FEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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WELCOME & DINNER

VP Porter Casdorph:

Sweet Let’s go ahead and get things started. And If you are finishing up eating, go ahead and do that and put things away. The purpose of today we’re going to have a discussion on the topics on hand, as well as have the opportunities to debate, be able to ask questions and get clarification on the topics at hand. First off, I want to recognize Dr. Eric Olsen, Dr. James Morales will not be joining us. We’ll go ahead give it away to Dr. Lane waver, Keri Shoemaker, and Dr. Richard walker they are all from the Arts and music theatre department. They will be talking to us today about the Music and Theatre fee. It is all yours.

Music & Theatre FEE PRESENTATION

Dr. Lane Weaver: Alright. Thank you very much. I am Dr. Weaver. I am one of the faculty members of the music Department. Dr Walker is our Executive Associate Dean. The Associate dean of the Cane College of the Arts. Did I just promote you? Keri Shoemaker who handles the finances and that fantastic aspect of operations in the Caine College of the Arts. And I am glad that she does that and I don’t. First of all, I want to say Thank you and I appreciate the chance to be here and present before you tonight. I will go through what we have prepared and then I will be happy to answer questions. My official role is role here is, as Director of Athletic band, here at Utah State. And if the clicker works the way it should. To make sure we understand about with USU Athletic Band. What we are talking about is the Aggie Marching band that we typically see at football Games and the Aggie Pep Band that we typically see at Basketball games, which happen to be assembling right now at the women’s basketball game over at the spectrum tonight. Ok I thought I would start off on the philosophy or the approach that we take with the athletic band that we serve the university and try to be the best stewards of the resources provided to us. Our first goal, is to be the musical representatives of Aggie Pride. Clearly here on campus, in the community, and when the opportunity presents itself as it just did, last month, nationally. We also want to provide a cross-section of students from our campus the opportunity to perform, represent, and to belong. One of the things that I love about what we do, is that I truly believe that we are a cross-section of the university. The diversity from different colleges, from different states. Representatives in the marching band from 22 different states, people from all over the country. And I love that aspect of what we are. People get together to do things in common and achieve common goals. That might otherwise never choose to be around each other or do things with each other. That is just a real thing. We want to highlight that makes USU unique. We are the only one in the country that have things like the Scotsman. We are the only ones in the country that get to sing about the Aggie Blue and fighting white. I just believe so much in making sure we portray and protect what makes USU unique. I am an aggie. I got my bachelors degree here a few years ago. And this something that always have been important to me. Sometimes you catch me and ask me on how the motions to the Scotsman started, I will let you know. From my memories at least. I want to highlight also how we serve the university. What is it that we do that is important to the fabric of the Utah State University? Let’s talk about the Aggie Marching Band first. We play at all our home football games that is 6 games a year, the last five years. By the way I came here in 2016 and gotten the chance to comeback home for five years ago now, five seasons ago till now. And it has been wonderful ever since. We do homecoming parade. We do select away football games. In the recent years, it has just been to BYU. One of the things that I also believe in is protecting students’ time. So, for us traveling to a game where we can get to and back in a day is important because our students are involved in other aspects of the university. They have a family, they have jobs, and different things like that. I want to protect students time as much as we can and not monopolize the way they serve the university. And clearly, we go to bowl games, like we did last month, in Los Angeles which was a very successful trip, all the way around. And the pep band. We play all home basketball games, while classes are in session. While students are on campus. And we play all Women’s home basketball games, again while classes are in session. I want to highlight this started in 2016. When I came, I felt it was really important to represent not only the men’s games but the women’s games as well. Prior to that two or three home games a year was all that the pep band played. I wanted to change that since 2016 we started to doing that. And that added 10 to 12 games per year to the service we provide the university. We also travel to our tournaments the mountain west tournament and NCAA Tournaments. Once a while another post season tournament that shows up here. Other special appearances that we make the athletic band students across campus. At bowl games, tournaments, there are always pep rallies, and other obligations that we’re having to play to represent the university. We are happy to do them, they are a lot of fun to bring that Aggie spirit to various parts of the country. Various events at homecoming, sometimes we play special homecoming alumni events or donor events that happen. I should mention, that usually for these special events outside of the full marching band and the pep band. We will assemble a smaller group that is representative. We will pull from the student body within the Athletic band program to play at these events. Caine College of the Arts events and things that we do annually, typically at the beginning of the school year. And then some other things. We sent our drumline to some Volleyball games. That has been fun in the past things like the coach’s announcement and pop up events that just come up. Now, since COVID has happened those have decreased in the last couple years with other activities. But this something that we are always available. What I say, “We are always available. If we can put together the right group. And if the Students are available with all of their responsibilities.” So, we average 35 to 40 events in service to the university annually. And again, this is typically in a non-COVID year, we’re coming back out of that. We are willing, and that is what it looks like typically. Alright, one of the things that I am most excited about is the growth in the program over the last five seasons. Speaking specifically with the Marching Band from 2016 to 2021. When I arrived in 2016, we had 90 students in the marching band. For a university of our size that is very small. Division one school, that is very small. This past season in 2021, we marched 180. That is pretty exciting. That is a lot of fun. I c credit most of that, to be honest with you, to the student culture and to the welcoming nature of our students to fantastic student leadership and to all that they put in to creating the environment that people want to come and be a part of it. Interestingly, of the 180 of this last year. 2020 we didn’t really have a season with the marching band because of COVID. We all remember that. This year counting new students that were freshman in either 2020 or in 2021 of this 180, 120 marched with us for the first time this last year. And it was our best year ever. It was just a fantastic incoming class. I really loved it. Really loved it. I am going to give you a little visual representation. I hope this shows up it is a little obscure. This is a screen shot of a program that I use to write all the field drill that tells our students were to go on kick. This is what we look like in 2020, this is the 90 students. Sorry in 2016, the 90 students we had in 2016. This last year that is what we look like. That is the visual representation of what we physically added to the university. That is really exciting If we put them side by side, here we are. There is our comparison. That is our comparison. I think that is really exciting. I do have a goal with a vision for our future. I would love to be able get our size to 200. We are almost there. In fact, if we did not have COVID last year we would have gotten to this size this year. I think 200 students for the things that we have to accomplish to the service we provide, to the size of the university that we are. It will be fantastic. This is my goal, it has been my goal since I got here in 2016. I didn’t think that we will get here this fast, but we have and that is exciting. Okay, growth in the Pep Band. The pep band has been set pretty much. I revamped it when we started in 2016. Just how this work, just for you to know. We accepted in 29 students that are selected by auditions. That become, what we call, our floor band. That become responsible for all the home games that are schedule. They are responsible for post-season tournament that we do. This number comes because the NCAA limits the size of the band that you can have in a tournament for us that makes a lot of sense. In addition to our regular 29 core-band people, we audition several more so we have an average 22 to 24 substitute players. That get called in if some of our core band people get sick or they got something that’s going on and they need some flexibility because it is a lot that they have to commit to. However, all of our substitute players, anyone that auditions are welcome to go to any game, at any time. But what we are responsible for, the core band, the group of 29 is responsible. I also do want to mention that the budget that has been turned in and what I am talking about tonight this does not include the pep band. Okay, there is separate money that comes from athletics that goes to the pep band. I just want to keep that in mind, when we are talking about what money goes directly to students that comes from Athletics. What does our current fee schedule support? It supports our student’s stipend, and that level is $300 per year. So, from all the commitment, from all the hours they put in, for successfully completing the season with $300 put in their pocket. They are hired as student workers and comes through a wage, a student wage that gets worked out. The student fee supports half the wage for our adjunct part-time assistant director, her name is Marilyn Cole. She joined us in 2019. And the other half of that comes from the music department. It pays for the work that the some of our student’s workers do or, students’ staff. Our equipment managers that help us check out instruments, uniforms, take care of militance on all those things. Librarian’s that help distributes music. It also helps pays for Music arranging licenses. Now one of the things that I think is really important is doing things that only USU can do. One of the roles that I have taken on. Ninety five percent of the music that you hear us play in the Spectrum, that you hear us play in the Maverik Stadium, is music that I arranged because I want us to have stuff that no one else has. I can easily go buy stock arrangement of the shelf at a music store. Those things are kind of written for a decent high school group. We do not want to sound like a decent High School group. We want to sound like the Aggie Marching Band. Plus, I am also able to create programs, and program toons that might not be available otherwise. These licenses are anywhere, depending on how old the toon is, how popular the toon is. $180 to $500 a tune to legally be able to create those arrangements for Utah State University. Other purchase that our money go to clearly instruments, color guard equipment, color guard gear that we use in our performances. Other equipment and accessories things like our sound system, our speaker that we use during our rehearsals so that I can be heard across the breath of the field. Accessories, things like flip folders, things that we carry our music in. wire that hold stuff on to the instruments. Expendables, things like batteries, things like tape, that tape the color guard flags on to the poles. The team building activities during our Marching Band Camp Week that starts a week before classes. We will revisit this in a minute. But the very basic instrument repair and maintenance. We kind of do that on a need to do basis, with what we have right now. Uniform cleaning, our uniforms are cleaned annually at the end of the season. Our band truck that you may have seen blowing around campus once in a while truck fuel and maintenance for that vehicle. Printing costs as well. For what we need to cover in music and other things that we have to print. Alright, for the proposed fee support that we are talking about tonight. Here is what we would like to look at. A student’s stipend amount, that honors the service, honors the number of years that our students have spent in service to the university. Currently, like I mentioned before, $300 is what are students receive. Now, these percentages are based on the averages of the last year. Right now, $300 of our freshman go to 43% of our band. For our second year, I would like that to go up to $350 that would be 30% of our students. For our third year. Add another $50, $400. 15 percent. The drop off happens particularly among our students that are not music majors, that they have classes, lab, and some other things that come up because their curriculum, they are not able to participate. And the fourth year and up, sometimes you have a fourth year and fifth year, $500 to honor that time has been given to the students. The bulk of our expenditures go directly to the students. Other things, we need to update our inventory. If I had $100,000 right now, I could spend it. For example, the Sousaphones, the big tubas that you see playing out there. We have 10 of those, eight of those I unpacked as a student in 1996. And we are still using them. Now, they are meant to be used for a long time. But that is a lot of the inventory that we are having. I can break that down. I don’t know what has been distributed but how we would spend that on what instruments and things like that, if you would like that information. Now, proper instrument maintenance cleaning and repair. I have mentioned before that we do things on an add needed basis. Some times it feels like bubble gum and duct tape. Our instruments really should be chemically clean and professionally cleaned every year, especially COVID times. Since I have been here, in 2016, we had the budget to do that one time. That happened the year after I got here. That was the last time we had a budget increase and the gentleman that had my position before me, once he knew he was not coming back, stopped spending money. That is why we had a little extra that year to take care of this. This is something that I really love to be able to do on annual basis, not only for the sake of health of our students but to preserve what we have and take proper care of. There are student-staff positions that I would like to honor. Usually the student staff come from members of the marching band. I am also open to people not members of the marching band and just wants to be involved. And once in a while I have some one approach me about that. We need a photographer, we do not have one. We need a videographer, because we do not have one. I would love to have someone to help me with social media. I do it a little bit, but I do not have time to spend with other responsibilities out side of the athletic band to do a whole lot of that. And some student managers, some people to help us physically move this size of this group around. Hauling equipment to the stadiums on game days, on bowl games, and things like that. We could use two student managers very easily. My thought would be that these positions would follow the same stipend amount that other students would receive. We sure could use a color guard coach, somebody that works directly with our Cologuard. And could take care of their needs and to coach them. Right now, they are self-coached, the students are in charge of themselves. Marilyn Cole the assistant director, advises them. But she is oboe player and a saxophone player. She has been fantastic and she learned a lot over the last couple years. But she is not a color guard coach. We are the only division one marching band, that I know of, in the country that does not have color guard coach. And Travel support, I mentioned the away games that we play, lately it has been BYU. Right now, we do not have in our budget, as it stands, do not have any money to go to any away games at this point going forward. Our budget has been the same since 2016 and we have doubled in size and it has put a pretty hard strain to take care of the basics. I should note, just for a matter of perspective. Boise State came to visit us at the end of the September. We had a great time, I know the director very well. He and I went to the same graduate program. We got together and put a halftime together, it was a lot of fun. They brought 12 staff members to our campus. When we went to Los Angeles, for the LA Bowl, our staff consisted of me, Marylin Cole, and a volunteer photographer. That was our staff. Just a little perspective of where we are compared to some others. Now the proposed fee, I believe have some secondary benefits to the University. I should say half, if not a little bit more, play in the Aggie Marching band and the Aggie Pep band, but they are also in other musical ensembles, instrumental ensembles that are on campus. And I think that is a very wonderful thing that we are able to support. In a very real way the athletic band open doors to these other ensembles and increases the cultural environment on campus and enhances that. I won’t read them all, but this is a list of different ensembles that our marching band students perform. Everyone of these ensembles also includes people that are involved in the athletic band program. So, in a secondary way the stronger we are able to support a robust athletic band program, it also benefits the university through the music department and the cultural environment that goes beyond the football field and beyond the basketball court. One last thing that I just want to say, one last perspective I want to provide. In my opinion, we are not here today to ask for additional support because there are a lot of things we want to achieve and there are a lot of things we want to do. To me we have been fantastic stewards of the resources we have provided and we have already achieved. We used those things to improve our program, to improve student opportunities, to better what happens here at the university. And so, we are hoping to support the growth, support the improvement through what we are asking for today. Alright that is my presentation and I would love to answer any questions.

VP Porter Casdorph: Dr weaver if I may, really quick. At this point we will open it up to questions for clarifying and gathering information. As far as the debate that will happen, the debate and the discussion, and diving deeper into things. Let’s collect as much information as we can now. Then we can dive deep into the weeds more after.

Senator Mousley: On average how much would you say the average member spends in terms of time per week?

Dr. Weaver: Ok let me start at the beginning of the season. At the beginning of the season, most of the band reports a week before classes start and we will run three-a-day rehearsals, throughout that week before classes start. Our drum line and color guard come in two or three days before that. So that already a lot of time that is put in before classes start. In typical week, a non-game week, there are two 90-minute rehearsals, so three hours of practice. On a game week add another 90-minute rehearsal, so 4 and half hour. On gameday, we start two and half hours before the game starts. And then you figure two and half to three hours per game. I am not sure what that adds up to. And if there are special appearances there are one offs type of things. Plus, the bowl games. I should mention that, you should all know, that a bowl game almost always happens during the break. So, our students give up their break time to serve the University. Does that answer your question?

Senator Mousley: yes, so does 3 to 7 hours, sound reasonable?

Associate Dean Dr. walker: Ten and half. Ten and Half hours based of what you (Dr. Weaver) just said. Depending on games. With out games it would be nine hours.

VP Casdorph: We can keep a speaker list as well if there are multiple questions.

James Mullen Student at large: So, your Band expanded a lot in the past couple of years. How did you accommodate those students in terms of instruments? And also, you had a request for more money, for more instruments. Is that a request for more money to accommodate the growth you see in the future? the 200?

Dr. Weaver: Yes, it is absolutely to accommodate the growth of the band. Now we have purchased some things recently. For example, when, I came we have eight sousaphones and now we have 10. We probably buy on average six to seven per year. Sometimes you have to just bite the bullet and figure out how to make that work. We have put some drops into that bucket with instrument inventory. But Again, we have a lot of instruments that we use like the sousaphones are however many years old, they are about 25 years old. And a lot of our instrument inventory follows that as well. It will be to improve the inventory through purchases, maintenance, and repair to support the growth. We had this last year, we had players that want to play tubas, then we had tubas for. Fortunately, for the players that wanted to play tuba, also could get by on other instruments, so that is how we accommodated them.

VP Conlee: My questions are about instruments as well. How many of our instruments have passed their lifetime expectancy?

Dr. Weaver: Sort of depends on what kind of standards you have. I would say, conservatively, if we just go through and say, that is a little sketchy, I could conservatively replace half of ours instruments. Some students use their private instruments. We do not provide instruments to every member of the marching band but no one owns a sousaphone the big tuba. No one owns a marching French Horn, which is called mellophone or those types of things. Again, I could show you that I can spend $100,000 tomorrow, I could show you what that would look like. I have that broken down.

VP Rodriguez: You said that some of your money comes from athletics. Where are the primary places that the all the funding comes from?

Dr. Weaver: The Athletic Band money we get, $16,000 comes from athletics. $9,000 of that goes to our people that play in the Pep band, that is playing tonight at the women’s game, through scholarships. The rest goes into a fund that saves up for new uniforms purchases. Something I have not even mentioned; the uniform inventory is pretty good right now and I think we can maintain that through the growth spot of 200. So that athletic money goes to those students.

VP Rodriguez: And the rest of the money comes from student fees?

Dr. Weaver: Yes, the rest of the money comes from student fees.

VP Casdorph: We have an announcement, if we could just state our name, that would help with the minutes. So just state your name before you ask a question, and talk super loudly.

Michael Moore Student At Large: So, with your proposed increase, How much would that increased the Music and Theatre fee?

Keri Shoemaker: Do you mean the total amount:

Michael Moore: Maybe the total student amount or the total amount, either one.

Keri Shoemaker: Right now, the music and theatre fee is $10.58. $2.05 goes to the Athletics Band. So about 19.5 percent of the total student fee.

Michael Moore: Okay, so that is currently. Do you know what the proposed is?

Keri Shoemaker: Yes, that is the current the proposed will bring a $1.50 bring to the $2.05. So, it will bring it to $3.55 per student.

VP Harmon: I have two questions, so the $300 is yearly?

Dr. Weaver: That would be fall for the fall semester. That is the only semester that the marching band functions.

VP Harmon: do you have any figures, you can compare to another D1 school that is like close in to size and to in-state tuition with us?

Dr. Weaver: Those numbers are highly guarded. Part of our process is the recruiting process like anyone else. It is hard to get an exact figure on that. I would say when Boise State was here, they had a rehearsal in the stadium, not only for the game that they played. They had other appearances in the area. I stayed and watched and talked to my friend who was the director. In their announcements, and they’re clearing doing recruiting. In their performance announcements that they were playing at a high school, they were talking about offering, this is an out of state person, so there is a little different. Being able to offer an out of state person $60,000 over the course of their career at the university. We do not do that. That’s the closest I can get for you right now. As far as money that comes directly from just being in a marching band, some of that tuition tuition waiver, a housing waiver, not just necessarily dollars in pocket directly.

Andrew Walker: This is another scaling question. What would cost us to bring us up to standard of the Texan A&M Marching Band? Just sort as a scale. I am Texas marching kid.

Dr. Weaver: Texas A&M is a unique group. They are a very unique group they do stuff that no one in the world does. We are talking about hundred thousand of dollars

President Stevens: I was just wondering; can you speak to why this a student fee? I guess I was just thinking that when you were mentioning some of the other ensemble bands. I assume those are like classes. Could you speak why this is a student fee? And how other comparable universities fund their marching band? Are they doing it through student fees?

Dr. Weaver: So, the marching band is a class as well. There are tuition costs. It is a one credit class, for ten and half hours per week. The other universities due fund through student fees, they do fund through fees directly from budget of the university. The university I was at previously was student fee. The University before then, there was a chunk of money that came from a central part of the university, central financing of the university. Athletic programs at times will contribute as well. There are a few universities, where the marching band is held within athletics. Because our marching band is a part of the curriculum for the music education majors, it would be best if that stays with the music department. There are multiple ways but it is not uncommon for student fees to fund athletic bands. There are funding directly from the university and funds from athletics as well.

President Stevens: One more follow up question and one separate question. Could you speak to like if you have gone to anywhere else for funding increases like have you all gone to Athletics for funding increases? I am not exactly sure how credits and tuition work but is there a possibility, like making that a higher credit class? I don’t know if that is even a possibility. But making it a higher credit class, you get more tuition dollars. Have you gone any where else to request funding?

Dr. Weaver: That is an interesting thing, a higher credit class. A higher credit class becomes a little bit of a problem especially for a Music Education majors. If you know anything about that degree, it is packed with requirements and through the national accreditation process. And honestly, our Music Education majors barely have, maybe if they are lucky, take an elective or two in their four years of the university. So, to increase that would negatively effect half of our group for sure. We do have differential tuition opportunities that come through the Caine College of the Arts. We have spoken about some of those. Recently, again this is the first time since I have been here, in the past five years, that we address or brought up the opportunity the question of increasing student fees. I would certainly love to have something come directly from the University, that I would not have to worry about every year. Again, if you think about what have we added. 90 students at one credit a piece. That is a standard one credit class. 30 students enrolled in a three-credit class is pretty standard. We have not seen any money through tuition. I do not even remember when the funding has started, it has been years. That’s the means that we have used. There is potential for Caine College of the Arts Differential tuition money for equipment and some of those type of things, but nothing directly from the University.

President Stevens: Thank you for answering that question. I will just say too. That I was at the Bowl game, and I saw the pep rally. I saw us compared to Oregon State, and we really out shown them and it really helps to the culture. Well, it helps when they are an hour late. Props to Lane, who organized the pep rally that received our football team after our win at the Mountain West Championship. So thank you. I think that marching band is an important part that attributes to campus culture, but I think the sector of campus culture that benefits the most is athletics. And I think it will be worth requesting more than $16,000 a year from them. And I wanted to ask about just number of students, do you feel just because the band has grown so much in the last four or five years. Can you speak to the sustainability of that growth and maintaining? I wanted to add, I think increasing the stipend each year is a brilliant way to retain students. Can you speak to the sustainability of the size of the band?

Dr. Weaver: Well, a part of that comes from the 200 number would be our goal. For the size of the university, and for the budget that we have and what we are asking for. I think that is a very appropriate size/ I think it puts us in good light with our peer institutions, not only in the Mountain West but elsewhere. I think it is very sustainable. I mention that 180 that we have this year, and 120 of them it was their first year. Because of COVID, that it is their first-year marching with us. But that bolds very well for the future, so I think that sustainability at the 200 level is very easily attainable. Again, for the on-campus population that we have, I do not have any doubt that we can sustain that. So, the question becomes what determines that 200 number, that would be an audition process. Currently, our drumline and color guard are more of the audition groups. For everyone else, as we have been growing it, it has been signed up and show up. But that audition trial process, would be the mechanism that we would use to find the 200 number.

Senator Lesser-Thorngren. Another thing to point out. Being a student fee, means it will be a student’s supporting students fee, that would directly impact students. Rather then being another fee that would go straight to the university for buildings or something that does directly affect students.

Dr. Weaver: To Speak to that point the largest portion of the budget goes to student pockets. To support, your friends and your colleagues.

James Mullen: There is a big portion that goes to the students and additional staff, there is also a portion that goes to what seems like one-off expenditures, like the purchasing of instruments. Do you have a percentage breakdown of the fee increase would be continued in two or three years? Or just the request just for the upcoming year?

Dr. Weaver: The amount that we are talking about for the $100,000. With the percentages that I have figured out, it will take us ten years to get to the $100,000 amount. By that time, we are rotating through other things and other instruments are wearing out. I think that will be money that would be spent easily over the next decade, and who know what prices will be from ten years from now. So, the $100,000 is not a lump sum. It will be something that we put

it takes 10 years at the $100,000. The $100,000 is not a lump sum, that we will take care of. Slowly, as we get to the end of what we need to do, as those instruments get purchase 10 years ago begin to wear out, especially the woodwinds, they are a little bit more finicky compared to brass. But I see that as something that can roll forward into the future very sustainably.

Senator Mousley: Just to clarify the answer to my question about the average week in terms of hours. If I understand correctly, when there is no game, there is two, 90-minute sessions, coming out to three hours a week. Is that right

Dr. Weaver: Yes

Johnathan Mousley: For then a Game week, came out to 10.5 hours? How many game weeks do you have?

Dr. Weaver: 6 game weeks. Also, there is also the time during the week before classes. There is also the concert that we put on, that is a couple more hours they commit on that day. If you wanted me to, I can compute those numbers and send them to you.

Senator Mousley: Sure, I am just looking at the bare minimum that a student would make. For just an average week, three hours a week, and lets just take freshman, so that is $300 a semester. So, if we were to break that over 15 weeks. That would be $20 a week, so if I understand right, that will be about little under $7 an hour. Has there been any thought, about putting more of the proposed increase directly into student pockets, to up that number a little bit?

Dr. Weaver: I just wanted to start with something. I haven’t thought about further increase for the students. I came up with a budget that I thought addressed the needs of the group both physically at this point. And to support student, at least honor, you know it is still a little sugar cube compared to the amount of time students put in. I am not opposed to putting more money in to students’ hands. That would mean some other, pushing some money in other areas. Being able to support students, they are the golden folks. They are the reason, I wake up in the morning.

Senator Mousley: perhaps I can get more information from you. One thought I have is potentially making the increases for you a little less dramatic, just up the minimum for everybody.

Dr. Weaver: There is a lot of different ideas and a lot of different approaches.

VP Casdorph: We are just at time. I will make a comment really quick. I have friend that I did student government in Highschool with. He went to Boise State, he was a drum major there. I think he had $3,000 a semester in that position. Is there any funding that is needed for level, like positions of leaderships?

Dr. Weaver: That is a great idea. I have not built that in. I would love to be able to do that. This budget gets us to a spot where I think it addresses the needs that we have. Now look, It is not an exact science, it is hard to predict every year who is going to be in the band. It is hard to predict, we got to buy four trombones versus we got to buy four piccolos. Which are three times the cost of trombones. Some of that, if there are opportunities towards student leadership. At the end of the year, after the numbers have been run, I would love to be able to do that, but I have not built that in. It is not currently a part of the budget proposal.

Landon Burt: I really like Lucas’s comment about trying to reach out to the football department and the athletic department to see if you can raise more money directly through them. They just won their bowl games this year, they are going to be happy. They are going to have more sponsors this year because of that. It is just a fact of life. I think it would be a good year to ask for a raise just do to the circumstances. A question for you, how long do you think the raise will last before you will need additional funding?

Dr. Weaver: That is a really good question. That’s a little bit part of why I have the 200-number in. We have been growing, and growing, and we have more budget needs every year. I think at the 200-member level makes it more sustainable and puts less strain on future to fee, expenditure request. There is a little method to the madness behind that number, in that way.

Graduate senator: I have several questions that I will ask. Thank you first of all for coming here and presenting today. So, you also mention that there will be student staff and six different positions. How many hours will be expected from those students? And will all positions be compensated the same?

Dr. Weaver: my thought would be the agreement will be that they will receive the same amount of, if they are freshman they will do the freshman, Sophomore they will do the sophomore, and if they are juniors they will do the junior amount. Since we do not have the positions yet, we will need to kind of see how much actual work or how many hours does that play into. My initial thought is that they would be considered a member of the marching band, and their role instead of playing a drum or playing saxophone, would be to cover that.

Graduate Senator: They will put in hours equal to the marching band?

Dr. Weaver: Oh, I am sure, absolutely!

Graduate senator: My second question is, I would advocate for other sources of funding. This year I was able to get the Graduate Student Council that has more than ten members, $500 stipend per semester. Which is more than $10,000 a year and that came from the graduate studies and did not encroach on student fees. So, my second question, we talked a little about athletics, I want to know what other outside sponsors or organizations we have for support? I will quickly ask my other question because we are running out of time. It was mentioned that 19.5% of the fee goes into the marching band currently, could you give us breakdown of where the rest of the fee is going into?

Dr. Weaver: That is a question for Keri Shoemaker.

Keri Shoemaker: Yes, do we have the time? I got it right here?

VP Casdorph: if you get with her afterwards and set up a meeting after today. That would be great.

Dr. Weaver: Your first question, with other organization and funding. Well again, since this has traditionally been funded by student fees, this is where we started. The music department itself is stretched pretty hard. Outside of something that will come out of directly from the university. I suppose we could see out side sponsorships, I know Spirit squad has outside sponsors.

Linda Zimmerman: We actually have contracts with athletics. It is an athletic based

Dr. Weaver: Ok, And I am certainty open to approaching athletics, they have a say over what they do. Aggie Sport Properties, Fuentas, I can talk to him. He is the guru as far as that and Aggie Sport Properties, maybe potentially we could be a part of that. And maybe with the Caine College of the Arts differential tuition things that we can cover off the off things.

Senator Chowdhury-Magana: we can chatt more after since we are running out of the time. If that is ok.

Dr weaver: I am actually due at the Women’s basketball game.

VP Casdorph: Something that we will do and encourage after our debates and discussions today, is to set up some meetings and times to get more information and if you have more questions. This is what are here for, to get the ball rolling. And then before our next meeting, next Wednesday, get all the information gathered and collected. If you have any more information about the fee, I would love if you could email that to me and I would love to get that out to everyone else. At this time, I will go over the changes to fee board policy. And then we will have a discussion on the presentation today.

Fee Board Changes Presentation

VP Casdorph: Okay. Every year we have to go through and update this as we have a lot of changes happening to general setup of USUSA. Obviously, there are title changes as well as there are basically different commitments that an officer will have. I will send this out as well. There aren’t any changes that isn’t highlighted. So, I will have you read through that, the whole thing in general between now and our next meeting. For now, What I want to focus on is our second tab here, structure. So the University fee board will consist of the following members and act as stewards over the accompany fees. So, as you know there is a lot of changes in the EOB, with the Executive leadership board coming into existence along with executive council with only four Vice Presidents. And we have our senators, which doesn’t really change much. There are four different options that we have come up with after having discussions with a few different people, discussion with advisors, and few of your selves as well. The few different options, let me give a presentation on this really quick, and from there we will go back to discussions and jump back and forth ask questions on how they are different and go from them. Option one, the gist of it is to remove PR and marketing from this board as voting member and add Grad Senator to take over the Library fee, and the CHASS senator take over the Statesman fee. Relevance there, I think CHASS obviously, Journalism and Statesman all goes together pretty well. And then the Graduate Studies Senator traditionally always had a fee they chaired. In this case, these three senators still do not chair a fee, however they are able to become administrative fee board. As you are all aware, you guys do that yourselves. The only real difference besides what on the title here, is the Logan VP will pick up the responsibilities traditionally the President had before. The goal here is the Executive Leadership Board doesn’t sit on Logan campus specific group making decisions about their fees. There was talk about also removing Senators in that same vein. There is Option number 4, which we will go over. Sort of similar to that idea, in that each campus is being represented by just that campus. We will talk about it more in depth. This is option one very similar to how our setup is right now, except Logan VP is different, PR and Marketing is removed since they are not an elected officer. They are appointed by one single person, not even a committee of people In that way it is important, I think that every single student fee that we have is chaired by someone that is an elected officer within the University. Moving on to the Second Option. A lot of people did like this one. It is identical to the last one, instead of three officers on the bottom having to chair a committee, they will have the option to be co-chairs. In this case we will have science and engineering Co-Chair the Computer fee, in a way I think computer science is under the college of science, so that makes perfect sense and that adds up. Athletics always needed help with their fees, especially in years when they had increases, or decreases, if that ever happens. CAAS will hop on and help with the Athletics Executive Director. Last co-chair option is Graduate senator and NR Senator to be over the library fee together. That is the theory of Co-Chairs. Option 3, instead of splitting up fees to incorporate have co-chairs for officers. Basically, we will divide out smaller portions of each fee. In reality, this makes administrators and faculty job more difficult because they will have more meetings and more paperwork they have to do. If you go back up for just a second. You will see here that we have service, activities, stadium, and spectrum under these types of fees. What will happen here the Activities fee will stay with the Logan VP; The Stadium and Spectrum fees get divided out. Sort of busy work if I am being honest, but it does allow everyone to chair their own fee. That’s important this is for the student’s experience to be educated and understand it, understand the depth. As you know some fees are very simple compared to other ones. Some of them get even more simple. Option number 4, last option, there are some critiques of this one. This is basically Logan Executive Council chairs all of the fees from the Logan campus. As a Student Events Director previously, I do understand that this will be next to impossible. Events Vice President will be over all the sections of the building fees and the Music and Theatre Fees, so Aggie Recreational Center, Spectrum, Taggart Student Center, and stadium will all be under the Student Events Director. Logan VP will still be over the activity fee and it will be all come together, that will be Activities, Service, and Statesman as well as the Library fee. Athletics Executive Director will be over the Athletic Fee and Campus Recreation Fee. Organizations and Diversity Executive director will be over Computer and bus fee. In this scenario, we do not have any academic senate chairs. This theory comes into place similarly to how we want people who are elected on a statewide level to not be in- charge of one campus’s fee. In that same vain, I do think it will be very difficult to do all of these fees’ justice, within just these four individuals. So, those are my personal appeals to all the different scenarios that we have here. Trying to give you all the different perspectives on why we have the different options, and let’s go from here. Let’s go back up to option one and we will open it up to questions and comments

VP Rodriguez: Well just going off, you said taking the senators out of it because they are over statewide. At least in my meeting with the library fee this year, Library resources online are for every statewide student. That is something that we pay in Logan, but it is still relevant. So, I could still participate because of that. I would be against the senators off of it.

Senator Mousley: Clarification on all of these options. Do they still keep the people that don’t chair a fee as voting members of the fee board?

VP Casdorph: Correct. That’s in all the option, based off of our straw pull from our very first retreat, we had together. It seems like we want to make sure that any senator was not chairing any fee was still representing their college as voting member on this board.

VP Conlee: As far as Option 4, it makes sense of to keep the Senators as people over fees. Because the colleges in Logan are still the majority stakeholders in Logan Campuses. In the event for some reason, not for some reason, in the event that they are elected from another campus, maybe an addendum could be included that puts the stewardship of that fee to a different position or maybe an appointed student at large. I think that makes a little more sense.

VP Casdorph: I would agree with that, a hundred percent.

Senator Chowdhury-Magana: Would you speak to more to the operations of the library fee, this year? I see that’s under the jurisdiction of the Graduate Studies Senator but I haven’t been aware of anything to do with that this year.

VP Rodriguez: This year it was not. It was under the CHASS Senator this year.

Porter: this is the proposed change. We will play musical chairs, here. Previously, this has been under the CHASS Senator. Statesman have been under the PR and Marketing Director.

VP Rodriguez: The Library fee, our meeting this year was brief. It is not super complicated. They get a lot of their funding from donations. Most of their funding is not from student fees but a big portion of it is. We did not talk much because they weren’t asking for increase or decrease. Last year they asked for an increase.

Senator Cox: I am going to throw my two cents in here just a little bit. Options one and two as far as I can tell. As far as having sat in some of these meetings with some of these administrators. I think when we get to Option 3, where we split up these fees, we are just giving work that does not need giving out. As a current CAAS Senator, I can say this about myself, I am not going to feel good about myself because I have good little spectrum. I think that will just be a non-necessarily addition to what is already complicated. That is just my thoughts. I think option 2 is the best option. Administrators will not have more work going forward, as well as some of these more complicated fees can be Co-chaired and responsibilities can be divided out in a better way.

Senator Wappett: I am just echoing Senator Cox’s statement. I think it is really important to keep the Senators in here as we are. We are directly elected by our colleges and represent that in a very real way. So, I think removing us will be a mistake That is all I am going to say on that. I think option one and two are the best options, so we can keep things reasonable and makes sense. So, we are all able to be included and also is not very weird when a lot of majors and fee.

VP Casdorph. If this is the consensus we can move this on a little bit. Sounds like Option 3 and 4 are less popular than Options 1 and 2 majority against. Can anyone speak against that really quick, if they are feeling strongly for Option 3 and 4? This is the kind of situation, and this specific student fee board is to have all opinions on the table. Don’t worry about being unpopular in any way or about not going with the flow. We need to be extremely thorough with the nature of how we go through all of this.

President Stevens: Can someone speak more to the logic behind senators being on the student fee board? Just because student fees in general are about student life, not necessarily academics. We have course fees and tuition. There was a big audit done by the state last year that moved a most of academic portion of student fees over to tuition. That full-time salary positions are being paid by tuition right now. They are not about academics, that is not the main purpose of student fees. Also, when it comes to statewide in the new structure. The president and student advocate, I do not think in any of these proposals the president or student advocate will be sitting on the student fee board, Correct?

VP Casdorph: will not on these Fee Board.

President Stevens: Senators are elected by statewide constituency as well. There is no body that elected in Logan that sits on State Wide Student fee board.

VP Casdorph: I a hundred percent agree. To be very blunt, I think there is a balance to strike with the work load that comes with being administrative the chair that covers administrative fee boards. The struggle right now there is a lot of moving parts right now in the organization. There is a lot of change. I genuinely, I do see Option 4 is the way it goes, a hundred percent. It is absolutely going to end up like that because that is the equitable thing to do. That is the separation of all the different campuses in the purest form there. In the process of development, I see it more appropriate to gradually receive us in to that situation. Right now, as far as the setup, as far as personnel and numbers to take the vote on those fees it would be tough.

President Lucas: On average, how much time did everyone spend on their administrative fee committee? Like setting it up contacting their fee advisor.

VP Conlee: I want to say, if you include the time to email all of them fifty-minutes probably.

Senator Rodriguez: Including the meeting?

VP Conlee: Yeah, I was over the ARC and it was already funded and it cannot be not funded or we will just default on the buildings.

President Stevens: They also had increased last semester.

Celeste Rodriguez: I probably spent, I would say talking to my council about it, getting student’s opinion about it. Well, I did not get a lot of opinions. I know last year Olivia spent a lot more time than me. This Year I would say three hours, which isn’t a lot.

President Lucas: I guess the point being, I have participated in administrative fee committees as well. I don’t feel it is an over burden for an executive council member to chair two administrative fee committees

VP Casdorph: We will have three more in total. And then we will move on. We will vote on this next week. We will take a straw pull at the end of our discussion today.

Andrew walker: I cannot speak to any of the fee experience because I was on a fee board. My concern with option 4 or the way we are discussing things. If you add more relatively minor, not saying my fees are minor, but low time commitment things. When I have been situations like that, where I had a lot of little things. Things tend fall to the waist side. And especially, when something needs to be done and executive member, or whoever is assigned to this position isn’t able to get to it because they forgot about or something else more important comes up. It tends make it fall to the waist side and that negative impact things. Even if it is a very small fiefdom, you know it is your fiefdom and able to act on it. That is why I feel I would support a more gradual Pokémon style transition to offer, more than an immediate export.

VP Christopher: I completely agree. It is all about delegation and if you put too many things on someone’s to do list. You are not going to give them enough time to give them the time that they individually need. And going back to Lucas’s comment on to why senators should sit on those boards. We are still student representatives, we are still elected officials. We have our office hours, so we can have time delegated to these responsibilities. I I do not think everything should, always be put on executive council, they already have a lot of responsibilities. And I think if we are already elected officials and we are already here, then why shouldn’t we have responsibilities. I have learned a lot from the bus fee. I think it adds a great perspective to have that, and you get to learn a lot. So, completely agree with what Andrew walker said. If you have too many responsibilities, things will be pushed under the rug. And it won’t be given the attention it deserves.

Michael Moore: I guess a little background. I am a transfer student, I was a student body officer at Snow College. And the way they do student fees there, is the equivalent of Executive council. There was two of us that sat on the statewide fee board. Between the two of us we were able to do all the meetings. It was a lot of work but it was do able. It was a lot of work but I would say it is do able for the executive council. Then again, it is also a much larger campus here. I would say it is realistic. We had two people. It was a lot work but it is doable for executive council

Senator Mousley: I would say, to play devil’s advocate, a little bit, with having a lot of small responsibilities. A thing to keep in mind is like we are all fairly compensated. At the end of the day, another thing to keep in mind, in addition to the fact that I think it is a manageable the workload. At the end of day senators will still be voting members of the fee board. I think realistically and I will qualify this, I did sit over a fee this year, obviously. But I don’t necessarily think that my constituents will necessarily will be coming to me about my fee specifically. I think common thing when you are representing students, is coming to you with any concern and about any student fee. I think like as a senator, under option 4, you could play a little bit more of an informal role. Communicate between your constituents and the person that is over that specific fee.

VP Casdorph: The way we will do this is, we will have one vote per. We will go through get a raise of hands and write down numbers. President Stevens, will you write down numbers for me?

VP Harmons: Can we go through them again?

VP Casdorph: Yes, Option one headline removal of PR and in addition, Graduate Studies Senator Chair Libraries, and CHASS is over activity fee specifically over the statesman. Option 2 is basically the same except the idea of Co-chairs. Option 3 all officers of chairs, and splitting up fees. Option 4, Executive council being over all the fees and no chairs be in the academic senate.

Linda Zimmerman: I thought we are voting next week?

VP Casdorph: We are this will just be a straw pull today, so we will have one vote. This is just so we can see where we are at moving forward. So, we can make our discussion a little faster, next week will be easier. You can vote one time. We will vote now.

**Straw Pull Results:**

Option 1: 0 votes

Option 2: 10 votes

Option 3: 2 votes

Option 4: 5 votes

VP Casdorph: Thank you so much! We will move on to our discussion from our presentation from earlier today. Right now, the time is 6:43. I would love to be here at least before 7:15pm. We need to have discussion and have a speaker list to discuss the presentation from Dr. weaver

DISCUSSION ON PRESENTATIONS

Associate VP Olsen: There was a question on tuition. I just want to make sure everyone understands. The way the university are funded in Utah. Universities collect tuition and all is sent to the state of Utah. The legislature sends it back to the universities, not a hundred percent. But, there is no direct benefit to a particular program or college, other than differential tuition. If you have freshman English class with 200 people in it. The tuition that those 200 students payed for that class, does not come back to the English department. If that makes sense. Other than differential tuition there is no way for the marching band to get that tuition benefit, if you will. Just so that you understand that in general. That is something that often Students have no idea. Utah State University does not see a 100 percent of the tuition you pay. The state keeps a portion of it, and then the administration of the university decides where the tuition is spent, once it comes back. Just so you all are aware.

VP Casdorph: The way we will structure our comments, “I am in favor for this increase because…” or “I am in opposed to the increase because…” or “I am in favor of this increase with the addendum of...”

Linda Zimmerman: Can you make sure to state your first and last name for the minutes. It is very helpful when they go back and do this for you.

Senator Mousley: I am in favor with some modification of the pay structure with the stipends. Just with some back of the envelope calculations. Not even including their pre-semester work, they would work 90 hours in a semester, so that amounts to $3.30 per hour. Again, I do not necessarily know what the solution should be. But I would probably be in favor of that sort of thing, granted if my understanding is right. This would be improvement from what is currently in place, but I will still like to see that number increase.

James Mullen: I am in favor of the fee increase. Specifically, I don’t believe that the timing is appropriate to ask for increase from the Athletics department. I think it should come from student fees. There are couple of different reasons for this. The athletics department has suffered budget shortfall over the last couple of years, because specifically from COVID. I think it goes over $2,000,000 over last two years. Also, the Athletic department has increase number of athletes. due to the increase of eligibility due to COVID. They would not be able to support increase the band, while the band itself has a quickly growing number of students participating. I think it is good to have more students in band. I think it is healthy for the university. This department is already is so strapped, it is difficult to expect them to pick up the shortfall.

Landon Burt: I am against the increase in the fee, for the following reasons. I believe that the athletic department should be in charge of supplying the main portion of the money for the marching band. Where they support the athletic department. I think that this year is better than any year. I disagree with James in that regard. In the sense of that they won. They will be getting more sponsorship, more gifts. Its just the nature of the beast of winning, you get more money. With that they probably haven’t raise the amount they paid to the music department in years. I think that it is time for them to step up.

Andrew Walker: I also contend against with James’ point. I am in support of this fee. I am also in support of asking athletics for funding. One, I am in support of the fee because I mention in my comment, I am a Texas marching band student and I know what good marching band looks like. USU has a good marching band but we have the potential to be great. I am support of them talking to the athletics department because, next year got the second largest game fee ever payed to play Alabama next year. We got millions of dollars to play Alabama. If they are getting money like that they should be turning around and paying the people that support them properly.

Senator Cox: I am in favor, due to the fact I think that if we were to ask more money from athletics then it will have to move. It sounds like from the small information I have, it sounds like the Marching band will then no longer be a part of the college of the arts and it would not be able to function as part of the music major and the requirements there are necessary for the music students. I believe it would not work for students themselves. We would be doing a disservice to students that are in that major, by asking for money from Athletics. Because then Athletics will have to or would want to take over the marching band itself. So, I think taking it from student fees as it being a part of what Lucas spoke to earlier. Being a part of student environment and student culture, here on campus. I think that is one hundred percent a good reason to take it from student fees.

Emilee Harmon: I am in support of the fee changes with some changes. Yes, Athletics probably gets the greatest benefit out of the band. I think campus culture and student life. I do not think the quality of football games and other athletic events would be the same. That adds to the college experience. I also think that current band members, might have other jobs, but I don’t think that they are getting a fair payment for their time spent in the band. Just compared to other division one programs, I think it’s not comparable and they need to get on track.

Senator Chowdhury-Magana: I am completely support of providing stipends to the students. But with a caveat, I think it should be equitable across all student groups. We have students putting in comparable and sometimes more service hours in other groups and we don’t see the same kinds of conversations for those groups. But having said that, we shouldn’t cheat over some student stipends, because other students are getting it. Ideally, everyone will be getting the same stipends. Having said that, I absolutely disagree that this has to come out of student fees because I will always try and protect students fee. Like I said, I was able to get the graduate student council $500 stipend this year, per semester, and that came out of the school. We do have a lot of money as a school. So, there is no reason that it shouldn’t be coming from outside sponsorships, or organizations or the university. That it has to be coming from us. When we are already paying so much. So with that being said, I am not for it.

Senator Wappett: I am in for the increase of the fee. I think that the marching band adds a lot to the community. Like VP Harmon said earlier, we are not on track for what other schools in our divisions are doing. It is kind of insulting that we pay them that low of money. And if we can help fix that, I think we should. If it is coming out of student’s fees, it is a $1.50 increase that is not even a full drink. I think students can handle that this year.

Senator Rodriguez: I have one question, so you are over athletics fee? Sorry I am talking to Taylor. I was just thinking, If we were to ask it from athletics, wouldn’t it just come from student fees anyways. If athletics comes and ask for more money. I am not entirely sure how the athletic fee works.

VP Sampson: I am not entirely sure about that. I did not meet a lot with jerry because there is a lot going on with athletics like Bowl game and Championship. Also, their staff is very limited, so they are in the process of hiring. They don’t have a lot of staff right now. I think that has been their main focus. So, fees from athletics has not really been towards students. Correct me if I am wrong Linda.

Linda Zimmerman: Athletics is a whole different ballgame. They get funding but to run a good athletics program requires a lot of money. Even though we do get funding from games and things like that, by the time you add salary of coaches, increase of players scholarships. Athletics is completely different beast. Their sponsorship comes from Aggie Sports Property. And I think my concern with addressing outside sponsorship, is that it is not really sustainable. A sponsor can drop out any time. And so, I don’t see athletics having it in their budget to give what they need. They might be able to bump it to $2,000. But I don’t think they will be able to bump it up to what he needs to have.

Vp Sampson: I don’t believe it will be feasible in their budget to help the marching band.

Senator Rodriguez: That is what I was getting at. I don’t believe it will make sense. I think it is best to come from student fees. Can I add one other thing. Going off paying them, paying these members of the marching band better. I think, if you look at it from at least a leadership perspective. I donated or I volunteered my time to be a part of my council. And there was a leadership opportunity for me to be CHASS Senator. Like, to have my time compensated. If we had leadership positions within marching band, so students saw opportunities to use that volunteered time. Because $3 an hour is not paid time. So to see that as volunteered time to work towards something that could be better compensated. I think that might be a better solution, than paying them all the same. But I am in support of the fee increase

Senator Lesser-Thorngren. I just wanted to say that I am in favor of this. Just to give a little bit of perspective, within the arts department there is not much time being a music theatre major or art design major. Next to the theater department, the music department is one of the least involved, student wise, outside of their major. Mainly because of with the requirement of practice time, the requirement of class time. There is no extra time to get involved. Marching band is one of the few opportunities that those students have still that no only benefit their majors, benefit their experiences, and that they can get involved and be a part of the university. And so, that is big point on why it is much needed, we need to be supporting that. On top of then this is because they dedicate their time towards being on Marching band. That leaves next to no time to getting an outside job or do anything else like that. It is very important that we look in to putting student fees towards this. I also agree to asking athletics to add on top of it. But I would not surrender it because this is a student run organization. The fee, even though it does go to few maintenance things here and there, and goes to some instruments. In the end even those expenditures will benefit these students in the long run, compared to if we did not do that. Compared to other fees. If it is a matter of trying to save money on a fee, I would recommend looking in another area. This is one of the few fees where it directly impacts students, immediately. Thank you!

Senator Thorngren: Right now, I am about half way. I will need to see more of the data. Here is why, the fact that we just won the Mountain West Championship. I do know that there are funds that do get distributed if you do win. And same with the bowl game. Being able to look into the Bowl game to see how much as an Athletics Department, we are able to allocate winning, this year. Being able to go from there and go alright are we meeting the needs within the band. If we were to increase student fees, it will be help out the band quite a bit. But that is still a lot of money. And I don’t know, right now, if it is the time to do so. Just with how much Athletics department is getting. If we are able to see if it is reasonable looking at all the numbers, then I am for it. But before I would the final decision, I would need to see how much money, especially after this year, we were able to get. Through the bowl game. And through the mountain west, and then go from there

President Stevens: I guess, I am in favor of the student fee increase. When Lane shared that athletics only contributes $16,000 to the marching band. I do not know all the numbers. We are only speculating on Athletics budget and revenue. That could be an inquiry of ours. I know there are a lot of different places to get funding from, in university setting. Lane mentioned the differential tuition within the Arts College and Athletics was another source that was mentioned. I have the personal opinion that Student fees should be the last place people should go to request funding. That being said, he did say that this is traditionally, where Marching Band is funded from. But still, I just hold that personal position, that students’ fees should the last place to go. Also, I want to make two inquiries, to Dr. Olsen and Linda. Is there any precedence that an outside donor contributes to the program that they lose autonomy over the academic portion of the program?

Associate VP Olsen: Well give me an example and I will take it all in.

President Stevens: Athletics, or if a donor contribute to the program, then it wouldn’t be an academic thing.

Associate VP Olsen: No. Number one, I do not see athletics taking it over. I will just reiterate what, Linda said. When you win a bowl game like that, Coaches expect to get a raise. The perception that they are bringing in a lot of money in, they have a place to spend it. We have to raise the Coaches’ salary to keep them. Assistant coaches get offered jobs, higher paying jobs. It is just a continual game, if you will. But no, I am not aware of any precedence.

VP Casdorph: To echo that, I know my cousin, who is on football team state. There were a ton of extra funds that were sent to our coach to keep him there. And they had a multitude of offers, that after a coach goes through being a first-year coach to then winning the Mountain West Championship and beating a PAC 12 school in a Bowl game. They will have a lot of money being sent that direction. I have a cousin that said there a lot of money sent to them to increase them

Linda Zimmerman: I just have a point of information. A Bowl game does seem that the university does get a lot of money. But the university does have to pay for the bowl. I do know the athletic department that receives the bowl money, does pays for the transportation, per diem, and hotels for the band. That is in addition to the $16,000. They still do a lot of extra things for the band. That is why I don’t think they will just increase the !6,000 because we never know what the year is going to look like. When we go to the mountain west tournament or NCAA, it’s the same thing. We may get money, but they have to pay for everybody’s travel, for the chartered plane flights. So, when you add all that up, they really don’t make a lot of money. Because the increase salary of the coaches. That is part of a coaches’ contract, you win you get additional salary. Seems like a lot of money if you get $450,000 pay check. It still going to cost you $300,000+ to get to the Bowl game. So, I think those figures you probably need to ask athletics and know before you think that athletics is going to step in.

President Stevens: I also just want to ask to focus the conversation. How much control do we have over the administration fee, once its allocated? There has been discussion, about amendments to Lane’s proposed incentive structure. Once we get the fee, I guess how much does this board have?

Associate VP Olsen: As long as they are using the fee and they say what they are going to use it for. That’s really your over sight. If you approve this fee, then next year the committee, that is attached to that fee, learns they mismanaged or misappropriated. In theory, could reduce the fee or threaten to reduce that fee. To change the way, they use it.

Mallory Howard: I am in favor in fee. I feel like it has been proven, at this point. The idea of getting it from athletics, is invalid. Also, over time with what he proposed for the budget, the students in total get for their time of $1,500. From what I understand, you all are getting that just from your service in one year. So I don’t think it is unreasonable. And also, for the other money, it is not like he is asking for anything ridiculous. It seems like he wants to support a very base level program. They don’t even have a color guard coach, and my high school program had three color guard coaches. Overall, I am in favor of the fee. It seems very practical and what has been mention, its students supporting students. I think it is really cool that it is not exclusive to the Arts college, it is for any student. One of our drum majors was a science major. Anyways that’s my comments.

VP Conlee: I will be honest. Feels like what I was going to say, has been covered.

VP Porter: Any other questions?

James Mullen: Another reason, that I am support of the fee. Compounding off of Mallory and Emilee, I think that we need to remember the focus of this fee is to benefit of the students. I think that is what the Marching band does. It does not benefit athletics that much. The band cannot even play while athletes are on the field. The band is there to help students engage with the game. I think it helps attract students who wouldn’t normally go to the game. It helps students who are not as interested in our athletics, enjoy the event. It helps them engage with the aggie community, in a way they wouldn’t otherwise. I also think the way there is a cap at 200 students, makes it a sustainable goal. Means that this isn’t an increase that we expect in the future. But it is very sustainable, and honestly a very small increase, when looking at the fees in total.

Senator Chowdhury-Magana: I first want to say, I agree a lot with Celeste’s idea of having some sort of structure. Where they get a promotion, basically, that will also help with retention. Having said that, I would recommend looking at the university first and what our revenues are, and what sources of funding we have within the university. That is not necessarily just the athletics department. Like I said, it is possible because it was possible for me to do this year. That’s just actual data. Things like this do not have to come out of student fees. I also had a question for you Doctor Olsen, so you have mentioned tuition rates earlier and how much the state gives to us and takes from us. Could you speak a little bit, from what I understand 50% they cover for Utah residents, right? What percentage do they retain out of that?

Associate VP Olsen: I do not know. My recollection is, the state probably returns to the university, 80 to 90 percent of tuition that is collected. I don’t have details on what they do with that or portion they keep.

Senator Chowdhury-Magana: I also came out of a meeting earlier today. Where we talk about how, if I understand correctly, Utah System of Higher Education recently raise tuition, correct? And we currently have Cares grant that is taking care of that, a little bit. But we are currently running out of that fund. So, taking that into account and also the restructuring of tuition and fees, from Utah System of Higher education. What will the raise actually look like in-terms of out tuition? I know cares money is taking a part of that and it is growing lower

Associate VP Olsen: I do not know. The CARES money was specifically for COVID expenses. I do not know. I am not involved in that piece. Other than I just know at a higher level, there is an assumption. If you grow a program, you start a new program and get a lot of students enrolled in it, you are going to have a lot of money. There is no direct transfer, other than the colleges that have the differential tuition. And it is only that differential tuition that goes to the college and stays with the college. Good questions, but I do not have that information.

Senator Lesser-Thorngren: I just want to also point out with what has been said in the room. This is sustainable change, as it has not changed since 2016. As seen the size has doubled, it just does not make sense feasibly for it to continue the way it is. And seeing that there is a cap on this and it will just be adding on for this year and for the years to come. It wouldn’t change much, at least for a while. That it will now make it a sustainable fund for the program. Where looking into university funding where it could be available this year. There is no guarantee the same amount of money will be available the next year or the year after or the year to come. By Adding this as a student fee, that does not add too much to the students. Its something they can know that is directly impacting other students, that will help make the program stay sustainable, so they don’t need to ask for another fee increase. Or where it comes out University extra money, it might have to come back and be more expensive the next time, as things get more expensive.

VP Casdorph: We will exhaust the speaker list. For now, we will go have a straw poll again. This is not an official vote, just a straw poll. We will have a yes section, a no section, and then a section for approval with amendments. All in favor approving the fee as is, please raise your hand. All opposed to the fee increase. All approving with amendments adding on.

**Straw Pull Results**

Yes: 16 Votes

No: 2 Votes

Approving with Amendments: 3 Votes

VP Casdorph: Between now till the 26th. What we will do, we will give you some time to reach out to Dr. Weaver, Dr walker, Keri Shoemaker, or anyone else involved. We will have time to discuss this before we put it to a vote on the 26th. The 26 is the decision day. We will have a little bit of time to present any information that we have. If you do have any small presentations you will like to make. Go ahead and send them to myself and I will add it to the agenda. Between now and next Wednesday, if you can get them in at least by Monday evening of next week, that would be wonderful. Final comments I will like to make, I really appreciate the USUSA officers for taking the time to be here and represent the student body. And then as well, I really want to give a big shout out to the students at large. There is such a value of your opinion, that sometimes we get stuck up here and try to see the bigger picture, and what happens on the individual level of students. Your perspective is extremely valuable, I appreciate you being here as well.

Mallory Howard: I know the executive board is changing. I don’t understand what is changing. Is there somewhere I can find a write up of that information?

VP Porter: Yes. You and I can sit down this week. We can sit down and go over it. I will explain everything to you.

Senator Mousley: Is there a way we can access to the copy of presentation that was given today?

VP Casdorph: I can send that out to everyone. I appreciate your time. Have a wonderful time this week getting the information, and see you on the 26th.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Zimmerman, Eric Olsen, Sophia May, David Higashi

**Officers**: VP Porter Casdorph, President Lucas Stevens, Senator Cade Cox, Senator Meridian Wappett, VP Taylor Sampson, VP Emilee Harmon, VP Alexis Needleman, VP Ethan Conlee, Senator Britney Dikwa-Nkrumah, Senator Chloe Christopher, Senator Jonathan Mousley, Senator Celeste Rodriguez, Graduate Senator Niyonta Chowdhury-Magna

**VIA Zoom:** Senator Drew Thorngren, Senator Sophia Lesser-Thorngren, James Morales

**Students At-Large**: Landon Burt, Mallory Howard, Mathew Backlund, Andrew Walker, James Mullen, Abraham Rodriguez