FEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2024| 5:00 PM | TSC Senate Chamber

**WELCOME & DINNER**

VP Cinq-Mars: First, I just want to say, welcome to everybody for being here today. I appreciate you all spending your Wednesday nights here. Being a part of the student fees is one of the most important responsibilities we have as officers. I appreciate all the work that you guys have done this school year so far. Just a few reminders before we get started. Parli Pro Procedure: if you'd like to ask a question, please make sure that you raise your hand and address me first. This will just make sure that people don't talk over one another, and it'll keep our meeting running smooth. Just as a reminder as well, you all are voting members for today's meetings. So when I entertain a motion, it should be followed with “so moved”, and then a seconded. After those motions are made, then, we will proceed to a vote. Please remember to take notes and listen carefully. Senator Santini here will be our parliamentarian for today's meeting, and it's gonna be taking names with those who ask questions just to kind of make sure that everything is taken in order. Make sure that you wait until you get called on before you speak. And then, when you are called upon, state your full name and your position first, before asking a question or making any comments. After the first time you've spoken, you could just state your name before you speak. No need to say your position again, and then please make sure to give everyone a chance to speak before you do speak again. This meeting is going to be recorded, and accurate minutes will be taken. Please do not have any side conversations. The microphones will be picking everything up in this room. Speak loud, slow, and clear when you do, ask questions, and please do not talk over anybody else. If you need a personal privilege, feel free to leave and just come back. Be kind and professional at all times, especially to the presenters, and then make sure to ask questions in a positive manner. Just a big reminder again: everything you say will be recorded in the minutes. So, with that being said, I'd like to call the meeting to order. And first on the agenda, we'll begin with Dr. Eric Olsen, our Interim Vice President of Student Affairs.

**OPENING REMARKS**

Interim Student Affairs VP Dr. Eric Olsen: Thank you, Aly. I just want to give you a little background. This process has been happening for decades. And in the year 2019-2020, the Utah State Legislature and the Utah System of Higher Ed did an audit of how all universities in the state were overseeing student fees and the process. It was a pretty. Whitney, you remember that. That was a lot of fun. Audits are always fun. But the powerful thing to me is Utah State's process came out as the model that all schools should follow because of how transparent we are with students. And, I'm the only voting member in addition to all you students. So you see, I'm kind of outnumbered, and that's by design. And so, it's a very transparent, very participatory process with students. And over the years I just continually am impressed with the stewardship and the thoughtfulness that you, as a Fee Board, participate with and invest. How many of you have, by raise of hand, have been on the fee board before in some capacity? I know there's a hand for you. So again, I really enjoy this event, it's more than an event it is a process. But just to let you know. We'll hear presentations tonight, and I would just reiterate, please be respectful of our presenters. This is not a time to air grievances or whatever. So be respectful to them. Let them share. We will have some time when they're gone that we can be candid and have those kinds of conversations. It is a time for you to gather as much information or clarify things in their presentation, but it's not a time to challenge them or be adversarial. If there's some difficult questions that need to be asked to clarify, please ask but be respectful. And those of you that have participated before, this should resonate with you. This is a big board. And sometimes we have individuals that like to hear their own voice. Even though three people before them have made the exact same point, they feel the need to voice the exact same opinion. And I would just ask to be to be professional, be respectful. We don't want to be here till midnight. And so, if you have something to say and someone right before you says the same thing you were gonna say. When it gets to you, you could just say, “Ditto, I agree.” I mean, we don’t need to hear it over and over again. So anyway, I just appreciate so much the time that you have committed to this. It is important. And you do represent the entire system. Of course, we have a statewide system, and then we have this Logan Board or Statewide Board and Logan Board. So, we’ll meet tonight; we’ll hear the presentations. We’ll meet next week and vote on these presentations. And then I, in between tonight and next week, I kinda need a sense of what the feeling is of this board. And I have to take that to the president’s executive committee and get their input. And then next week, when we meet I will share with you kind of what they’re thinking. You know, and if President Cantwell says these were great presentations, but I don’t want to see any increase in fees. Then, our work is kind of done because she ultimately will approve or veto the decision of this board. So, this is it’s an important process. But ultimately, the president has the final say. And then, she will present, with Abe, at the Truth and Tuition Hearing. And then, it will go to the Board of Trustees and to the State Board, so that’s the process. I hope what I just said that, “She ultimately has the decision-making,” doesn’t make any of you feel like,” Well then, why are we doing this?” We’re doing this because it’s important to have the student’s voice and student involvement. And for the president to have that perspective. She ultimately can veto anything I do in my job. As the president of the University, she is in Charge. Any questions with that? Or Linda or Whitney, Have I missed anything? Alright, well thank you!

VP Cinq-Mars: One more thing before we get started. If I can ask you all to turn your phones off and put them underneath the table. I would greatly appreciate that. Thank you! Doctor Olsen. Next, we will be moving on to our presentations from the specific fee-receiving areas that are requesting an increase in fees. Again, please remember, if you respectful listening and ask questions. These Admins have taken a lot of time to prepare these presentations, and we need to make sure that we respect them and their time. So, we're gonna start here with the ARC Building Fee presentation. And as you guys are finishing up your food. If you want to clear your plates, you can put them under the tables. Campus catering will be background 7:30 to kind of clear them. So, if you want to just move them out of the way, that's fine too. Okay. So first, we'll have the Aggie Recreation Center Building Fee. Just a reminder to you guys, you do have 15 to 20 minutes to present. If it takes your full 20 minutes and we'll leave you 5 min for your Q and A. If you take 15 minutes, we'll give you the 10 minutes at the end. And Senator Santini here will be the one giving you 5-minute and 1-minute warnings about what you guys have that amount of time left. Go Ahead.

**ARC Building Fee Presentation**

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay. So first, we'll have the Aggie Recreation Center Building Fee. Just a reminder to you guys, you do have 15 to 20 minutes to present. If it takes your full 20 minutes and we'll leave you 5 min for your Q and A. If you take 15 minutes, we'll give you the 10 minutes at the end. And Senator Santini here will be the one giving you 5-minute and 1-minute warnings about what you guys have that amount of time left. Go Ahead!

Director of Campus Recreation Katie Burns: Hi! Some faces are familiar. Some are not. My name is Katie Burns. I’m the director of Campus Recreation. Do you want to Introduce yourself?

Business Manager and Policy and Procedure Specialist Krista Brodrero: I am Krista Brodrero. I am the finance officer over at finance and administrative services. And I am supporting Katie right now.

Director Katie Burns: Great! So, mostly, I'm here to talk about the building fee for campus recreation. So, just to do a little bit of background. It’s okay. Sorry. There we go. So, to give you a little bit of a big picture. Just so we all understand, and so we are all on the same page. Campus Recreation has two fees that students pay. The first one is $36.98, and that is the Campus Rec. I am not asking for an increase for that fee. Okay, that fee goes directly towards a lot of the programming that you all enjoy at Campus Rec. It helps offset costs for intramurals, for group fitness classes, for aquatics, for outward programs, for club sports teams. And all of those programs is what that fee helps offset. The second one is the building fee. If you look at your Excel document, of all of the fees that you pay, the building fee is $152.59. $81.63 of that goes to Campus Recreation, right? So, the rest of the building fee goes to cover the TSC, the Spectrum, and Other buildings on campus. But specifically, I want to look at this $81.63 because that's the one that affects me. Right? This $81.63 is used to cover the cost of the building along with, and by cost of the building, I mean the continuing maintenance of the building, right? So when things break, us covering that. Costs of the electricity and the steam and the water, and all of those costs for the building. This building, the ARC, is truly unique on campus in that it is 100% paid for by students. The other way the Campus Recreation gets money is we generate revenue ourselves, right? And so you all feel that when you come to the arc, and you rent a locker from us. Or like I said, we help offset the costs of group fitness classes. But then, or group fitness classes. And then you guys buy a pass to help make that equal. Right? So, those are really the ways that Campus Recreation gets money. We've been really creative in the last few months, trying to work through bringing in more revenue. Right? So, we worked with the Campus Rec. Policy Board to build a relationship with Small Sat so that they can rent our facility and bring in more money. Giving money directly to bringing in more equipment for you all. So we're working to really help offset that. Again, kind of big picture, to give you a little bit of the history of the Campus Rec. Building fee. In 2012, it was proposed to the students of Utah State that we should consider building a Rec. Center. At that time, it was pitched that the building fee would be $75, and that would cover the building fee. That would cover the bond payment. Which is, you could think of it like a mortgage. It is the loan we have on the building. Also, it would cover the Aggie Legacy field. Which we already had, so those fees got rolled in together. In 2015, the ARC was built and the bond was locked in. So, just like a mortgage where we have a percentage that is attached to the mortgage on the loan that we have to pay off, the same thing happens for the bond payment. So that got locked in. Unfortunately, the cost was higher than we predicted as we built it. Since 2015, we experienced a lot of inflation. And Campus Recreation, when it came to building was routinely running in a deficit. So, we weren’t actually able to pay the bond, pay for the students that worked at the desk to keep it open. We weren’t able to cover those things. So, we were paying out of our stores. So in 2012, Daniel Lawrence, my predecessor, came and presented this to you all, and the student body agreed to raise the fee $6.63 to what you all pay today, $81.63. You all understand so far? Are you all good? So that’s where we are today. In December, I got an email that informed me that we were negative $262,000. Oh gosh, I need a period, not a comma. $262,000 in the red for paying our December payment on the bond. Significant chunk of change, right? And just give a little more history, last July we were $66,000 in the negative. So, these costs have to be covered from somewhere else. And what we had been doing is we've been going into our quasi account, which is a giant savings account that we try to like put money away for a rainy day. So, when a big expense, or such as the air conditioning, or something in the ARC really needs to be maintained. We have those costs. Like we have that money. So, we are. We are slowly draining that account. So, in order to cover the $262,000, what we really had to do is we had to wait for students to start registering for and paying for Spring semester. So, in many ways we borrowed from Spring semester to pay the Fall semester bond payment. Which is why last July we have this short fall also. So, Krista and I are talking this before I came in. We are anticipating a shortfall in July. Just how big that will be, will be determined by the rest of this semester's payments and summer payments. I just wanted to be really open and honest with you. This is what a bond payment schedule looks like. So, this is the 30 years, the life of the bond. Right? Let me zoom in a little bit. That is not a helpful cheat, admittedly. So, I included last year above this line, and then the next five-years. great again. This is a thirty-year bond, but I want you all to be able to see what we're talking about here. So, you will notice every December is a significantly larger payment than June payment. Does that make sense? But the overall payment ever year is roughly the same. Give or take a couple thousand dollars. So, as we start paying more and more in this fall semester, our spring payment does go down. and then this number 2163. Right? Sorry, $2,164,887. In addition to that, we plan $775,000 in operating expenses every year. That covers student wages, that covers two professional staff members, and that covers all of the bills that we get from facilities over the year. So quick math. Right? Currently, we're sitting at $81.63 per student, each semester. Let's say roughly 18,000 students, each semester two semesters, that puts us at $2.9 million. Of course, we can add in summer. Summer is a little hard to plan for because we just don't know how many students are going to enroll. But again, when I go back here, [$2,164,887] plus $775,000. If enrollment goes down at all, we're in the Red. If enrollment goes down at all; we are in the red. And so what we are asking. So, oh, yeah, that's the $775,000. So my request this year is that we consider increasing the building fee to a flat $85, which that means increasing it $3.37 each semester. Assuming 18,000 students each semester that generates an additional $121,000 for us. which is a very nice cushion. Right? long term. It covers our deficit. It also helps me cover student wages. Right? That's $775,000. When we agree to that as kind of what is going to cover our operating expenses. we assumed that students would make $7.50 an hour. And I am sure that none of you in this room want me to pay your peers $7.50 an hour right like that's not fair. And the truth is, I can't employ students at that price. We try to pay students fairly, and we're still on the low-end compared to other departments across campus, I’ll be honest. When enrollment climbs again, because we're all optimistic that that is going to happen. Right? Campus Rec. will be able to set any additional money aside into that quasi account. So that when we have big expenses down the road; we're prepared to pay for those. At the end of the day, currently, the Campus Rec. building fee does not cover our expenses. Like that is black and white. It does not cover our expenses. Over the last four years, we have seen the Quasi account go from roughly half a million dollars to right at a quarter of a million-dollars, very quickly. So any big expenses that we have coming down the road, if we don't do this will result in us having to take a loan from the university. And what that means is that we are lengthening the time that we're in debt for the building. Does that make sense? Questions?

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes, Senator Pope.

Senator Pope: Is there a plan. Oh, sorry, Sara Pope, Graduate Studies Senator. Is there a plan to have an increase in students? Pay with this increase in fee, or what an additional increase in fee be needed, or a higher increase be needed to allow for raises for the students that are paid with the money?

Director Katie Burns: That is a great question. I can be very small raises with this money. Right? Long-term raises, larger raises would require a larger increase.

Senator Pope: And what's the current pay?

Director Katie Burns: It depends on which department you're working in and what position you have. Right? Generally, our lowest, our entry level is $10 an hour.

VP Cinq-Mars: Jaxton.

Senator Winder: Jaxton Winder, College of Science Senator. So, what happens when the bond is not paid?

Director Katie Burns: That is a great question. We don’t get to default on our bond. We just don’t. So again, I would be required to go to the finance office and ask for a loan from the University. And then, we as a department, Campus Rec., you all as students would be held responsible for paying the university back.

Senator Winder: I also know on the sheet showing the bond values. That the Interest rate changes from 4% to 5% part way through. What is happening there?

Director Katie Burns: That is a great question and I am gonna refer you to Krista on that one. Because bonds are not my specialty.

Krista Brodrero: Can you repeat that?

Senator Winder: On the bond sheet, it listed the interest rate changed from 4% to 5%, I believe in 2025. What is happening there? And will there need to be another increase around that time?

Krista Brodrero: yes, so this is what truly happens with a bond payment. It amortizes throughout the bond, throughout this. As you can see in here, the interest rate changes. So, it started at three. It goes all the way through here. So you see, 4% here, 5%. It goes to 4% again, 5%, 4.5%. It changes throughout the whole thing. Your payment never changes. So, there's never going to be a difference in payment throughout the whole thing. We are never gonna ask for a different amount for bond payments. It is just the interest amount being paid throughout the time of the bond. So there will never be a difference in payment. It is just what we are seeing interest being paid to the bond. Bonds are tricky. I am not going to get into the nitty-gritty details. Bonds are people going in, and there is a lot of different people going in and saying, ”I want to fund your bond.” And that’s who and So like this bond was for. The total amount is $33 million. And you had like a hundred people that say, “I am going to fund this." These hundred people put up $33 million to fund this bond. When they put it together, this is the interest rate that went through. And you have program went in here and says this and throughout the whole time. So, in here, the bank does it. So, it is just the matter of what does it. But, your payment is all the same the whole time, within a few thousand dollars. So, your payments are never going to be different. It is just a matter of interest going in and going through. Does that make sense?

Senator Winder: Yes, thank you.

VP Cinq-mars: I just was going to ask if Mr. Pugh could make a comment on that. If there are any.

Dr. Eric Olsen: Whitney, if you could clarify taking a loan from ourselves, is a stopgap measure that kicks it down the road. Maybe comment on that. What does it mean for Campus Rec to take a loan.

Krista Brodrero: So if they had to take a loan. Ok if they had to take a loan, internally, from the university. They go in, and what usually happens is we go and figure out interest rates from what's going on in the market on what's going on. So right now, there’s been other loans going on with other things with other people. I know that there’s other people going through and trying to get loans as well.

Dr. Eric Olsen: I just want the students to understand. It is not like, “Oh, we’ll just get a loan to cover that deficit. “

Director Katie Burns: We still have to pay it back

Dr. Eric Olsen: It‘s a stopgap measure.

Krista Brodero: The issue is that we go out and decide what the best interest rate is. So right now banks are selling them at seven, eight, nine percent. And we go out and say, “ok you are still selling them at eight, nine, percent.” I need a glass of water, my throat got dry. Sorry. So, then Dave and Dwight look at it. And go ok seven, eight, nine percent. So, we are gonna tell you, your percentage is going to be eight percent. Right? Because we are going to take an average amount to that. So, you have to go and we're gonna go in. And they say you have to pay this back over eight years. Right? So then, you have eight years to pay that back at. So not only do you have the bond that you're paying this back at. But now you have a loan that you're also paying this back at. So, you have a bond payment that you're doing now, and you're doing a loan payment that you're doing at now. So, you have a bond payment for $2.163 million that you're doing. Now, you're also doing a loan payment which could be depending on what you need. And the issue is if this year you need it for 300,000. I'm just coming up with a number that they might look at. And go, “Okay. You're 300,000 this year, but continually over the last 3 or 4 years you've had to break into your quasi every single year. So maybe we need to look at it and give you half a million, 750,000. Just so you're not gonna do that. So, you're almost at a million dollars there as well. So maybe we need to give you a million-dollar loan.” So you might over the next eight years. Just so you're not having to break into it. So now you're doing a loan for over eight years at a million dollars, trying to get that paid back at a million-dollar loan over eight years plus a 2.16 over the 30 years. I mean. you're not just paying. I mean, you're more. I mean, it's like having a car payment and a mortgage payment, all your credit cards. You're doing all of these loans. And then also your operating expenses as well, paying all your students and everything else. It's just conglomerating everything into one thing. I mean if you don’t

Senator Santini: Five Minutes.

Krista Brodrero: Say that again.

Senator Santini: You just have five minutes left.

Krista Brodrero: Oh, sorry. Okay. So those are the things that you just need to think about is, if we don't increase this, and a lot of it depends, I mean because of the enrollment being down, right? I mean, we have no control over enrollment being down. But that's the gist of it.

Director Katie Burns: Morale of the story; I rather not ask for an internal Loan.

Krista Brodrero: Right.

Director Katie Burns: I'd rather not make this complicated.

VP Cinq-Mars: Matt Ritchie

Matt Ritchie: Matt Ritchie Student-At-Large. So how did we arrive at $3.37? Is it like, do we look at a lower number is that possible? Or is that sufficient to meet the needs?

Director Katie Burns: You know, I think we arrived at $3.37, because we looked at how enrollment decreased over the last couple of years. And let's assume that it decreases at the same rate next year. And so that's kind of where we landed in $3.37. It gives us still a tiny bit of a cushion. We're talking about thin margins, right? I don't want to come to you and ask for money unnecessarily, right? I also don't want to be back here in a year. Let's be honest, right? I really don't. I didn't want to. You can ask Linda. I did not want to come this year and ask for money. But here we are. And so, I think the $3.37 was really like looking at where we decreased in enrollment the last couple of years, and trying to match that preparing for a rainy day.

VP Cinq-Mars: Any other questions? Yeah, Tate.

VP Bennett: Tate Bennet, Athletic and Campus Recreation Executive Director. What happens when the building is paid off?

Director Katie Burns: That's a great question. When the building is paid off. We will still need to collect some Building fees, right? Because there will be maintenance at that point. The building will be 30 years old. But we will bring that cost back down. Yeah. There will still be operating expenses; there will still be updating and renewing things.

Executive Director Bennett: But it will go down below the $85?

Director Katie Burns: Yes we won’t be paying $2.163 million every year in a bond payment. Great question.

VP Cinq-Mars: Anything else? Yes. Ronan.

Ronan Spencer: I am Ronan Spencer, Student-At-Large. You said that you guys were trying some other forms of income. What were some of the other, I guess, ideas you were experimenting with?

Director Katie Burns: I would say that the ARC Policy Board has been wonderful to work with. We have, over the last couple of years, expanded access to the ARC. Which I know has also created some frustrations. We do allow faculty and staff to purchase memberships to come in now. Now that’s a good revenue stream for us. Brings around $200,000 every year. So that’s a good revenue stream for us, right? We have allowed recent alumni to purchase memberships for one year after graduation. I don’t have a number on how much that’s bringing in it is fluctuated the last two years. We are looking. Obviously, we do rentals in the ARC that helps a lot, right? Anytime we charge groups to rent the ARC, the HYPR, the Field House; like that money comes back to us. The biggest one that we just worked on this year, as you all know, is Small Sat. Small Sat takes over the TSC for a couple of weeks. They would like to grow, and they would like to expand, and so they approach us about renting the ARC for a whole week, from us. And so, they will pay a rental fee to rent the ARC. We are going to open the ARC in the evenings, once Small Sat goes out. We are gonna try that for three years and make sure it works for everyone. In addition to paying the rental fee, which is close to $30,000 for the week for them, they are giving us an additional chunk of money solely committed to purchasing new equipment. Solely Committed to purchasing new equipment

Senator Santini: You have one-minute left.

Director Katie Burns: Perfect, Thank you!

VP Cinq-Mars: Last question. Yes, Senator Pope.

Senator Pope: Would you expect. Sara Pope. Would you expect any of these other revenue sources to increase like; faculty and staff membership costs, or classes costs or rental costs?

Director Katie Burns: Honestly, I do not expect them to increase too much. Part of that is because I want you all to have the ARC. It’s your building. Anytime I let another group come into the building, that means you all don’t have it. I monitor really closely how many people will be allowed to come and rent the space so that their time in the ARC does not exceed your time in the ARC. And that’s just the balance, we will forever be trying to balance. Faculty and staff, I will always encourage them to come to the ARC. They love it once they’re there. Also, some faculty and staff think that it’s a little weird to work out next to their students. Which, I can appreciate that.

VP Cinq-Mars: That is time. Thank you so much!

**ARC Building Fee Increase Discussion**

VP Cinq-Mars: Next, we’re going to hear from Parking and Transportation. But before we do so, I'd like to open it up for discussion real quick. Just some little thoughts I had. Do you guys feel like that is a fair ask? Or, what are we thinking? Yeah, Collin.

Senator Hastings: I am actually surprised they are not asking for more, especially given the deficit they showed us. I think it is a totally fair ask. I think most students have used the ARC at some point or another. And a lot use them a lot. People use it quite consistently. So, I think an extra $3.37 per student a semester is probably something most students will be willing to pay.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes, Sarah.

Senator Pope: Alex had his hand up first.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes, Alex.

Executive Director Garces: Just overseeing that fee and talking to Katie.

Director Zimmerman: Can you talk louder?

Executive Director Garces: Yes. Overseeing that fee and talking with Katie, a couple of months ago, about how the ARC functions, and how it runs. Where their money comes from. How thin those margins are. She did not want to propose that fee until next year, for other reasons came up that she had to this year. I think it is fair ask. Just with the margins they are working with, it’s really impressive how they run and how they function. They’re solely, they work solely off of students’ fees. And then just the cost of, like, their operations and the things that they charge money for. So, it’s really impressive that they’re able to make do with, at the end of day, the little amount of money or the little margins they have.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes Sarah.

Senator Pope: I agree with Collin. And to add to that. I don't. I think that it is more than a fair ask, and I also agree that they probably should have asked for more. Especially because that fee is going to come back down. Like we're not going to see the benefit of that. But it's about students. And so future students will see the benefit of that. And I think that is a good reason to approve it.

VP Cinq-Mars: And we’ll take one more. Yeah, Fran.

Senator Simpson: I was just appreciative of her concern for students, like both the employees that she pays and just the space being used for students' use. I appreciate that a lot.

VP Cinq-Mars: Perfect. Okay, with that, let’s go ahead and close the discussion and welcome the Parking and Transportation Fee Presentation. This is just a reminder: please state your name before you start making comments or asking questions. Just to make it easier on David, who’s taking minutes.

**Parking and Transportation Fee Presentation**

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, just a quick comment before you guys do get started. We have 15 to 20 min for you guys to present you present for 15. We'll give you 10 min to have a Q&A present for a full 20 min. We'll just cut that down to 5. Isabelle over here is going to count you guys down when you have 5 min left. And when you guys have 1 min left the presentation. Go ahead.

Director of Parking and Transportation Services Tracy Hulse: perfect, you guys, it looks like you guys have all eaten. And so I’ll do my best not to make you go to sleep, right? Hey, I'm Tracy Hulse, I'm the director of parking and transportation, and I've got with me. I going to stand in the way. I’m gonna move a lot. I'm gonna put that down right now because I'll play with it. I've got with me; Karlee Thompson, who is our business services representative and does a great job for us. So, we're here because we are asking for a raise in the Aggie Shuttle student fee. And so we'll talk about that a little bit. Who in here has ridden an Aggie shuttle. Right? Everybody hopefully. Most people. No, not all of you. We have, right now, the Aggie Shuttle has 12 full-size shuttle buses and two minibuses. and we service six-day routes and one-night routes. So, we're going from 7:00 A.M. in the morning until 10:30 at night. Now, we reduce down to one bus after 5:30 P.M., just because of the amount of students. But we've all seen our old buses, and we've had this style of shuttle bus, for a lot of years. Probably since back to 2008, 2009, and 2010, before then, it was a mishmash of whatever they could find. So, who is seeing our new bus? Right? Yeah. Has anybody ridden our new bus? Yeah, it's beautiful. So, the difference between them and I'm gonna just talk a little bit about that. This is a Thomas Brand bus that's built essentially on a school bus frame, right? It's a high floor. So, you've got three steps up into the bus. You can imagine the problems that we have every year, especially when we have a day like today, Northern Utah winter, and we have lots of snow. There can be some trip, slip, trips, and falls, and there are. And it's tough to. It's tough to get too close. If they get too close to the curve, then that makes it even more difficult to get into the in and out of that bus. Right? You've all experienced that probably. Our new shuttles, that we received two of last year, our Gillig brand bus. We did a lot of research. Our shuttle supervisor and his assistant did have a thick book of just some research that they did on different brands of bus buses that are used across the country buses that are used in the in the State of Utah, and we decided to go with the Gillig Brand. CVTD, here in Cache Valley, uses it. The UTA buses down Salt Lake. Use the Gillig brand buses. They're research. And this thick research of a folder that they gave me really shows that the reliability of the Gillig was as good or better than any of the buses out there. And with neighbors and friends that have these buses that we can talk to, and our mechanics can talk to. We felt like it was a smart idea to go to the Gillig bus. One of the best things about the Gillig bus is; it is built on a transit frame. Rather than a school bus frame. So, it has a low floor, so it's very easy to get into it. Actually, even kneels down at a curb so that it makes it more level for the student to walk into. It is so much different there than there. And one of the things I wanted to point out with this bus is. Has anybody ever been on the shuttle, one of the old shuttles, when they had to take a wheelchair up in and took 5 min? Maybe? And you're going, “I'm gonna get late. I'm gonna be late for class.” Because the driver stops the bus gets out, has to come out, operate the elevator, put the person on it. Lifts them up into the bus, then go back in and help secure them, and get going. A lot different with this bus. The driver simply asks the person in a wheelchair, or whoever, to back up just a little bit. This unfolds in 10 seconds. They're able to wheel in, or the drivers are able to help them to get locked in place. Maybe less than a minute type thing compared to the other bus. Plus, and I will say several times, it wasn't Aggie Shuttle. It was not the Aggie Shuttle. But just last year on campus, a person getting onto a CVTD bus, an older CVTD bus, fell off their elevator, going up into the bus in their wheelchair. That could be for some bad injuries, bad publicity, you know a bad look all the way around. So we really enjoy this style of bus and think it's best for our needs around campus. Here's the issue, right? And that is that, when we bought most of these buses, they were around $200,000 a piece, $225,000. The Gilligs that. the two Gilligs that we bought last year were $560,000. Now even the Thomas buses is a lot more expensive now, just from inflation over the last number of years that we haven't bought them. And they're probably closer to $300,000. So, there is a there's a different. There's real difference. But we know that this bus has been. We know that's going to be more reliable to easily, more easily worked on for mechanics, all kinds of different things. So, it's something we really felt like it was needed. Now, one of the things I really want to point out today. And I don't know how much of the budget you guys actually saw that I sent forward to Alex. Is that, the student fee sheet doesn't go to them at all. Okay, I wanted to show this page first before we talk about the budget at all. But, as you can see, since 2015, there has not been a request for an increase. Somehow. Some way, Linda, maybe you can explain this. But in ‘19-‘20, and then in ‘20-2021. They gave us a three-cent each year increase that we didn't ask for. It was not something that we came to award and asked for. So, we're looking at roughly eight years without an increase to our student fee. Just so, we want to go a dollar or two this year from [2098] to $22 even for the ‘23-‘24 year. Should that be the ‘24-‘25 year? Yeah, ‘24-‘25. Sorry, we just double that. Sorry. didn't catch that earlier. That's a 4.6% increase, that dollar or two. But I think if you were to look at inflation from those years. It'd probably be that 4.86% yearly, right? Not over an eight-year period. Luckily, and not really any fault on of our own. Luckily, we were in real good shape when we took these last two buses. The two Gillig buses. Once they were delivered to us in July of this year, June of this year. Because last year we had, planned to buy three buses, and it felt through. The bus company came back to us in mid-build and said; “Sorry, the quote we gave you is not gonna hold. We want $100,000 more per bus.” So, we decided, “No Sorry we are not going to do that with that just for that.

Business Manager for Parking and Transportation Services Karlee Thompson: And that wasn’t Gillig. That was a different person.

Director Tracy Hulse: No, that wasn’t Gillig. It was a different brand. Just for the sheer principle of it. We said no. So, we were able to take that money that we did not spend on those buses in what would have been 2022, and put that down on the two new Gilligs that we took this summer. So, by the time. Now we have already ordered two more Gilligs that will be delivered to us in July of this year. But by the time we take possession of those, the two that I showed you in the pictures. Will all be all paid for. We were able to put $800,000 down. No. $500,000.

Karlee Thompson: Yeah. Between with the few buses that we were supposed to get, we had a loan set up ready to go, and then, so we had to make a payment last February. On what we thought were going to be those other three buses. So we've already, and we didn't change any of our loan information at all going to these new Gillig buses that we got just this past summer. So we made the first year payments for $170,000 and then we put down another 350 when we got the buses. And then the extra escrow. we got back. The crossed years, we paid for the buses in fiscal ‘23. We got the escrow back in ’24. But it was only a few week's difference. So, we put down. Yeah, roughly, just under 500.

Director Tracy Hulse: My advisor person, who confuses me, right? I will tell you also, though, that before we take possession of the two buses this coming July we will probably pay a double, or even a triple payment towards the existing ones. So, they will be all but paid for, you know, maybe with one additional payment or partial payment, to have them completely paid for before we even take possession. But we're driving with 2014 buses right now and they just don't hold up. So, we just really felt like we needed to at least two for two years in a row. Get two new full-size buses. Next year, I'm gonna focus on replacing our mini-buses because they're also 2014 or ‘15, and so they get to the point where they're not super reliable. We mostly use.? Well, we do a water lab route. I don't know if you guys know that. But we added that route this year, and so students that can get down from the water lab up to main campus, and we're not transporting a ton of people. But we're transporting a lot more than I thought. You know, 100 to 150 a week. That's not much. When you say, like the shuttles on campus are transporting close to a million people a year. But, it's still really benefiting that part of campus. So next year, we're gonna focus on replacing those two mini-buses. We do. We do those kinds of things. We do charters when a school wants to take 10, 14, or less people to some off-campus site for whatever it may be. We use those mini-buses a lot. So, there's that. I'm gonna talk a little bit about the shuttle fee. This is just the top. This is just the revenue from the Aggie Shuttle fees. We essentially get two payments per year from student fees, which total around close to $700,000. And so, What did we figure our dollar or two would add?

Karlee Thompson: It would have been on the last one.

Director Tracy Hulse: Oh it would have been on that sheet. On the last one?

Karlee Thompson: I think we go on the 30s.

Director Tracy Hulse: So, it'll take us. Take us from just shy of 700,000 to just shy of 800,000 with the $1 and 2 cent raise. So that's all that. I can provide a more detailed, entire sheet, budget sheet. It just wasn't fitting on the PowerPoint slide like they like to. Our shuttle expenses, you can see, we put a lot of money towards operating the buses. That goes to purchasing the buses as well as the yearly maintenance. Take a guess of the price of on one drive tire of bus cost. So, the front-steer tire of a bus costs.

Senator Pope: $60,000

Director Tracy Hulse: Sorry. No, that’s a little much. But you spend $100 to $150 for a vehicle tire. It’s a thousand for a front-drive tire. Yeah. If it was $60,000. We could not be in business, so let’s keep it a little lower than that. So, my main point to you all is that, we have a great system. We want to make it better for you. We want to have better equipment that you feel more comfortable in, that is more reliable for us. Costs us less money to fix every year lasts longer. CVTD has a bus right now, a Gillig**,** bus right now that’s been going almost 20 years. We figure with our Thomas buses that they’ll last right around 10 years before they’re absolute have to replace. We’re figuring with the amount of miles we put.

Senator Santini: You have 5 mins.

Director Tracy Hulse: Okay. With the amount of miles, we put on the bus just on campus that we’re gonna get closer to 20 years out of the bus, if need be. So, I think. It’s gonna take some time to get caught up, you know, to replace an aging fleet. But you know. I think that it’s very important that we have good quality and reliable vehicles. And so that’s really the bottom line. We’re spending a lot of money to run the program. And we want to have the best type of equipment that we can have for you. So, you have anything else you would like to add? Okay, Any questions?

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes, Alex.

Executive Director Garces: You talked a lot about. Oh Alex Garces, Diversity and Organizations Executive Director.

Director Tracy Hulse: Hi, Alex.

Executive Director Garces: You’ve talked a lot about reliability and replacing old buses. To me ten-year-old buses, aren’t that old. What is the life span? I do not know anything about buses. But what would the life span of the new buses be?

Director Tracy Hulse: So I think I just said it. But I think we're expecting to get at least double or close to double up from the Gillig than we are the Thomas buses. It would surprise you that even though when we have a Thomas bus that’s ten years old, its overall mileage, is not that great? Because we're driving. We're just doing circles around campus, right? It's not as if we're like CVTD, sending a bus all the way in Richmond or Preston, or whatever like that. But the wear and tear on them was starting and stopping, and lots of turns it's immense. And they just don't last. Yeah. Starting and stopping a vehicle is harder on them by far than straight driving of them.

VP Cinq-Mars: VP Smilanich.

VP Smilanich: Emily Smilanich, Logan VP.

Director Tracy Hulse: Hi, Emily.

VP Smilanich: As far as this increase does that include, like labor for the drivers as well? Or is this increase solely for the new buses?

Director Tracy Hulse: So, the only people we can pay from the student fees are our student drivers. We don’t pay our full-time people or mechanics or anything. So, like that 222,000. So, Right now, I have 41 part-time drivers tjhat are students. So it's part of that for them as well, but not for any full-time.

VP Smilanich: As far as the student drivers. What’s like your average starting wage for them?

Director Tracy Hulse: We start. We start the shuttle driver at [$13.50] an hour, which is the highest on-campus starting wage for a student, as far as I know. And then most of them within a year or two, are up past $15 an hour. Plus, we pay for their CDL. You can come to me tomorrow without your CDL. I will put you through the training, pay for all your testing, and then also give you a job. And one great thing with adding that Water Lab route is. We used to hire drivers and then it would, it takes about six weeks to get your CDL and have all your tests done. And we would get people would start, would get them started on the test. And then they were making no money for those six weeks because they couldn't drive a full-size shuttle, so they would find a different job. So, with driving the minibus on that Water lab route, we're able to allow somebody with just a regular Class D license. While they're training to get their CDL, they can drive that route and make some money. So yeah.

Karlee Thompson: And the reason it's [$13]. We do kind of have to compete with CVTD. To incentivize people, like, “Hey, we need someone to drive our bus.”

Director Tracy Hulse: Well they start at $20. Down there.

Karlee Thompson: So if we start at minimum wage, it wouldn’t cut it.

VP Cinq-Mars: Senator Winder.

Senator Winder: Jaxton Winder, College of Science Senator.

Director Tracy Hulse: Hi Jaxton.

Senator Winder: You mention this dollar or two increase would result in about $100,000 more for you. According to my math, with 18,000 students in two semesters is [$36,000]. What’s going on there?

Karlee Thompson: So we pay. We base it off of the 36 that’s up like on the sheet, that’s on different slide. But we do have ins and out from the previous semester.

VP Cinq-Mars: do you mind talking a little bit louder.

KarleeThompson: I am sorry, I am not a loud talker. We have ins and outs, so it's gonna be some people that we get in the fall. We're gonna be getting their stuff in the spring, and then they may quit, cancel classes, drop classes, whatever. And then people from spring will start getting a little bit in the summer, and then it will be back. So, we also do. That kind of goes off of like a rolling total, too, because most students’ fees don't want to have. We want to basically break even, but because these equipment, because these buses are a lot of money. We do kind of have to have a little bit of rolling total where we do take a few years off buy some buses drop it real big, and then we kind of start building that back up. So that's not each semester, every year. That’s kinda where we going to be for, like, our balance. If that makes sense.

VP Cinq-Mars: Senator Pope.

Senator Pope: Do you have. Sarah Pope. Do you have plans to offset the cost of the buses? Like selling the Thomas buses if you can? Or other means like that?

Director Tracy Hulse: We do. We surplus the old buses every year. The problem is that they are not really bringing in much money. Well, the most I’ve seen us get out of the Thomas bus when we sell it is $5,000. So, they’re just not. People at places are just not buying them.

VP Cinq-Mars: Senator Richmond

Senator Richmond: Chloe Richmond, CEHS Senator. I know you talked about th cost of repairing the Thomas buses versus repairing the Gillig buses, but I was just curious about that difference is in saving money and what the cost of repair is?

Director Tracy Hulse: That is a really great question. And I think it's something that maybe another year or 2, and we'll really have a better idea, since we've only had the gillig buses now for seven months. Really, they really only been running for five months on route. It's really kind of hard to say: how much savings we've had with repairing them compared to a Thomas. But I think once we get, you know, a year or two under our belt, I'll have a better answer for that. Unfortunately, I don't really have one for that. Now we've done very little to the new Gillig buses we had. We had one part that was bad from the factory that was replaced at essentially no cost other than our mechanic put it in because we didn't want to drive the bus back to San Francisco to have it. Right? You know what I'm saying. So there's been very little repair on them so far. That all I can give you there.

VP Cinq-Mars: Any other questions? Yeah, Ronan.

Ronan Spencer: Ronan Spencer, Student At-Large. So, with having more efficient buses. Would this mean the possibility of new routes being added to transportation routes?

Director Tracy Hulse: Yes, we look at our routes every year, and you know, and we have to change those. You know, due to the construction and all those kinds of things. I don't know if you guys know they're going to be reconfiguring 12 East this next year from 700 North to 10 North, and that's going to take a lot of route reconstruction. And you know, so we are always we have. We always have open doors and open ears to a better route. We had to change one last year because of some complaints of a neighborhood. We're always willing to do those things, but we have had the current routes that we have for a number of years, and they've proved to work, but we're certainly always willing to change. And we would add more routes. So I did not say this earlier, but two of our busiest routes, 800 East and, I think, North Court Express. I can't remember two of the busier routes that go along 800 East from 7 Am in the morning until noon; every day, we run two buses on each of those routes. Just because of the amount of students that ride it. So.

VP Cinq-Mars: Senator Omer did you have a question?

Senator Omer: Yeah just quickly. How many buses do you have in the flee.

Director Tracy Hulse: We have 12 full-size buses, one of them being a forward facing that we used for our, anytime we have to transport someone out on the freeway or something like that, rather than the side facing seats, and then two mini-buses. So, 12 full-size. Two mini.

VP Cinq-Mars: Any other questions? Yes, Senator Von-Neiderhausern.

Senator Von-Niederhausern: Bryce Von-Neiderhausern, business senator. I just have a question about sustainability in the coming years. And if you have any plans to switch to hybrid or electric buses?

Senator Santini: You do have one-minute left.

Director Tracy Hulse: Okay, so our buses are CNC. They do produce a much smaller carbon imprint than a diesel or something like that. Right now, the electric buses are more than double than what we are paying for the CNG. And then, one of the biggest costs would be the infrastructure to charge them. And things like that. It’s certainly something that we can look at in the future. It’s not something we’ve spent a lot of time looking at right now.

VP Cinq-Mars: Thank you so much!

Director Tracy Hulse: Thank you.

VP Cinq-Mars: Next we are going to have the Athletics Fee Presentation. Yeah, we are just going to have a discussion towards the end. Yeah, Tate. Just hold your thoughts for a second so we can get everyone in and out. Also there’s cake if anybody wants.

Executive Director Bennett: Okay.

Athletics Fee Presentation

VP of Athletics and Director of Athletics Diana Sabau: Hi everyone. How are you?

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, just a quick comment before you guys do get started. We do have 15 to 20 min allotted for you guys to present you present and we’ll do a Q&A at the end. If you do present for the full 15. We'll give you about 10 minutes for the Q&A. If you present for a full 20 min, we'll go to 25

Associate VP of Athletics and Deputy Director of Athletics Jerry Bovee: It really all depends if you can get out of here with only ten minutes of questions for athletics people.

Director Diana Sabau: Are we good to go?

VP Cinq-Mars: We are good!

VP Diana Sabau: I feel like. I am Diana Sabu, I am your new Athletics Director, and I feel like in my short four months I have met so many of you. Yet I see so many new faces around the table tonight. Thank you for this opportunity. It is really a clear privilege and an honor for Jerry and I to be here. Honestly, I think a lot of you may know Jerry Bovee, our deputy athletics director. So, we decided to tag team on this presentation to you this evening. And we are here tonight to ask you for a $5 fee increase for the department of athletics. We’ll go through that. But I want to guarantee you that this has been a project that we started working on back in October, November, and December to really strategically ad deliberately come up with ideas that would benefit our students of USU and help us maintain a level of excellence within our Athletics department. Are you ok? Just want to make sure we do not have to do hindlick Here.

Myra Lomax: I am good.

VP Diana Sabau: So we will get rocking with this presentation. We thought for tonight that we believe in the collective body that's here tonight. And we are so thankful for our students, because without our students, we would not be who we are. The history, the tradition, and the trajectory of Utah State athletics. So, being new to Utah State and Utah State athletics. We believe that we will, of course, win, right? But when I have Athletic Directors around the country from power five institutions and say, “Hey? We have 200 students at our game last night. How did you get so many?” “Hey, We sold 1,500 football tickets. How do you have so many students.” I take pride, in fact, that I inherited this tradition. This deep tradition of student support. So we're tremendously grateful for that. But I wanna really just emphasize to you how much that means to us moving forward. So, I wanted to share with you that our total ticket allotment right now is what we make available to you and your peers each year for each sport. Our plan is to continue to make that allotment available to you. We would like to see that allotment blown up and maximized and its biggest capacity. So, for football, our ticket allotment is just shy of just over 7,000 tickets, men's basketball, 3,421. And isn't that so great that last week the picture of the hurd of all of these students on the court after the Colorado State game was a CNN picture of the week. I don't know if you saw that last Saturday, but that's another source of tremendous pride, right? women's basketball, 3,421 seems we would love to see more students at women's basketball and help that team get across the threshold of winning some games. Obviously, gymnastics is also in the Spectrum. So that's same allotment. And then for volleyball or ticket allotment because of the Estes confines and the intimacy of our Estes Center 339 tickets we make available to students. And if you've ever participated, you know that every square inch of that space is utilized. Great news moving forward to this coming ‘24 fall season for volleyball. We will be moving and having a pilot program of three to five games in the Spectrum. Yeah, are you excited? We're really excited about that. So that gives us the opportunity to blow up that measly 339 and make that rob section of cheering fans and flags go to a much higher number of 3,421. Any questions with that? Oh, we are going to do questions at the end.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah no, you are good.

VP Diana Sabau: I just wanted to share with you. I thought it was really important to show you the business end of this. And so you understood the economy of scale that we're dealing with. So our total right here shows you. Over $11 million of tickets have been given to students over the last three years. This is an average at the lowest average price. So, we're not even considering if we were to take some tickets in the East End and make them premium or have them at a higher price point. This is an average at the lowest price point. So, imagine. conversely, what 11 million dollars could buy for That's why we need your help tonight. That's why we're asking for five more dollars. And I am going to hand the baton over to Jerry, and he's going to walk me through some of our initiatives.

Deputy Director Jerry Bovee: Okay. So when I came back to campus in 2019 we made the strategic decision at that point because some of the changes that were going on with the fee structure. Not to ask, I mean, you can count on from us. From Diana's professional experiences nationwide and at the highest levels of athletics, and mine is an Aggie. 30 years ago, I was once where you were. I was in the second of what we call the PLC at the time, right? Now, it's called ambassadors. I was in the second group, and I tell people it's really hard to get into it. But since I was in the second group. It was easier that I didn't have to do as much as you have to do today. I probably wouldn't get in. But it's been a part of my DNA as I went away and did other things. We came back to 2019, and made this decision to stay out of the way until it was the right time. And you feel like right now is the right time. We're at an inflection point in athletics. You're all following it. You know where we're at, where we have to grow. Some of the things that we've talked about and Linda knows as we talked about student experience. It's all that's a value proposition for us as Diana mentioned her peers around the country call, “how do we bottle what you have?” We want to grow our collaboration with the students, with the hurd, and with students in general. So, these are some of the things that we've discussed as a staff, and how we can up ante with the experience, higher quality giveaways. When I was here 30 years ago, I had two students win a $10,000 timeout because we were able to buy an insurance package. You remember that. One of them was a little controversial because he stepped on half court line, and we had to battle the insurance company to pay it. But we want to do more in this space. More technology-based experiences for the students of the game light up wristbands, air pods, TVs, our staff talking about better giveaways geared to students. Again, when I got back I met with our marketing team and said, “we have to spend more of our marketing dollars on our students, because if we get the student experience going, everything else gets better.” And you've noticed that over the last couple of years. I mean, it's obvious, right? Better or more raffle items and opportunities to engage with you as you come early, because sometimes it can be a little boring. So we're talking about. and I'll get down to that lower but quarterly leadership training. We want to offer the expertise of our coaches, our staff, and our athletics director to integrate with students on leadership-type opportunities. Our coaches speak around the country to groups and get paid occasionally to do that. And we need to offer that opportunity with student groups for specialty forms or whatever. We wanna be out there supporting you and your educational opportunity. So more leadership training, or opportunities to discuss. More integration between our student athletics and our student body, we've had a goal of this over the last few years. It's getting better. But our student-athletes cannot be on an island by themselves. and because I had such a good experience here, and I have such passion for Utah State. And we want them to have that same student experience and not be kind of tucked away in their own little in their own little silo. So, we want to do more events that includes students in that. Last year we put the deck in, we would like to see that more operationalized into opportunities for the colleges to have student activities at games. We've noticed with the Hurd; they want to go down. You all want to go down sit on the first couple of rows and not moved, keep your seats. Okay, but we can still offer opportunities on that deck for student experiences with the colleges. So, we want to get more intentional with that. Support for student activities. Tailgates that's been growing. Have they not, Tate?

Executive Director Bennett: Yes, sir.

Deputy Director Jerry Bovee: Tailgates have been getting better. the Midnight Yell and different things, and we are offering. We don’t wanna take those opportunities over from you, those are yours. But we wanna offer ourselves up, and we did that last year a little bit to enhance it we had the President there. Diana was there. We think, that can help enhance all those activities by lending our services more and collaborating with you. Campout opportunities. We talked about possibly doing some things in the Laub on the nights before football games. Certainly, in the Spectrum, if we can work that out, gotta deal with some legal issues, I'm sure. But that's not gonna stop us. We wanna find a way to, yes. So, more of that. We are in the process of the Hurd Hall of Fame. We want to be able to make a nice area in the Spectrum to honor that group. So, collaborating there and then. Community and student movie nights at Maverick Stadium. This takes some technology, which, you know, we're gonna grow that opportunity. But we ought to be doing more with the community in the stadium. In the past, When I got here, I heard nobody can be on turf, and we're like, “Why?” Diana was at Ohio State, and they had movie nights in the community. So, if they can do it over at Ohio state we need to be done it here. So those are just some things that we're looking at. I went backwards. Sorry. Going backwards again, alright. And then the last slide we have is enhance game production. One of the things we've noticed is because you're there so early. It could be a little boring once you get there right? So we wanna up the ante on, as I mentioned, ensured cash giveaways, flags, and branding at different events. We've talked about this getting the Hurd brand and the student brand bigger and all of our venues. Entertainment, using our technology as we grow our scoreboards, and our capabilities for videos, animation, games geared toward you and your experience. And this one's exciting a student pre-game show football and basketball. So when you get there early and your bored, we want to spend some time. And we have staff that have experience with this, the highest level of Power 5. Where we can do some on-field promotions just for students because you're there early, just waiting for a game to happen. So, more giveaways before the start of the game for those the in the group. And then, finally, that we mentioned the Hurd Hall of Fame. We want to be a part of that. Help grow that and make that as nice as the Athletic Hall of Fame, and it should be that. There's a heritage here with that, and it starts with you all, now. We want to be part of that with you.

VP Diana Sabau: So, one thing we just wanted to close with is that through my leadership, and how we are continuing to develop our Athletics Department and our student athletes. Every day, we talk about accountability, transparency, and communication. and what we want to deeply improve is with all of you across campus in your leadership roles which right now is probably tiring and stretches your, you know, your everyday, but is so valuable as you continue to build your portfolio and your resume. But we want to be able to be available to you. We want to have those conversations and have that communication and listen to you. We want to get your feedback. So, we can take that free game experience. And you say, you know, we wanna have this. We heard this school did this concert. How can we work together to get that done? It may have to be a semester away, but we want to have your feedback. We've heard things here and there, but collectively, through the years we haven't probably as an athletics department been as engaged, as we need to be with all of you. So we wanna have our student athletes have a bigger part in your daily circles in their daily circles. You know, at the end of January our SAC group is having an all-student dance glow in the dark with glow bands and glow t-shirts, and whatnot at the Estes. Because it wasn't just to be for student athletes it was to be for everyone. And we wanna start doing more of those types of activities. But we need to have that communication back from you. And that's going to be really critical as we continue to build this. And we are strategic with what we're asking you for and how we're asking them for it. So your feedback and your questions.

VP Cinq-Mars: Lets open it up. Yeah, Matt Ritchie.

Matt Ritchie: Matt Ritchie, Student At-Large. Speaking specifically to events like the community nights or the movie nights on the football field to offset, maybe, the student fee, have we looked at charging. And personally, and I recognize I might be speaking just for myself, I’d be willing to pay three or five bucks to go have a movie night on the field. And if that’s happened a few times a semester, I’d probably go a few times a semester and bring a friend or two. But have we looked at that too? Because my concern is that you know is that. You know, one of the bigger increases we’ve seen today, and some students would be, “Why are we putting so much money into athletics?”

VP Diana Sabau: So we thought through that, and our initial thought as a department is that our students are not used to having an admission fee, and we'd like to keep it that way. Traditionally, we want to show our appreciation. So our fees would be based on community members and family. We would have group rates and single rates, individual rates, but then we could also sell concessions to help us all collectively both the university and athletics to make up that cost difference. We don't expect to immediately have this be a revenue generating source, but more of a community fellowship point more of an opportunity for students of all disciplines to come together with our community, and then maybe after year, one or year two, and we get a pilot program under our belt. Then we could look at a different fee structure. But out of the gate we did not want to gouge our students.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah, Sarah.

Senator Pope: Um are you. Sorry. Sarah Pope Graduate Studies Senator. Are you hoping that this $5 increase will cover or offset that $ 11 million dollar of tickets?

VP Diana Sabau: So, we are hoping we know that it won't net out neutral, but we are hoping that by doing that we can keep allowing the maximum tickets available to our students. We do not ever want to diminish that, but we have to figure out how we can achieve a delta, or we can keep moving our student-athlete programs forward, the cost for flying, for flights, nutrition, you know. You know how it all is kind of like coming out of college athletics right now in this period of changing climate of constant term.

Senator Pope: I ask because on the really great things that you guys want to do for students, I didn't see any type of estimated costs. So, I just worry that the $5 increase maybe doesn’t have a fully thought out plan of how much these things cost and why exactly you're asking for $5.

Deputy Director Jerry Bovee: I think one thing I would say to that is, we haven't been here in front of this group in this capacity since, I think 2012 with a major ask. So, we're looking at greater collaboration. This is the business we're in activities. So, we have a good sense of what we could sustain there for cost. We're asking students again to invest in athletics. We're an inflection point right now, in where we're at. And so, as they were in 2012, and we soon got into the WACC right after that. Remember, we're in that space. I don't know that you want to tie everything we've given you today to a cost. And we're saying, the $5 is going to this. These are greater collaboration opportunities with students because we serve you, and I was at the front end of this whole experience. The first athletics Vice President was in 1986 that was being started, and that was the beginning of what became this experience for students. We want to continue to grow that because that's a value proposition for athletics, and athletics really is for the whole university. We all get better when we have a thriving, athletic program.

VP Diana Sabau: Sarah, what is your field of study?

Senator Pope: I am a PhD Student in Cognitive Psychology.

VP Diana Sabau: Oh Wow. You are much smarter than I am. I can clearly tell that. I appreciate your dedication in that super advance degree, Because I know that's a lot behind that. But what I want to ensure everyone at the table today is we're not gonna over promise and under deliver. We are going to make sure. And it's our responsibility. It's my responsibility leading this athletics department that we're going to have some gaps in funding, and that's why we have to go and fundraise. That's why we have. We have to pick up our legs and march a little bit stronger and run a little bit faster in our fundraising areas, because we're not going to put something on this presentation that we haven't already looked through estimated costs, looked at the economy of scale and doing it for our students. Now, the elevated discounts, we may not do all 3,400 tickets, but we may do the first 500 or the first 800. So, we have already thought through plans so that we can make sure that we are going to maintain the economics. We haven't asked for too much. We would be absolutely blessed if you all came back and said, “Yes, you could have that.” But we are expecting maybe there is some negotiation in this as well. We realize what that looks like.

Senator Santini: You do have 5 mins left by the way.

VP Cinq-Mars: Senator Omer.

Senator Omer: Nate Omer, Senator for Natural Resources College. With this, have there been any deficits that athletics is approaching that has spurred this increase on? or is this more anticipatory? And if you were not granted a $5 increase, would you expect to not be able to continue free admissions for students. Or is it kind of a make-or-break like we don't get this we can't continue to support like we would go into deficit. And we can't support this.

Deputy Director Jerry Bovee: Go ahead.

VP Diana Sabau: That’s a great question. We've talked through that a lot, our absolute. We are putting forward $5 because we believe that is the amount that can be achieved with at this time we do not want to go and start to have the conversations where we're looking at the reducing student tickets. That would be a tragedy in all of this. But as we keep advancing in college athletics, as everyone keeps talking about where conference expansion will go. Will Utah State be left behind and not be a participant because the Mountain West will be dispersed because some members can go to the Pac 12? We're trying to make sure that never happens to this athletics department and to this university because it is such a great source of pride. So, by asking for that $5, that helps us not only ensure the student-athlete experience, ensure the student experience, ensure that the community has something to come together for and be prideful for, but also helps us build our future. As you know, as students, everything is rising: the cost of living, the cost of travel, the cost of tuition, the cost, everything is rising. So, we're not trying to be too high during this point. We're just trying to be realistic with where we are as a collegiate enterprise.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah, Myra.

Myra Lomax: Myra Lomax, Student At-Large. What’s the current fee? The current Athletics fee? Like.

Senator Pope: I have it. It’s around $113.

Myra Lomax: A hundred and thirteen?

Senator Pope: Yes

Myra Lomax: So we are looking at $118

Deputy Director Jerry Bovee: Right, So we have benchmarked that against the Mountain West conference as well. We’re on the lower-end but you know that's a benchmark. We think we get a lot for the support we get like, I say, everyone's looking to. “How do we do what you do?” Right?

VP Diana Sabau: We have peers in the Mountain West that have 16 athletic programs that have a higher student fee. And so we don't want to be at the high-end. But we don't want to be in the extreme low-end. and since we have not had a ask since 2019, we thought this was the time to bring forward the appropriate measures to increase our investment in students and to help our athletics department thrive.

VP Cinq-Mars: Hi, I’m Aly Cinq-Mars, the Executive Vice President. With being over student fees this year. We've gotten a lot of complaints with students that don't attend athletics. You know games. And I'm afraid that lifting this, the price for the student fee at five more dollars will just continue to get backlash from students that don't attend games that don't think they should be paying for it already. How do you plan to defend kind of having that increase?

Deputy Director Jerry Bovee: I have an answer for that. Or you have an answer for that.

VP Diana Sabau: Oh no go ahead, I went first.

Deputy Director Jerry Bovee: My answer would be to look at those numbers we showed you. If you look at the percentage of students that are participating in athletics at all the levels with what our enrollment is on campus here, I would bet. We don't bet in athletics. I would guess that we're maybe as high of total percentage participation as any of the other groups on campus, which we take a lot of pride in. But those numbers reflect actual bodies in seats. So my defense to the students that say, “Hey, we don't participate. Why, why are we here?” Well, we have a higher participation of students for the fee that you give compared to our peers in the conference, and maybe any other school.

VP Diana Sabau: I’ll just add to that really quickly.

Senator Sanitini: You have one-minute left.

VP Diana Sabau: Okay. Every time our school, our team, participate in a postseason tournament, in an NCAA tournament, in a bowl game. Enrollment goes up in the university. So, athletics benefits the entire university. There's people who are going to say, “why should I pay for busing?” “Why should pay for transportation?” “Why should I pay for legal services?” “Why should I pay the health services?” It's a chronic problem within higher education. But we hope that you can all see the greater good in college athletics.

VP Cinq-Mars: Awesome! Thank you so much! Okay, perfect. Next, we're going to go ahead and go to the Career Service center. New fee presentation

VP Diana Sabau: Thank you for your time! We really appreciate it.

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, perfect. Next, we're going to go ahead and go to the Career Service Center. New fee presentation

**Career Design Center New Fee Presentation**

VP Cinq-Mars: And then just a heads up. We are giving 15 to 20 min for the presentation, depending on how much time you take to determine whether or not you get 5 or 10 min of Q&A at the end. And then Isabelle, here, will give you both a warning when there's 5 min left, and when there's 1 min left.

Career Design Center Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Thank you. All right, so I will talk fast. Hopefully we’ll focus more on questions than we do on me talking. So real fast, I am Kevin Schwemmin. I’m the executive director in the Career Design Center. I’ve been at USU since November of 2021. Came in to a year and a half-ish into a major transformation on how USU is delivering career education to students. We shifted from a model of if you build it, they will come. and really kind of are trying to infuse ourselves into the student experience a little bit more directly. Talk a little bit more about the “If you build it, they will come.” Model, but it doesn’t work. So, mission and vision you can read these yourselves. I think that the most important word in both of these is “all” or “every” in the vision. So like I said that “If you build it, they will come” model. We were serving about 10% of students a few years ago. On top of the 10%, which is, you know, crazy low,Right? When we dug into those numbers, we realized that the 10% of the students that were utilizing the Career Services Office before we changed the name, they were actually students who were more likely to succeed and least likely actually to need our services. So, this where we actually did the work of flipping the model and getting ourselves directly in front of students rather than waiting for them to come to us. But it is our goal to engage every student in career education. whether that's directly through a career coaching appointment, accessing our resources online, taking a course, talking to a faculty member about their career plans, and all sorts of different ways to engage students. But the idea is that every student deserves to graduate with a career plan in hand. So why? Why am I standing here with you guys? Right? Why is this important right now? I think you can ask yourselves, “Why you came to college?” But if you look at some of the was out in the press. And additionally, some research that we've done with alumni from USU. Students have an expectation that their college degree is going to lead to something. whether that's graduate school or directly into a career. But their expectation is that their education is going to directly influence that, and will, frankly, have a high return on their investment. So last two years we participated in a survey through the Career Leadership Collective and now actually through Light Cast, is called the National Alumni Mobility Survey and the Survey target alumni from five and ten years out. So last year we surveyed alumni from 2012 and 2017. This past fall, we survey alumni from 2013 and 2018. One of the questions on that survey asks, Why did you seek your degree? And they were able to choose three. But the top three, and actually they flip a little bit in the order, so these are not in order, to be the 2 years of the survey. But career success, intellectual development, and financial gain were the top 3 of both survey years. And what this tells us is that students are here for both learning, intellectual development, but they're also looking at ROI. What is it? Gonna what's gonna bring them once they graduate. an article in Washington, both in November. Families are asking institutions now, not just the students, but parents and families are asking. “How are you going to guarantee that my student has a job when they graduate?” Guarantees are hard, and lots of factors into why a student will or will not get a job. But that's top of mind. They're asking questions like this. And then another recent article inside Higher Ed. Students expect experiential learning in their program. So, internships, undergraduate research service, learning all sorts of different kinds of experiential. But they expect that. And then another recent article from EAB, looked at Gen. P. And they're calling Gen. P. The students, the current high school students, who went through COVID and are up are getting ready to apply for college. Things that they're looking at in terms of value. “What represents value in higher education?” A lot of them are saying; “college isn't worth it because it doesn't provide enough value.” So, they're actually skipping out on college. The students who are looking at college value work experience, job placement, and career outcomes. So, this chart over here, on the right, the three of the top five. Was it the three of the top five? Yeah, three of the top five are career related outcomes. That's what they're looking for. So, these are really important top of mind and topics for students who are coming into USU and any other institutions. So back to that alumni survey, part of what came out of that research is, they identified a set of high impact career practices that have an outsized effect on alumni career mobility. Fice and ten years after graduation. Students who participated in these things or soon as you say that their institution supported these things do better in their career five and ten years after graduation. The numbers over on the right are the alumni who report that USU, they either agreed or strongly agreed with that practice. I think what's missing from here is comparison to the national numbers. They're not terribly different. A few of them are a little lower. What scares me is, ”USU to help me with network with employers and USU you helped me plan for my career.” Very low numbers, even if they compare Favorably to the national numbers. Higher Ed is not doing a good job of this. Okay. The problem what is the issue here? Historically, USU has not kept pace, in terms of supporting career development for students. And I say, USU, because that's why we're here talking about it. This is not necessarily a problem limited to USU, but this is a challenge in the career services field. I think one of the challenges is that when Career Services department is hiding in Student Affairs where really the priority is mental health and student well-being and the fact that a Career Services Center can bring in its own revenue through career fairs. It's easy to say they're doing okay. But we're really not. The Career Design Center staff, we have eight full-time staff, one three-quarter-time staff, and a part-time administrative assistant. Serving 21,000 undergraduate students. We're gonna talk a little bit about that number in a minute. But this is the scary number, our students to advisor ratio is 3,892 to one. This excludes huntsman school of business undergraduates because they have their own career center. This is a scary high number of students to advisors. We have five advisors of our staff. Two of them are actually assistant directors with additional responsibilities, so they are not 100% advising. On top of that, when you look at across the institution, their inequities in access to experiential learning, an access to career design for education based on colleges. So, students who are in certain colleges have more access than other students. Benchmarking, I am not going through all of these numbers, I think what you’ll see is. So this looking at undergraduate enrollment compared to total professional staff. So, that is why this ratio is different to the one on the last slide. So, this is compared to our total staff. And the undergrad enrollment in USU. I took out the Hunstman undergrad enrollement from that, so that’s why the numbers don’t necessarily match to our enrollment numbers. But when you look at the USHE Universities. We are second from the bottom. Southern Utah is doing better. But Southern Utah, their President, has committed to fixing this. And they’re actually putting in a legislative request for several million dollars to support career development at Southern Utah. When you compare us to R1 institutions in the western US. And land grant institutions in the Western US. We are not doing so great. And then the office of AAA, I can never remember what AAA stands for. Institutional research. We have a set of peer intuitions that they look at, again we are not doing so great. In terms of how USU is supporting career education. On the budget stand point. National Association of Colleges and Employers does a benchmark survey every year. And when you look at USU compared to R1 and R2 institutions, and I chose both because we just transitioned in to R1. So, we’ve kind of living in that fuzzy land. We're doing okay against R2 institutions. We are not keeping pace with R1 institutions. the first. Several lines really don't take into account differences in enrollment. The bottom line here, though. Actually, second to the bottom. I'm sorry. the budget per student, we are not doing well in terms of how we're supporting career education for USU students compared to our R1 and R2. From comparison institutions. We're really falling behind here. Last spring, we contracted with the Career Leadership Collective to complete a landscape analysis of career education at USU. They met with over 75 students, staff, faculty, and employers in over 2 day span. Overall,their feedback was really positive. We have a really good atmosphere. We have a lot of great support for career education. We just are missing the resources. They provided us a 43 page report, which I included with the packet. So, everyone should have access to that, you can read their full-set of recommendations. But their top three priorities. First, one is developing a set of career learning outcomes and rolling that out across the institution. We are well into that process. We've been working with a group of a working group of representation from all the colleges, students, several of other units. We've got a set of five career learning outcomes. We are now figuring out how to map those across the student experience. So that work is happening. The second priority is securing funding, investing in appropriate staffing to achieve new priorities. We are at the point in the Career Design Center with our 8.75 fte that we cannot add new initiatives without further support. We can't continue to grow career education at USU based on our current staffing. And then the third priority is further developing the Career Design Champions Program. This is faculty and staff who have said, “I'm committed to career efforts to career education. I want to be involved. Help me do that.” So we've started throw rolling out that program last year. We've got a 130-ish Career Design Champions across the institution right now. So we're continuing to to grow that program, to provide more resources to faculty and staff, who are interested in career education where. From the report staffing wise, they recommend that we increase from 8.75 FTE to 21 FTE. That tells you how far, how far behind you are. Right now. part of this, we have one staff member who is responsible for employer relations for the entire university. One. It is literally impossible for that person to build meaningful relationships with employers across the entire spectrum of degrees that we offer at USU. There is absolutely no way that she could do that, as one person. Within that, the recommendation is that we grow from, we currently have three career designed specialists and two assistant directors, who have relationships with the colleges and provide resources to faculty staff, and do Student appointments based on those colleges. The recommendation is actually to add five new, so that we can have representation at the Career design specialist level rather than assistant directors, as well for each college. Plus based on college size a couple of extras. CHASS is a fairly large college, right? So not having on career design specialist in that role. Additional employer relations positions, and then additional operations positions; assessment, experiential learning and just operations, marketing. These are positions we don't have right now. we can't support those roles right now. Because we are so understaff. So what's the proposal? Big ask. I'm not going to lie. This is a big ask. The proposal is to establish a new Career Design Fee for every student. Undergraduate and graduate. We currently do not support graduate students.

Senator Santini: You have one minute left.

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Ok I will talk really fast.

Senator Santini: Oh. You have five minutes left. I am so sorry.

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: The idea is; $22 per semester for every student. Roughly $1.2 million per year, based on 28,000 students. That does not account for summer enrollment. With this it would be creating 12 new positions based on the recommendation from the Career Leadership Collective. Four positions would be reclassified to a higher-level to support the structure of the office. Three positions, we would need to do some salary matching based on current market needs and what we would need to hire in new career design specialists at. Then additional operations and programming funding, so that we can actually do some stuff and actually get out and have some new resources. There are some additional tools from third party vendors that we’re interested in bring in. Unfortunately, we don’t have the money to do that. So, as a reference going back to our budget, our current state funding E&G budget is $7,500 for operation. Our phone bill for the department is $6,000. Our copy machine costs us $4,000 a year. I've already out spent that budget. Our handshake contract, for managing all student on campus job opportunities, and for employers to recruit students is $8,500. Just that contract alone exceeds our E&G allocation. So, the programming and operations funding will support those things. What's that going to do? What is $1.2 million going to bring as a benefit to USU students. Expand the integration. We'd be able to be working more directly with more faculty, you'll be able to do more outreach. We'd be able to do more work with student organizations. We would be able to do a whole lot more in terms of getting across the entire student experience. We'll be able to develop more asynchronous resources. Students don't need to see us eight to five, they can access resources 24/7. Expanded access to high impact career practices. So, thinking back to those practices that have an outsize effect on career mobility, five and ten years after graduation. Internships, networking, career planning. Again, we only have one staff member who can develop employer relations. In order to do these things. we need to have support, to be able to get out and pound the pavement and find more employers to be on campus. Increase appointment availability. So, looking at student appointments with Career design specialists we are shifting a little bit away from that model, especially on the lower level appointments. So like resume reviews, interview tips those kinds of things. But there's still a need for students to be able to meet with a Career design specialist, especially with the career exploration piece. And this is where we really want to be able to focus more because those are bigger conversations that need to stretch over multiple appointments. And again, we have a limited capacity and then finally expanded access to high quality employers. As a reference, we have the STEM Career Fair coming up next week. We currently have 48 employers registered. A couple weeks ago we were looking at what the U-of-U has registered. They have 75 employers. Why, would you ask? “Is the you really offering that much more than Utah state?” Or is it because you the U-of-U has 10 external outreach staff members. So, they're actually able to contact more employers. Okay Questions.

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, we are going to open it up for questions for a bit. I have two for you. One is, How much money are you getting from career fairs? Like what is the total revenue that your getting from that?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: About a $170,000 a year.

VP Cinq-Mars: And is this $22 going specifically towards paying salary of the new people you want to bring in?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Mostly Yes.

VP Cinq-Mars: Lets go with Senator Santini first.

Senator Santini: Where are you going to put these new people? It doesn't seem like you have enough space in your current office. Where are they going to go?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: That's a problem. That's a problem, I want to have. So part of that. So when we look at the Career Design specialists, the idea is that they would be aligned with colleges right? Natural place for them, maybe to actually be physically located within the colleges. So, working with the colleges to identify staff space for staff, to be able to be more closely aligned with the students. We can also be looking at. So especially with employee relations, they'd be doing a lot of out of the office work. We could be having shared space where they're doing remote work versus in-person work. So, getting creative. But yes, that is a problem I want to have. And that's a problem we can figure out

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, Next question. We will go around the circle. So Jaxton. Don’t forget to state your name.

Senator Winder: I have two quick questions. My name is Jaxton Winder and I am the College of Science Senator. First one is, in the pamphlet that you guys sent out earlier, the recommendation was a $75 fee increase split up in to three $25 fee increase over thirty years. Is that the current plan?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: I do not remember putting that in there.

Senator Winder: It was in the 43 page recommendation.

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Oh, that was from the Career Leadership. Collective. That is their recommendation, not necessarily what we are bringing to the table. That is coming from the consultants.

Senator Winder: Thank you for that clarification. And then my other questions, is have you looked in to State funding? Like SUU is currently doing.

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: My current understanding and maybe Janice can correct me. Where I don’t want to talk out of turn a little bit as well. It sounds like, at least in the current legislative cycle. The bigger concern is funding for graduate programming. We have other issues in terms of supporting graduate students. So, it sounds like that’s the bigger priority going in that direction.

Senator Winder: Thank you!

VP Cinq-Mars: Matt Ritchie

Matt Ritchie: Matt Ritchie Student At-large. Is it possible to break up that $22 into like what's proposed, phased approach? Have a $5 here over the next few years and increase that. Is that like a feasible way.

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Anything is on the table. Honestly because we are so up against the eight ball with this. You know, I put together, the full blown. Let's go for the gusto, so ask, you know ask big. We can work our way backwards if we have to. I think that eventually we really need to be thinking at this level and fairly short-term. But yes. I am fully open to looking at as well.

VP Cinq-Mars: Senator Hastings.

Senator Hastings: Collin Hastings, Humanities and Social Sciences Senator. So, when you were saying you're expected to bring in about $1.2 million of revenue. You said that that was based on 28,000 students. So are you planning on charging this to statewide too?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Yes. So, the Career Design Center does currently serve statewide students. We have. That is an area that has been a little less well-supported in the past. One of the things that we've done in the last year and a half is, we were able to work with statewide to transform a position that was serving the Wasatch region into an assisted director level that is supporting all of statewide campuses. That position is housed in statewide. But yes, it would be for all students, and they have access to the Career design specialists, in Logan through virtual appointments. They have access to all the resources that we provide. We work with faculty, regardless of which location to their in. So yes, it would be a USU wide fee.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes, Sarah.

Senator Pope: Sarah Pope, the Graduate Studies Senator. When was the last time that you asked for an increase in E&G funding?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Every year, for the least as long as I have been here.

Senator Pope: Okay, so you haven't obviously been able to ask with the new President. Have you been able to sit down and talk to her about her priorities for this? Because I have a lot of concern with students paying Staff. Staff Salaries. And I feel that salary money should come from somewhere else. I think that a career fee is a great idea. But I don’t know how I feel, particularly as a graduate student, whom I’m already not being served. How I would feel paying for, how many new positions, 10 or 11 new positions.

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: 12.

Senator Pope: 12. So what do those increasing in E&G funds look like for you for those asks?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: So, this past year we actually did was sort of got money. Like it was replacing money for a money we actually lost because of a compliance issue with work study. We were getting funding for our student employment coordinator through the work setting program. But because of it, it was not actually a compliance issue that has happened yet. Those concerns about what would happen during an audit. With that work study funding.

Senator Santini: You do have one minute.

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Okay, living outside of financial aid. So we actually got replacement money so that they could take that funding back. But it was really a compliance issue. More about we could potentially lose 4 million dollars for the cost. Yeah, I'm open to anything. Honestly, this is, I want to bring this. This is an issue that needs to be brought forward. Where the funding ultimately comes from how we end up figuring it out. I'm open to all sorts of opportunities and solutions. And I understand asking students to foot a $22 a semester fee is a lot, right> but I think they will get a return on that investment.

VP Cinq-Mars: Ronan.

Ronan Spencer: Ronan Spencer, Student At-Large. So what is the typical appointment at the Career Design Center look like? And how will this be improved with this fee?

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: So appointments probably won't the conflict. The appointment structure probably won't change too much, we'll just be able to do more. And it depends on the appointment. So students can have appointments to talk about the job search process. They can have appointments, to talk about for career exploration. Figuring out a major. It spreads across the entire spectrum of things that they can talk about. They're currently structured to 30 minutes. And then, with the idea of they can come back for additional appointments as needed.

VP Cinq-Mars: And that is time. So, Thank you!

Executive Director Kevin Schwemmin: Alright: Thank you!

**Parking and Transportation Fee Increase Discussion**

VP Cinq-Mars:Okay, let's go ahead and open it up for discussion for the Parking and Transportation Fee, real quick. We'll kind of go through the last three that we haven't been able to go through and kind of discuss what are thoughts are. Anybody have anything to say about the Parking and Transportation? Yeah, Fran.

Senator Simpson: I think there is a benefit for general accessibility for students, especially safety concerns. Thats something that was not exciting to me, but just especially given climate. We live in winter time that can be dangerous and I am a commercial driver. I’ve driven busses before and just from a safety concern, and especially accessibility for those with like visible disabilities, wheel chairs and things like that. That is something that's important to me. And I think that is enough reason for me. Honestly. So, yeah.

VP Cinq-Mars: Colin.

Senator Hastings: Colin Hastings, Humanities and Social Science Senator. Talking about disabilities. I know this building parking passes are really expensive. There's really not that many spots on campus for them. So, I think making it easier to be able to use the shuttle system would be really great for accessibility. I think it is worth the $1 a semester increase:

VP Cinq-Mars: Chloe.

Senator Richmond: I just think that the amount of like what we can get for a $1.02 increase seems pretty big with replacing and getting more reliable buses, for really such a small ask for students.

Especially where he says that almost a million students are being transported throughout the year. That's a ton of transportation back and forth. And so, I just think that they haven't asked for increase in so many years. I think it was like since 2014. Yeah. So, 10 years. and they're only asking $1.02. So, I think it's awesome.

VP Cinq-Mars: Nate

Senator Omer: I fail to ask follow questions on the line of about how many buses are in their fleet, but just assuming they plan on replacing all buses monthly, and they've only replaced two so far. I want to echo Senator Richmond’s point that this isn’t a lot of benefit from a very small cost.

VP Cinq-Mars: I agree. Sarah.

Senator Pope: I also feel comfortable that they have a plan to get more buses like, “We're gonna do two more. And then we're gonna focus on our small buses, and then we'll probably take time, and then we'll start looking for new buses.” And it just makes me feel secure that like they, as a department, are able to manage their money in an effective way. That, I think, is important for students.

Paige Blair: I just had a question. Was there ever a timeline mentioned when they are hoping to get all the buses replaced by?

VP Cinq-Mars: I do not think we got to that question. So probably not, probably depends on the budget they have.

Senator Richmond: Just because I sat on that fee board. We asked this question when we had the meeting with them. And he said. If there’s not really a timeline by the time we replace all of them, those older ones will have to start to be kind of replaced. So, it’s gonna be an ongoing thing for just the foreseeable future. It’s just gonna be how it is. Rolling new buses in and old buses out kind of thing.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah, Tate.

Executive Director Bennett: Accessibility is a huge reason for improving the fee. For those who don't know I have physical disability myself, so I pay for the disabled parking pass. My thought is that, if I am going to increase student fees for parking and transportation. I rather it go to parking than buses. The disable parking passes are expensive. For a necessity for people with physical disabilities. There's a sense of independence that comes from being able to transport myself instead of relying on public transportation. And the reality of it is that for me to take the buses, the easiest place to go is to park on campus near to bus stop. Which, is why I need the disable parking pass. Whether I use it for a spot near my class or near a bus stop and then hop on the bus. So an increase in student fees for accessibility. If that's our point in raising the fee for the buses is far better spent on increasing, parking, or decreasing parking pass prices for those who need the ADA pass. Then the buses. In my opinion.

Interim VP Dr. Eric Olsen: Tate, how much does it cost? I am just curious.

Executive Director Bennett: The pass cost $20 a month.

Interim VP Dr. Eric Olsen: The pass cost $20 a month?

Executive Director Bennett: Yes.

VP Cinq-Mars: Do you know on average how much parking spaces there are for students with disabilities? Like, where do you particularly park?

Executive Director Bennett: Well it depends. The place I park the most frequently is, whatever the lot is next to the TSC that used to be gated. That is a tough one, now that its monitored 24 hours a day or the central lot and the lot at Maverick Stadium are the lots that students with disabilities use.

VP Cinq-Mars: So the lot by the TSC, are you paying the hourly rate on top of your ADA pass?

Executive Director Bennett: Yeah I don’t. I get ticketed occasionally because it’s a lot cheaper to pay the $25 fine, then to pay $10 a day.

VP Cinq-Mars: Matt Ritchie, I think is next.

Matt Ritchie: I mean speaking to Tate’s point. I think obviously, we need to be making the efforts for accessibility. But I think in terms of this, the purpose of this increase in the fee accessibility is a portion of what we're looking at. We're also looking at more effective buses, safer buses for all students. longer lasting buses. And it's it's just a good investment. So I think. Well, obviously, that's still something that we need to be looking at. It's just a piece of the whole pie of the we are looking at for this fee increase.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes, Sarah.

Senator Pope: I also respectfully disagree with Director Bennett. I feel like having a car is a privilege. And because so many of our undergraduate students live on campus and don't have vehicles, they wouldn't really benefit from an increase in parking. And I think another issue with that is that, where we already have a parking problem because we're running out of space. And so, I don't know. I don't know. If, like increasing ADA parking spaces would have the same benefit as the buses.

VP Cinq-Mars: We will take one more comment. Jaxton after Tate.

Executive Director Bennett: Can I respond to that. Yeah my point was more about the conversation before I spoke was increasing accessibility. And if that was going to be our reason for increasing the fee then that is not the way to go. But if we’re to increase the fee for the bus. I think that’s fine. It’s just the ADA. There’s better options at ADA Compliance if that is our goal.

Senator Pope: I appreciate and agree.

VP Cinq-Mars: Jaxton.

Senator Winder: Jaxton Winder, College of Science Senator. To my understanding, I don't believe the student fees can technically go to the same pool of money that goes to basically cover the parking passes. Parking passes when they sell those it goes to kind of offset the other parking and transportation costs, such as the buses. So, by increasing the fee for the buses that would kind of reduce the need for parking and transportation to increase the fees for parking spots. So, in a way, funding this does kind of reduce the cost for a parking pass.

VP Cinq-Mars: perfect. And then, just before we close the discussion, I think we can all agree that we're support of this. Yes. Lets close that discussion and open it for the Athletics $5 increase.

**Athletic Fee Increase Discussion:**

VP Cinq-Mars: okay, let's close that discussion and open up the athletics fee for the $5 increase. So it'd be going from $113 to $118. Yeah, Fran.

Senator Simpson: Fran Simpson, Caine College of the Arts Senator. I just appreciated Sarah had to say and the question she asked. Just based on this fee increase, where the money would be spent. I recognize Diana’s response that it is investment into Athletics generally. I kinda wish there was more and it was lacking a little bit of just. Like the enthusiasm was there. And I felt like, Yeah, go Aggies. But I was like, Okay, but I want to see a little organization, perhaps. And where that $5 really would be spent. That is was my only thing like that. So.

Ronan Spencer: Me, Ronan Spencer, Student At-large. I kind of agree, I think, that the presentation was really good, and there was enthusiasm, but I didn't see literally any general benefit, and increasing the fee, and that might be a bit controversial, but I think some students don't use Athletics fee as much as like other students do. So I think in increasing it is kind of perpetuating a negative kind of view against athletics which they are already kind of battling with from last previous years. And so, I think that it's a bit iffy to already kind of increase the fee, especially when they say, bridging the gap between student athletes and the student population in general. But they did not say how. That was something that I was interested in, and they acknowledged that student athletes are kind of on island didn't really go further into that. And so I'm curious exactly where the money will be going, cause it kind of just felt like it was just going towards making athletics better. But athletics are already really good. So it's what, exactly, are we approving?

VP Cinq-Mars: Nate.

Senator Omer: Nate Omer, Natural Resources Senator. I would just like to point out everybody that came to us today, minus athletics, presented a clear deficit as their reason for the fee increase. and that makes sense, you know, if you're gonna ask students to pay more on top of tuition, it better be for a good reason. And that reason for all of them was, “we can't continue to operate in this way.” This isn't to say they don't have a clear deficit, but they didn't present to me when I asked them a clear deficit. So I also have concern in the fact that I think three of the points that they presented in ways that they could use the fee were for kind of like random raffles and giveaways rather than a really targeted improvement in the overall you know, institution experience for a student.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes, Alex.

Executive Director Garces: As far as the Athletics fee increase, Yeah they didn’t propose anything concrete or anything specific. But I am confident it is both of their abilities to use that money in a positive manner. Especially, that the fee hasn’t gone up in so long. Especially they haven’t ask for anything like this. I am confident in that they have things in place that they'll be willing to use the money, for I think it will offset a lot of like operations and stuff that the Hurd has to do. And I can improve just marketing and ability to expand that image. Yeah, people don’t go to all the football games but people go to a lot more football games than other events, and that students fees. Student fees covers the ARC. Student fees covers events. And we are not complaining that students have to cover those fees. We just pay those fee. It is the same with Athletics, it is just how the whole thing works. I am confident the money will go in a good direction and cover things that are needed. We are a point with Athletics where things are expanding and we are growing. And especially conference realignment and potentially being in the PAC-12 or sort of conference like that. The other positive implications to becoming in a different conference is being grouped with other elite conferences. It only betters the university or institution itself.

VP Cinq-Mars: Chloe.

Senator Richmond: Ditto. Just ignore me. I am done.

VP Cinq-Mars: There’s a list we have written down. So everybody with their hands up, we have you. We just have to go down the list. And after Xander that will be our last question. Is that all you have to say, Chloe? Ok, Matt:

Matt Ritchie: Matt Ritchie, Student At-Large. I want to begin by saying they did make it very difficult to want to give them any money. Especially when they refer to charging small entrance-fees to events that would feel more to athletics, students as gouging students? But I still believe, as the supporter of USU athletics. I do believe that, generally speaking, this would be at least partially like I don’t know how to best say it. So I think $5 is the big thing I'm all for smaller increases over a long time. As a lot of my questions have kind of indicated, but I think that giving them a student fee increase would be a good interest just with the especially recent increase of USU elite sports.

VP Cinq-Mars: Colin.

Senator Hasting: Colin Hasting, Humanities and Social Sciences Senator. Anyone feel free to correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm under the impression that athletics at USU brings in a ton of money, and they make a lot of money off of Athletics. So it just, I'm not either for or against the increase. But having that impression that does make money. I feel like it's kind of , I don't know, they should be looking other places first before asking students to increase there.

VP Cinq-Mars: Sarah.

Senator Pope: I think, going kind of off of what Colin said, and even kind of what Nate said about like the optics of it. I feel like we're already planning to increase two student fees, right? The ARC building and probably the buses. And I don't know how students would feel about multiple. Like all of these students happening at one time. I would like to encourage them to go back to the drawing board, come back next year with a more specific ask of where that money is going to go. So students can confidently, not just believe, right? We know that there is a plan in a purpose for those monies.

VP Cinq-Mars: Isabelle.

Senator Santini: I think athletics are great, and they have such a great community at Utah State. But I do think that there is a chunk of students that have never been to any sporting event and that is not the reason why they came to college. And I think it is a very high fee, it's already over 100 so increasing that I feel like it would increase the anger of students that are already not attending these events. And almost create more of an opposition for that great atmosphere, they have a game. When tone of their student body is not in support of tit and doesn’t want to pay it.

VP Cinq-Mars: Bryce.

Senator Von-Neiderhausern: The thing I was going to say that there is a direct correlation with between athletic performance and enrollment at Utah State, and I don't know how many years in a row, but the decrease in enrollment. And I think it was really important, what Colin said, about where they're getting their money matters, which is true. but I think the underlying thing is that we could be a power five school. Is that correct? Right? Joining the PAC-12. Well, that will have a very large, direct impact on our enrollment. I think that's the whole point. I just don't think they necessarily said that because it's kind of hard to argue that. If that makes sense.

VP Cinq-Mars: We will go Tate then Xander. I will address few of the concerns. Bryce is absolutely right. Enrollment is directly affected by Athletics’ success. Enrollment is also the issue it may product. That's why so many of the other programs are in a deficit is because of decreased enrollment. So, improve athletics. Those deficits go away. That is really the reality of the situation. That is how we like really publicize ourselves by competing in in D1 athletics at high level. Colin brought up that athletics, makes a lot of money so they should look at elsewhere. The truth is that a lot of money goes through their hands. They spend a lot of money. They have a lot of money come in. They do not profit a lot, so they do not make much money at all. and the goal of this student fees increase is not to make money. It's to improve the student experience at Utah State. The better experience the students have, the more likely they are to donate to the university after they graduate. So that's a part of it as well. Alex, you brought something up. It was a good point. What did you say?

Senator Pope: He said, that he trust them, that they will use the money wisely.

Executive director Bennett: Was there something else to it. Well, okay. you brought up did the money will be spent. Well, I agree. I think the big point here is that and increase in student fees to athletics is how we fix the deficits. Oh, someone brought up that a lot of students don't go to sporting events. The same is true for transportation. There's a chunk of students that doesn't use the buses. There's a chunk of students that doesn't use the ARC. It's just gonna be the case and yet still at Athletics is where the most gross number of students goes. So it is still the greatest attended. Use of auxiliary, I guess of the University so it still has the greatest direct effect on the student population. That is my point.

VP Cinq-Mars: Xander

Xander Hayden: I am just quickly second, Tate. In the fact that the enrollment of the university will increase through the success of this season alone. I believe. We have seen it in the past before. This will inherently help the fees we are giving to other departments. As well as my own personal experience is the enjoyment of student events as a whole comes with tandem of enjoying student events first enjoying athletic events as well, and with the declining since COVID. I've seen much worse student experiences here compared to my first semester in 2017. And so I want to capitalize on momentum we seen as well as making the right move within a changing national athletic conference.

VP Cinq-Mars: We will go with Eric Olsen, then close the discussion and move on to the next one.

Interim VP Dr. Eric Olsen: I hesitate to speak too much because I don't want to bias people. Linda and I've been here a long time. We've seen a lot of. We've seen this before. Enrollment is much more complex than just having a winning athletic team. However, every school that wins a National championship will see or does very well. They'll see, an increase in enrollment but also our biggest challenge in enrollment right now is not being able to compete with other schools in scholarships that are offered. That being said, we USU is really unusual in that, students can get into any athletic event with their ID card. A lot of schools, big power, 5 schools you. If you're enrolled there, you may enter a lottery system, and then, if you are selected in lottery, you may pay $75 for a ticket to go to a game. I get really nervous when I start hearing them talk about having to decrease the number of tickets to students. I would challenge them a little bit that they could replace all the student seats with community people, because: again, that's they could maybe increase it some. I would have appreciated like I've heard some specifics. And TateI wish I don't know. I mean I it's an opportunity. We've still got a week the committee that works with Athletics could reach out. But I don't, I mean I'd like to hear from you those of you that go to the game. Do you get excited by the baby crawl, or and the T-shirts that are shot out of a cannon that have ARS restoration, and you get it and go, “This is ugly. I'll never wear it.” or, you know, is there an opportunity to say, “Okay, well, if you're gonna give a T-shirt away at a game. It's got to have U-State on it.” You could put your logo somewhere, but I don't know, Tate, that they've ever asked you, as in your position. What do the students want to see? They talk about, we wanna enhance the experience. But are they asking any of you. What would you like to see at a game? What would enhance it for you? Did anything they talk about tonight, get you excited to go to a game? or are there other things they could do? So I think that would be helpful for them. And I mean, again more giveaways of cheap water bottles or t-shirt. That's ugly that you're not gonna wear that does not enhance. Sorry I am just being candid. Does that really enhance your experience? Anyway, it would be nice if they were seeking input from you as students what you want to see at the game and what would enhance it. So. on one hand, our students have a great deal, and yes, there will always be some students that that won't go to a game. You know. I'm the one that takes the phone calls on student fees. Why do I have to pay this fee? You know, if I'm on an internship in Washington, DC. Why do I have to pay a student fee? My standard is, it makes sense to me. It doesn't always make them happy. But I live in. I live in Cache County. I pay taxes for roads that I will never drive on. I pay taxes to school. I don't have any kids left in the public-school system. And yet every year I pay taxes so that somebody else's kids can benefit from the school. So there's a certain element of the cost of doing business. The cost and benefit of having a winning team. We haven't even talked about. Every time we get a winning coach another school loots them away with higher salaries. So that's a concern. Are we paying our coach? Yeah, we're paying our coaches a lot of money. But is it enough to keep them and to build and keep a program. That's what goes through my mind. But I think are important things for you to think about whichever way you go.

VP Cinq-Mars: Great point. Okay.

Executive Director Bennett: Can I respond?

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah, Then we will go with Nate and Sarah. Because I know you have things you want to say.

Executive Director Bennett: Okay, I have met with Athletics and talked about what the students want. A lot of those points from their presentation came from surveys that we as the HURD committee, and also athletics have done. And consistently, the thing that students request more of is better giveaways. So that was why that was one of their top points. One of the points, I wish had been presented differently was about the campouts and movies and things like that. That's in their vision. Really, the vision that I was presented by Jerry is that the Hurd committee. One of the huge benefits that the students will get out of this increases is that the HURD committee won't have to pay to use these athletics facilities any longer. We spend tens of thousands of dollars every single year. To rent out the Spectrum for Mid-Night yells which one we have 2 of in a year. And Maverik Stadium for Powder Puff Tournament and we spend tens of thousands of dollars on those things. So, that money comes from HURD Premium sales, which is our own fundraising. The point is that it'll cut down on those expenses, so that our money as well can go to tailgates and to different programming. Instead of having to spend so much on just paying athletics to use their own facilities.

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, Nate then we will go Sarah. We will go minute and half each.

Senator Omer: Yeah, I just wanna. I want everybody to ask themselves a quick question. Regarding the argument that success of athletics helps success of the university which is absolutely right. Success with the athletics is good for the university. But question is. How does this $5, student fee increase, improve the success of athletics? You know, is every student paying $5 going to make USU all of a sudden a power five school. or is it just going to go towards, you know, funding? Basically. I personally do not see a correlation between student fee increase and increase success of athletic teams.

VP Cinq-Mars: Sarah.

Senator Pope: Yeah, I think Eric and Nate hit on most of what I wanted to say. I just wanna say, when we present information, I think is really important, that we're very honest and truthful, and I just don't feel that it's honest to say that USU athletics directly impacts enrollment, especially when we're just coming out of COVID. You know, like, I would like to see like the data for the past ten years that they haven't had a large increase. And how did enrollment really drop in the last 10 years because our athletic fee didn't go up. I just like, I think those are good arguments, because it's true, like there's even DEI arguments to be had about recruitment through athletics. I just don't know if it's super honest to like present it as something that is a definite, and that we will definitely see an increase in enrollment.

VP Cinq-Mars: Perfect. Okay, let's go ahead and close this discussion, and we'll open up. We have about 15 minutes for this next one.

**Career Design Center New Fee Discussion**

VP Cinq-Mars: We have about 15 minutes for this next one. The Career Center fee with $22 increase. Bryce, Abe, then Jaxton.

Senator Von-Neiderhausern: Just the issue for me is Huntsman Students pay a very large, differential tuition for this exact reason. We have 12 full-time staff that are specifically just for career needs. So, I don't think it makes sense for Huntsman Students to have to pay a $22 fee, when they already have their needs met within their own college.

VP Cinq-Mars: I wanna second that for the college of engineering as well. Abe.

President Rodriguez: I acknowledge the needs, and I was part of the survey, or was a part of the study. But one thing I do want to acknowledge from the Student Fee policy under line item one purpose, first paragraph second sentence. I highlighted here, it says, student fee should not generally be used for programs or services that can be supported by state or auxiliary funds. So just to keep it quite short, I don't see this being appropriate like I don't. I know, I was reached out by Provost Anderson about it, and I strongly recommended that they go a different route. And but they still wanted to pursue possibly making it a student fee request, and I just simply do not feel like it is appropriate to make it the student fee request, period.

VP Cinq-Mars: Jaxton.

Senator Winder: I have many concerns about this, especially the ones shared by Sarah about student fees going to salary and also with aid that this might not be the best way for them to get funding. However, I would say that I'm in full support of this just because of the deep need that we have for career support services. I cannot tell you how many of my own peers are struggling right now to find jobs after they graduated that partially, didn't know about this service, or when they go and get some assistance and go to a career fair or something. There maybe be one company there that would actually be able to help them. And when you talk to so many people about why they're coming to college, they're coming to college because they want to gain skill set that will get them employed. And this right here is a concrete service that will be accessible to all students, potentially reducing the need for your guys differential tuition to go to those services in your own institute or in your own colleges. And it becomes a service available to everyone that will be encouraging and assisting students and gaining jobs after they graduate. So, I would say that I'm in full support of this while still suggesting that they seek additional funding elsewhere. So maybe we suggest a lower fee.

VP Cinq-Mars: I also wanted to make it clear that we don’t approve statewide student fees. Only Logan student fees. And that would also be considered statewide. We will go Isabelle, Nate, Fran, and Collin.

Senator Santini: I had two points. The first one is I've been to the Career Design Center and they do really awesome stuff. But when scheduling an appointment most of their advisors are open all-day, every day. It doesn't seem like there's a ton of engagement, so I don't understand why you would hire 12 more people that don't have any student appointments. And then the other thing, I was going to say is it seems like he was pretty definitive on, “We're hiring 12 people if we get this fee.” But it didn't seem like he had a concrete answer on where he would put them. Like I know, in the College of Engineering, we have professors that full-time teach from home because we do not have space for them. I don't understand how he could expect them to create space for a new person that he hires from every college, and I think that, it doesn’t feel as thought out as I think it should be.

VP Cinq-Mars: Nate.

Senator Omer: I wanted to echo much of what Jaxton said. And I’d like to add that the Natural Resources College, I think it’s probably common in all colleges that have some sort of small career design program. The Natural Resource Colleges is very small, rudimentary, and works through the professors involved with the colleges. and I think some sort of small, student fee in support of building greater career design within the colleges would be a really great idea, but not in the current model that they gave.

VP Cinq-Mars: Fran.

Senator Simpson: I like what has already been said about like maybe a slower phased approach to this. I think it's a need, for sure that's obvious for everyone but like, Senator Omer said, at least in the Arts College, I don't know that I've ever heard of any career design opportunities at all for any art students ever. So, this would be something that's super benefit arts students, I think. But again, I don't know where we would fit in to this model that was presented today. And I just I think that $22 is a lot of money is the bottom lines. That's just a lot. And I don't know but that's something we can ask in our students given. We're already planning to use some of these other fees. So far, so.

VP Cinq-Mars: Collin.

Senator Hastings: Collin Hastings. I'm curious, since we already have colleges with something similar to this implemented. Bryce, I wonder if you can help me out? How big of this deal is this in your college? Like, how useful is this to business students?

Senator Von-Neiderhausern: I would say that, that is a very broad questions because it depends on the college to college. Business especially, there's a very large need for networking. It's kind of nature finding a placed into jobs. I don’t think that might be true for other colleges. I would say it’s pretty important, just generally.

Senator Hastings: And then you said, you have 12 people working on it? Do you think that's enough? Or would you like in a perfect scenario, have more?

Senator Von-Neiderhausern: Yes. I think it’s enough.

Senator Hastings: It’s enough. So, like, I think Bryce is right, saying that business would probably have more need of this than most other colleges, but at the same time we'd only have 21 for the entire college [university]. So, I think getting this to a level where it's super beneficial, students would probably take a lot more staff and more money. So, I just I don't know if it's something that students should be investing in right now with their own money.

VP Cinq-Mars: I also agree. I don’t think should be paying salaries and employee wages. Alex.

Executive Director Garces: I agree. 100% of what Jaxton had to share. That like, it's something we should do right now, and it's something that they can find at the different funding for. I don't know like what we're able to do. Like, if we can suggest what they use the funding for. But I think. having like less full-time staff, and better resources, or like other things that they can utilize in the career design center, because the whole time he was talking I was like, “Okay, your gonna have 12, new full-time staff, but then if you have 15,000 students, who don't know about these resources. But what's the point?” If there's a way we can like, encourage some of the money to be utilized for like improving market, improving resources, improving knowledge, or like all around access to the center itself. As well as like funding some people's salaries.

VP Cinq-Mars: Ronan.

Ronan Spencer: Ronan Spencer, Student At-Large. So, I feel like this is super necessary. I think it's a necessary point for like innovation. I think that a lot of big universities are especially focusing on career design, a little bit confused about the vagueness of career design and career education. Like, what exactly are we doing? Are we matching people up with careers? Are we directly helping them get in the process of getting a job? Are we simply just showing them their slots that are available. That's why I asked about the appointments, and they said that the appointments wouldn't really change. But I was just confused in general, what happens in one of these appointments. and how exactly we are in general. Like improving for this. I do agree with the salaries, I think that that's a bit strange. I do think, in general, though. just any money that'd be going towards this would be really good. Especially how he showed the different universities, especially like University of Utah. University of Utah, has a lot of resources that go towards their students. And so that's impressive to see how many, I guess, people they have on the job, and I think that can be an aspiration for us. So, I think that's the reason I would put any money towards this center. So, I think it's necessary for innovation. I think it's necessary to make Utah State look like they're actually future focus, like our President says. And I think that if we want to actually move towards this, and we need to put money towards it.

VP Cinq-Mars: Sarah.

Senator Pope: Sorry, I had that point but I lost it. I would like to see them put it a bit more effort like, or maybe like, put in an effort to come up with a plan for their student fee with USUSA. Like similar to the athletics fee. I would encourage them to go back to the drawing board. spend a year talking with USUSA. And maybe I think USUSA, could have a better, be more proactive and working with the Career Center and not just being like, “well, they don't come to us.” When we should be going to them to at some point and then come back with a different proposal. That doesn't ask for so much money doesn't have all of these salaries that are in it. And clearly states out those things that they will do with this money to help students. Because I agree, I think it's a very necessary fee to have, I think it's a necessary program. You know, and if they can't get central administration funding from asking for it every year, which is not uncommon across the most departments don’t get what they asked for. But then we're going to have to find a way to amp it up.

VP Cinq-Mars: Myra.

Myra Lomax: I just have a few things to kind of connect everything. But I think that their marketing could be like a little more clear in regards to like. Because if it's not being used like, if there's always appointments available, then that's kind of like off putting because it's like, if it was being used, it would make sense to put more money into it. But it's not being as used as it is. But I also think that the like an increase could be used to increase like marketing into it could be used to be more future focus. Cause I think there's like a lot of. There's a lot of like young freshmen that are like, how am I gonna pay? How am I gonna pay buy a house? How am I gonna do this? And if they have a job, if they have something concrete that can carry them forward into their like adult career. The only way they can do that is through something like this at a university level is to allow them to kind of push them forward into that career. So yes, I think a slight raise might be appropriate. But also I don't think I think more marketing, and they definitely need to re-evaluate a lot of things. I also think and I don't know if this is like a thing. But I think student employees in regards to like students helping students kind of find career paths. I don't know if that's like a thing, but I feel like that could be beneficial, because then it could provide students with in income as well. By helping other students find careers.

VP Cinq-Mars: Correct me if I am wrong. But I feel like in a lot of majority, our majors. They have courses or professors that send out, “Hey, there's this job opportunity.” or “Hey, there's this internship opportunity” or “Hey, there's this going on like.” I just don't see a need, and having a $22 increase. While, I see the need for the program, and how it can help. $22 is a lot where professors are kind of already doing what they are outlining in their program. I've had many conversations with professors to be like, “Hey, there's up. Here's a list of internships that are you can apply for that are going to be open in between. I don't know April and June, and you can apply whatever.” And then they set you up like professors aren't just kind of throwing you out there. I feel at least, I don't feel like, but I don't know. I just think that this is a little bit too much of an ask. Yes, Doctor Olsen.

Interim VP Dr. Eric Olsen: Whitney. Correct me if I'm wrong. But I, the way I read the policy it says, “Student fees should not be should not go to expenses that could be covered with E&G money or auxiliary money. So, I'm guessing Whitney. 99% of salaries on campus are E&G, or auxiliary. My understanding is, it would. It's an inappropriate use of a student fee to go toward a salary. Now, if it's a program to enhance a department. but to go directly to salaries. And my understanding is that would be inappropriate.

Finance and Administrative Services Executive Director Whitney Pugh: I mean, right now, we are using some fees for salaries we always have, And we went away from that dramatically a few years ago. But, when you refer to the policy, that's the policy of this board, is that correct? Which is non-binding for the President in theory, whatever you do that. And certainly not for the board of higher education. So, it depends on how you look at it. But if this board wants to follow the pattern which the trajectory has been on the last few years, and certainly it would not be. It would be a step in the wrong direction.

VP Cinq-Mars: We will go Jaxton and Collin. Then call it for this week.

Senator Winder: So as we kind of kept having these discussions, I noticed that there was a lot of focus on the one-on-one advising service that this organization provides. And not saying that, “hey, there's a lot of these available. So, it's really being used.” I did want to point out that there are way more services that the CDC. Provides than just one-on-one advising, all the career affairs are done by them, all the Aggie handshakes managed by them. It sounds like federal work study is done through them. Lot of the on-campus jobs, with their supported and advertised, is done through them. As well as a ways that a lot of these professors are finding out about these opportunities is done through the career design center. So, there's a lot more to this institution than just the one-on-one advising that we're seeing students aren't necessarily using. I would always support advertising that more. But I want to ensure that as we continue this discussion, we focus on the CDC as a whole instead of one aspect of the CDC not being used, as well as it should be.

VP Cinq-Mars: Collin.

Senator Hastings: Well, I feel like a lot of the things that the CDC wants to do, maybe a lot easier to do on the college level. Instead of this university-wide organization that's on the funder through students fee. For example, CHASS has Institute of government and Politics to help people get into like wonderful internships. Which is something that the Cdc said they wanted to do was help with internships. But that's something that's within my college, and I'm sure that's the same with the business college, and every college has a lot of this stuff done on the internal level. So, I don't know. I really just don't see use for it, especially using students fees for it.

VP Cinq-Mars: Perfect. Okay?

Senator Winder: I would like to make a comment to that. In the pamphlet that we were given, they did mention. One thing they hope to do is with the increase in support, as their institution. They would be able to assist colleges and providing that specifics. That is a plan. In one of the documents that was shared.

Senator Pope: I'm sorry just to clarify it. Those were recommendations. So it's not like a set plan. the pamphlet, or documents. I just wanted to make sure that.

Senator Winder: Thank you for that clarification.

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, thank you all. I'm gonna go ahead and pull that discussion real quick. Before we adjourn meeting. Please remember to do your research on everything that we talked about. If you have any more questions. Please reach out to your admin. I'm sure they'd love to answer them for you. Be prepared for next meeting, which will be on the twenty-fourth at 5 pm, inn this room. We will have dinner for you guys again. And I believe that you'll have the emails, the presentation email to us tomorrow. Yeah. So I think that'll be it for today. Thank you all for being here. And with that our business has concluded. So I would like to entertain a motion to adjourn or meetings all in favor. Say, aye, any opposed say nay

Everyone: So moved.

VP Cinq-Mars: And a Second.

Everyone: Seconded

VP Cinq-Mars: All in favor say, “Aye” and all oppose say, ”nay.”

Everyone: Aye

VP Cinq-Mars: Any abstentions. Meeting adjourned.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Staff/Administrators:** Linda Zimmerman, Eric Olsen, Alex Gatherum, Whitney Pugh, David Higashi, Carter Ottley

**Officers**: Senator Bryce Von-Niederhausern, Senator Sarah Pope, Senator Carlie Peterson, Senator Chloe Richmond, Senator Jaxton Winder, Executive Director Alex Garces, Senator Isabelle Santini, Executive VP Aly Cinq-Mars, President Abraham Rodriguez, Senator Fran Simpson, Senator Nate Omer, Executive Director Tate Bennett, VP Emily Smilnach, and Sentor Colin Hastings

**Students At-Large**: Matt Richey, Tyler Rich, Paige Blair, Ronan Spencer, Myra Lomax, Devin Sheehan, Xander Hayden