When is the student-wide referendum vote?**
   The date has not been set, but it would be sometime in February. We would want to have the results of that vote available for the February 22
Board of Regents meeting, and we would need to have enough time to put it out the students before that. So we would probably need to have it the first week of February.

30. Which fees will need the referendum vote?
The athletic and transportation fees.

31. Will the athletic fee help us to reach our goal of Top Tier status?
That is a great question. One of the things that is important, is that we have excellence in all the main areas: research and discovery, student success and athletics. Many of the top schools will tell you that athletics is the “front porch” to the institution. Excellence in athletics requires a budget that moves us up to have competitive teams in the bigger conference. This will provide visibility to our academic programs, and it builds equity in your degree.

32. UTD does not have a football team, and their academics are outstanding. So are we trying to be an “athletics” school or an “all-around” school? Why is it necessary to push athletics when pushing academics also builds equity in your degree?
You are exactly right, and we want excellence in everything that we do. We want to expand research and discovery and student success. I think that that because we do have an athletic program, there are opportunities to have excellence in athletics. Excellence in athletics vs. the other areas are not discordant, they can be concordant if done correctly. All the things that we will be doing to increase the value of your degree will be coming from various sources. Athletics also has to be a part of the important equation.

33. At the last Tuition and Fee meeting, a lot of questions were asked about how Differential tuition would be portrayed to incoming students. When
you proposed it earlier, the charge was per credit hour, right? But now you’re saying you won’t be charged until you’re a junior? Right. At the committee meeting, the proposal was to charge for any course in business or engineering, so all courses. But we had some discussions with System, and they encouraged us to just charge the differential tuition on the upper level courses because then you are more than likely to have your major by that point in time.

34. Would it affect minors?
   There are no minors in Engineering, but there are in Business. So it would affect Business minors.

35. I think it would be helpful to include the minor information in your presentation, because a lot of people have business minors.

36. Do you think the differential tuition would discourage incoming freshmen from seeking those degrees at UTSA?
   We are still ranked 8 out of 12 in total cost, so if students are comparing, they shouldn’t be discouraged.

37. What about people who are on a five or six year track?
   The cost is distributed over the last half of their degree program.

38. I’m double majoring in Business and a lot of my classes overlap. Do I get billed twice?
   If you’re taking one class and it’s applying to both, you only pay once.

39. I just want to clarify, on the differential tuition for the College of Business, if students are taking upper division junior or senior level courses, does that only apply to Business students. It applies to anyone taking that course.
40. I understand this meeting is for Tuition and Fees, but it was mentioned before that we work with our partners both in the city and on campus. It is my understanding that the JPL Chick-Fil-a had specifications that weren’t up to par, and the students eventually had to foot that cost. The charges to upgrade Chick-Fil-a did not come from student fees or funds but rather from contractual funds and an investment from Aramark.

41. Can someone elaborate more on the plans to improve academic advising. We are using SSE campus for better communication flow. We have also submitted a proposal for more advisors. We are also standardizing best practices across the board and looking at better customer service practices as well. We have some tools in place, but they are expensive. We just started these initiatives last spring and have seen positive results. Over time, as mentioned earlier, we would like to consolidate all of our advising teams into one location.

42. You mentioned a committee meeting will be held on Wednesday at 9 am. What is the location? It will be in the JPL 4.04.22 (Assembly Room).

43. How will these changes affect the non-resident students? We will go over those at the Wednesday meeting, but it will be roughly the same.

44. Have you considered an increase in enrollment when proposing the mandatory fee increases? Is it necessary for it to increase now if there will be an increase in students? The increase is not an established trend yet, and so we cannot base on that. If we do sustain this increase then it would definitely affect the need in the future for tuition increases. We can’t count on the next five years of
increases yet. But if we see another year/trend like that, we could do the gamble.

In fact, we have had the opposite when you look at our three year enrollment and we have had budget cuts.

45. Correct me if I’m wrong, but I believe UTSA is one of the only Texas universities that funds the office of Sustainability through something like the Green Fund. I was just wondering, looking forward, would we actually create an FTE for the office outside of the Green Fund?
We are not looking at that at this time. If we recommend and the proposal to take a portion of designated tuition is approved, a portion will be allocated to the Green Fund initiative, and inclusive of that would be one FTE.

46. Can you clarify the difference between an average course fee and a mandatory fee?
An average course fee that is charged to a course (per course). It is associated to a particular course. We look at all the course fees that are charged and all the students who pay those and we just take an average. If you don’t include those, you’re not giving a true picture of what you pay. Most courses to not have a course fee, but if you take, for example, an art course, you would pay a fee for supplies.

Mandatory fees are fees charged to every student. Some are charged per semester credit hour, and others are by semester.

47. Why was it decided that the athletic fee be charged per credit hour instead of by semester?
The idea behind mandatory fees, the Recreation Center, for example, which was a $50 million project, the cost is spread to all 31,000 students. Trying
to spread the cost only to those who use it would be extremely difficult but would also result in an extremely high cost. Spreading the cost of all the programs to all the students makes the programs more affordable for the students.

48. But why is the athletic fee a per semester credit hour fee instead of a semester fee?
That was legislated years ago, and to change that we would need a legislative act which is very difficult to do unless it is a major issue that the state is facing.

49. Is there a reason why we push 15 hours so hard but only charge 12?
I agree it doesn’t make sense today when everyone is closer to 15 hours, but most of the authority to charge these fees were established many years ago. At this point it is cost prohibitive because increasing to 15 hours increases the amount that your tuition will go up.