FEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2022| 5:00 PM | TSC Senate Chambers

WELCOME & DINNER

VP Porter Casdorph: We'll go ahead and get started. Thank you all for taking some time out of your evening, to get this all squared away. We appreciate everyone's input, thus far. As far as the way we'll have discussion, we will be having a recording device, transcribe this meeting. Therefore, we need to be articulate with how we talk. We need to say our first and last name when we begin speaking and we cannot be speaking over each other. So when there is a topic of discussion, it cannot be a conversation. It needs to be, you have your opportunity to speak, from there, you'll conclude your whatever you're stating, and then we'll go down the speakers list. And it should be pretty simple. Just make sure that you, start with your name, be articulate, and don't talk over each other. Glad everyone's here taking some time. We will start with, we are going to flip flop a little bit. We're have the student fee policy discussion regarding the changes to the policy. From there, we will hear from Dr. Morales who will give executive committee report, and then we will begin voting after that.

Fee Board Structure Questions

VP Casdorph: So, I know we had a few options that we talked about last week, basically option one and option two seems to be the popular options. From here, we'll go ahead and just be able to ask questions really quick before we start discussion. For now, it will not be a discussion piece, simply being, asking any clarifying questions, if anybody has any. If we do not have any, we move on to discussion. We will go over each option. Does anybody have any questions about option one?

Senator Dikwa-Nkrumah: I have a general question. So, are we voting between Option 1 and Option 2 or are we voting between all four options?

VP Casdorph: So, we'll be voting on all four simply because they have been presented as options.

Senator Thorngren: Point of clarification. So again, everything that falls under the Business Senator that would also fall in option one?

VP Casdorph: Correct. Any other questions. Okay option 3, any questions to clarify here? Great. Okay. And option four. Did we all have time to review everything. Okay. From here, we will go ahead and open it up to discussion. We'll have a speaker's list. if you could start your statement with, “I'm in favor of option blank”, and then give your reasoning why that would help us out a lot. Obviously starting with your name. We will now open it up to discussion.

James Mullen: I'm in favor of option four after thinking about its last week and from my perspective of a student at large. I think option four is the best representative option for the campus. As a student, If I had a question about a fee, I'd probably approach my Senator. I wouldn't know that specific senators were boards over certain fees. I wouldn’t know how to access that information, but I think option four provides students the best opportunity to speak with their elected representative about they all have an equal vote on.

Landon Burt: I am also in support of option four initially, I thought I liked option two, but as I started thinking about it more. I switched option four for the reason that I think we're all here and we all kind of have the same goal to keep the fees low at a minimal. I mean, there obviously there's reasons to have them, but a to keep them at a minimum. And I think that by centralizing the fees between a fewer people, they'll be able to have a better understanding as they make the fees. And as if three people are doing all the fees or three or four, however many it is, they'll be able to understand a wider concept of how much are raising the fees. And they'll feel more inclined to keep them lower instead of having one person be over just one fee and they're thinking, oh, we'll just raise it $1 or 50 cents. And then if everyone raises it $1 or 50 cents, it adds up. So, I think just having all that responsibility instead of diffusing, that we'll get a better result and we'll have lower fees in, in the long run.

Senator Wappett: I'm in favor of Option 2, simply because of the fact that as a representative, I've seen how much work it takes to chair a fee. I helped Maria when she chairs Aggie Blue Bike fee last year, and it wasn't a ton of work, but it is work. And I think having a few people over all the fees, especially the executive team will lead to someone from their part. It will be very hard for me be done being able to pay full attention to those fees specifically.

Senator Rodriguez: I am in favor of option two because I think that within the different positions that we have in USUSA, we all have different perspectives. So, all of us being part of fee board would allow us to understand and make decisions together that would be better for the entire student body. Also, senators do have kind of a smaller group that they're looking over. So, they're able to be closer to those student needs and understand them a little bit better.

VP Harmon: I'm in favor of Option 2, simply because I think that having the biggest group of students representing fees is important. I think getting a lot of different perspectives from all the different colleges and positions is much better than four executive council members.

Senator Lesser-Thorngren: I'm in favor of option two, mainly for what has already been said about it, but each of us on the Senate is on the fees that we are in charge of are related closely to the majors that we are part of in our actual studies. And that gives us a better perspective on it. Then if it was to be given to a group of four people where it could be a music and theater fee being chaired by a business student and the business student might not know anything about that particular fee and they might not know or understand what needs to be understood from the perspective of that fee.

Senator Thorngren: I'm also in option two, I it's already been said I just like to reiterate, you're able to cover more ground and get more student perspective with option two. And the senators were able to also collaborate and see what the needs of the students are. And we're also able to represent the colleges as well. So, I'm a favor of option two.

VP Conlee: Point of clarification. Am I allowed to say something that adds to the discussion without saying one way or the other? Point of information then I think it's worth noting that senators still sit on the fee board. So, input, discussion, adding information to the benefit of the fee board is all things that senators would continue to do while being on the Fee board without actually having direct chairmanship over a fee.

Senator Christopher: I'm in favor of option two because even though senators would still be on the Fee board. They wouldn't care as much since they're not over a fee. I think that when you have people that are each over their own individual fee and like when you bring them together, there's more perspective and you can kind of be able to give your own experience from being on that fee board and like Senator Lesser-Thorngren said like your fees are kind of in your college, like relatively. So, it's nice to have to get a better perspective on that as well. So that's all I have to say.

Landon Burt: Just to add on to Ethan's comment. I completely agree with that in the sense that the senators will still have their opportunity to pay attention and give their input about their own college's fees, but it'll come from a neutral party, which will be the executive council. And they'll be able to reason with the college's reason out a good fee structure, and then present that to the body as a neutral fee presentation. Where the colleges can then present their own opinions about it. Specifically, the college that it affects. I think that's the best way to keep the fees, the lowest.

VP Harmon: Like I said in favor of Option 2, but the reason why I like Option 1 and Option 2 is I think it allows people to specialize and like really care about their fee. As an Executive Council Member, who's also involved in Greek life and my personal life. I honestly just don't think it'd be feasible to chair four or five fees. Like that just seems insane. And I get that the workload is small, but to like actually care, do the research, who you need to meet with. I just, don't think there's going to be the same level of care.

Michael Moore: So, I just have a quick question, will there still be fee committees over each of the fees with all of these, for proposed changes?

VP Casdorph: Yes

Michael Moore: Okay. And so, I guess my point would be then with Option Four Senators and other students who still have the opportunity to be involved with different fees and have the opportunities to get that specific perspectives and be able to get input. And so, I guess what I'm saying is proposal number four is not limiting the power of the senators. It's just changing who is chairing each of the separate committees.

Senator Lesser- Thorngren: Along with what Emilee Harmon was saying with it needs to be specialized on the fees, which is why option two and one are the better options, in my opinion. Mainly because if you do limit it down to the four, there does come that risk where not only is its bigger workload. But, there could be bias towards if they're on a fee for one college. But they have to deal with a bunch of other colleges that they might give favored to that. Not saying that is what would happen, but it does tend to leave that door open for certain fees to get more priority than others. Especially if a person in charge of it always is from one area or one specific college.

Senator Wappett: I am in favor of option two, once again. I think another thing that's important to bring up is those like groups of people who go and sit on those fee meetings and talk about those, like increases, decreases, or staying the same, usually come from like the group that you directly influence over. And so, by having only four people over the fees or five people, over the fees you're going to get like a very similar group of people, whereas having a kind dispersed view to get a variety of people coming to each fee. So those perspectives are hurt everywhere instead, just like what would probably happen all the people on the activities just go to the activities one. Which is fine, but you're not getting that diversity like you if every senator was over a fee.

VP Casdorph: Point clarification option for each of the members of Logan Executive council will have two fees, simply to be simple about it. And in further clarification, there are a, a full load of each of the each of the previous fees. Sometimes they're conducted together as an activity fee where the activities and service has been split up from Statesman as well. And the, the current way as the building fee is split up between the arc and as well, the TSC is on its own. And then the spectrum and the stadium are another fee that is basically segmented out. So, to say it is two fees, per executive council member is a little bit underselling it, however it would in fact, be two different documents, two different packages, packets, or doc documents that present. So that's just for clarifications, so everyone has an understanding exactly where that comes, what it looks like.

Andrew Walker: I'm in favor of option two, because having been in other leadership positions, seeing where option four brings us, it's not a lot of extra work, but I have a concern that it would be too much extra on top of all the other responsibilities that they might have. I see option four, being a longer-term solution over several years, just not currently.

Mallory Howard: I appreciate Senator Wappett’s point about more voices, usually leads to better solutions. I also just in my experience, feel like senators are a lot closer to the ground as far as student needs. You don't go from being like a student at large to on the executive council. A lot of times you usually expect a lot of time in just like different leadership positions and stuff. Where as a student at large, I think a lot more time, like run for and get that position and have pretty representation of what a student experience.

President Stevens: Move to exhaust speaker list.

Vp Needleman: Second

VP Casdorph: motion second. Okay. We'll vote on that all favor. Say aye.

All: voted in favor

VP Casdorph: We will exhaust. From here we will have our executive committee report from Dr. Morales. So Dr. Morales, the floor is all yours. Thank you everyone.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

VP Dr. Morales: Good evening. It's good to be with you today. Thanks everyone again. It's great to be with you. So, in fulfilling my responsibilities per the student feeble policy I presented the music and theater request to the executive committee of the university this morning. Just for your information. Some of you may not know the membership of that committee. I just wanted to review that quickly. It's the president's senior group, essentially the, the president chairs that for the provost of the university. So, the president of the provost, all of the university's vice presidents representing their areas, sit on the committee and all of the deans of the colleges also sit on that committee. In addition, we have two senior officers for example, the chief information officer and the chief audit officer also sit on that committee. So, I presented the fee request to them. They were like all of us, very appreciative of what the Dr. Weaver has been doing with the marching band over the recent years. They recognize the progress that's been made and Vice President Hartwell. Who's also the Director of Athletics, even comment that he had seen a really incredible uptick in terms of game day atmosphere, because of the marching band’s contributions. Now having set all of that, the executive committee, again, heard the presentation that I made. I reviewed the particulars of the proceedings from the last meeting. And although I wasn't there, I want you to know that I watched every minute of that recording in between. And so, I presented the request in its entirety, including the questions that many of you asked Dr. Weaver and Dr. Walker about their request, what the committee said to me, their input for this group is that they felt that this fee should not move forward because the funding that their requesting can be obtained through other sources. And in fact, the president and the provost committed to meeting with Dean Nardo and Dr. Walker and Dr. Weaver and identifying other sources, possibly private donations with other ways to provide the resources that the marching band needs to move forward with its objectives. So that's their input from the committee that they did not see that this was something that should be supported through an increase in the Music and Theater fee, but that other resources could be obtain to do that. That is my report.

VP Casdorph: Thank you, Dr. Morales. In light of the report we will obviously not have to vote on this policy at this point as we have found funding from different ways. That's been suggested from the executive committee. So, there will be no discussion. There will be no vote today on our funding that fee. So, makes it simple, keeps it easy.

President Stevens: I think it's also just important to note the, the context of this board's decision. Our vote and decision are ultimately a recommendation to the President and then Board Trustees, and board of higher education. So, getting that kind of feedback from the next step is. I just think it's more to consider the context.

VP Casdorph: And I'll add to that. I, I think it's important that we remember that student fees are preserved. And that is one of the main purposes of us as officers is to make sure that if there are other ways of pursuing that funding, that we can keep it off of the students. So moving forward, I think it is a, I think this is wonderful. I'm very grateful for Dr. Morales and all the hard work he's done in the last week to make sure that we're able to make the right decision about how students’ money is spent. And how we make sure we keep that moving forward for them. Cause ever dollar does count.

FEE BOARD STRUCTURE VOTE

**VP Casdorph**: Moving forward, if there's no other questions or comments for discussion, we will go ahead and have a vote on our student fee policy change. Our original discussion from the beginning of the day. So, with this, this will be an official vote. We'll do it by the raising hands. We'll go through each option starting with Option 1 and ending with Option 4. So, all in favor of Option 1, please raise your hands. all in favor of option two, please raise your hands. All in favor of Option 3. All in favor of Option 4.

**Official Vote Tally**

**Option 1: 0 Votes**

**Option 2: 15 Votes**

**Option 3: 0 Votes**

**Option 4: 7 Votes**

VP Casdorph: At this point, we have been able to vote. I wanted to tell everybody we're grateful for your time grateful for your input last week that has helped us make proper decisions. Dr. Morales is able to get great information to understand that we support this. And then your support last week is what's going to push it into fruition from getting funding from different sources. So, thank you for your discussion last week.

President Stevens: Did these proposals include the change of computer fee to technology fee?

VP Casdorph: It did. There’re no further discussion comments, shout out, suggestions. Then I will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Senator Christopher: Sole moved

Senator Cox: Seconded

VP Casdorph: All in favor say, “Aye”.

All: Aye

IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Zimmerman, Eric Olsen, 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 Drew Thorngren, Senator Sophia Lesser-Thorngren, Senator Celeste Rodriguez, Graduate Senator Niyonta Chowdhury-Magna

**VIA Zoom:** Senator Jonathan Mousley, James Morales

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