FEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2024| 5:00 PM | TSC Senate Chamber

**WELCOME & DINNER**

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, we're gonna go ahead and get started. Thank you everybody for being here. Appreciate you all. Just a few reminders before we get started with the Parli-Pro procedures. Same as last time, if you'd like to ask question, please make sure you address me first. And then go ahead and state your first and last name every time that you have something to say, just so that David can keep track of minutes and keep them accurate and we know who's talking. Please keep your phones on silent and then keep them out of sight until it is time to pull them out so that we can vote. All students are voting members and Dr. Olson is the only admin that will be voting in today's meeting. So, when I entertain a motion should be followed with a, “so move”, and then “a second” after those motions are made and approved, will need to vote in each category. And then Senator Santini will be our parliamentarian for today's meeting again, and she will be keeping a speaker's list of who has raised their hand and then we will move in that order. If you've spoken once, you will not be able to speak again until everybody has had a chance to say something. And please remember to speak loudly so that the recording is clear for David when he does have to go back through and adjust the minutes. First on the agenda, we'll begin with Dr. Olsen our Interim VP of Student Affairs for his remarks. Yeah.

Senator Von-Niederhausern: What happens if my phone dies before we vote? Can I respond later?

VP Cinq-Mars: You can use mine. Bryce Von-Niederhausern.

Senator Von-Niederhausern: Oh sorry. Bryce Von-Niederhausern, Business senator.

Interim VP of Student Affairs Dr. Eric Olsen: Thank you. As I discussed last week. I compiled really kind of a consensus or straw poll in my mind, if you will, of what I heard discussion. And I, what I presented to the executive committee in a written form with bullet points is that for the most part, it sounded like this group was in favor of the Aggie Recreation fee, and the parking fee, but not parking the shuttle bus fee But there was, you were fairly split on the athletic. And then, Linda and I had a meeting with we met with David Cowley. And we also reviewed the the audit the state of Utah audit that was done in 2019. And it's pretty clear in that audit that departments or programs that are currently funded by E&G or institutional funds, it's inappropriate to transfer those to a student fee. So, in the case of the Career Design Center, this really was not the appropriate forum to ask for that fee. And so that if this group were to support that fee, it would go against the audit, the state audit. And, but so based on that, I forwarded that information to the executive committee and present it to the executive committee. And she also added her perspective and shared that with the group. So, let me first just read what President Cantwell said. Addressed to leadership team. “My personal inclination at this point is to fully support the Campus Rec and the Parking and Transportation increase request, support a $3 increase for athletics and request that CDC go back to the drawing board and come back with a suite of alternative funding options for their needs.” Based on that, all of the executive committee fully supported the Parking and Transportation requests, the Aggie Rec Center request, and most of them supported a $3 increase in athletics, I wanted, I pulled a couple excerpts out of their emails and I just want to read. This is from Dave Cowley, our athletic, not athletic, our business and finance. He is Whitney's boss, business and finance vice president. He says, “I support the fee increase for athletics but fully understand the reluctance of some students, especially since this is one of the larger student fees. Since I am more familiar with the athletic budget and the need for additional funds, I realized that that other methods are also being used to increase funding for athletics. And the fee is only one component.” but he does support it. This is from Dean Nagel, “Campus Recreation parking transportation is straightforward. I support an increased athletics but a lower amount (ie, two or $3 ) seems more reasonable, especially given the requests and lack of specific details. I would love. I would love to support the career design centers request but we have many needs across campus. And an additional $22 fee is a heavy financial burden placed on all students for this program. As suggested perhaps there are other ways for the CDC to frame their needs requests.” Dean Joe Ward, he fully supported the recommendations that President Campbell outlined. And then he said, “In general, keeping the total cost of attendance for students as low as possible should help USU reach its goals. In particular, I find it reasonable for students to view career support as a service covered by their standard tuition.” So then he said, “for example, in CHaSS, we deployed college ESG funds in 2018, to our advising unit for the creation of a staff position that is reasonable for career exploration and alumni career networking.” And then Dean Berreau, the vice president of research or VP of research. “The request from Career Design Center does need reconsideration. However, I am concerned, this is one very important area where the differential tuition situation across campus is having an effect for colleges without a differential tuition revenue stream. It's very hard to support students and career development activities. And the USU career Design Center is currently very limited.” So, in my mind, the executive team's perspective on the Career Design Center that are really kind of mirrored what I heard here. It's important we need it, but student fee is not the way to fund it. So, my feeling is that is something that the President and others in the leadership team will look at and address and try to find another way to fund it. So that is my report.

VP Cinq-Mars: Perfect. Thank you so much. We are now going to move Thank you so much. We're now going to move on to the discussion portion of this meeting. We'll proceed in the order that we heard the presentations from last week. And then we will open up each area for discussion, followed by voting on that fee before we move on to the next fee requests. Please remember to be respectful of one another. And please ask as many questions as you need so that everybody has a clarification and makes informed decisions on whether or not we're going to pass this vote

**ARC Building Fee Increase Discussion**

VP Cinq-mars: So the first one we're going to do is the ARC building fee request. So I will open that up for discussion. Anybody has anything to say I think we were all pretty on page or on the same page for approving it. Is that correct? Okay. I would now like to entertain a motion to vote on the ARC building fee.

Senator Winder: So moved:

VP Cinq-Mars: Perfect. All in favor say, “Aye”. Any opposed say, “nay”? Any abstentions?

Everyone: Aye!

VP Cinq-Mars: Please pull out your phones now and scan the QR code on the screen. Yes, Senator Hastings.

Senator Hastings: Can you clarify what the is needed for this vote to pass.

VP Cinq-Mars: I think it's two thirds majority. It's a majority. Bryce, do you need my phone?

Senator Von-Niederhausern: No, I am good.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes Tate,

Executive Director Bennett: Mines is not letting me vote.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yes

Senator Winder: If you by chance have a VPN on your phone it will not let you get online. That is what I am currently encountering.

VP Cinq-Mars: It is working for me, so I am not sure. Also I just want to let everybody know that these votes are anonymous. So please vote honestly, no one's gonna know what you voted for. Except for yourself. So now we'll open up the discussion for the Parking and Transportation fear requests. So I'd like to entertain or I guess entertain a motion to approve the ARC building fee considering. Did you have something to say.

President Rodriguez: What is the outcome?

VP Cinq-Mars: Oh we have to say the outcome. It passed.

Director Zimmerman: We have to know, how many yes and no for the minutes.

VP Cinq-Mars: The official votes are:

Official Vote Tally:

YES: 21 votes

NO: 0 votes.

**Parking and Transportation Center Fee Increase Discussion**

VP Cinq-Mars: now we will open up a discussion for the parking and transportation fee request. Any one have anything they want to discuss? Perfect. I'd like to entertain a motion to vote on the ARC building fee, so all the favor say “aye”.

Senator Winder: Seconded

VP Cinq-Mars: Oh you’re right, So moved then a second, First.

Senator Hasting: So moved

Senator Pope: Second

VP Cinq-Mars: Senator Omer.

Senator Omer: You miss stated what we're voting on.

VP Cinq-Mars: The parking and transportation fee request?

Senator Omer: Yeah you just said, “ARC building fees.”

VP Cinq-Mars: Parking and Transportation fee request. Can I get a so move?

Multiple people: So moved

VP Cinq-Mars: Can I get a second?

Multiple People: Second

VP Cinq-Mars: All in favor say, “ Aye”. Any opposed say, “nay”? Any abstentions?

Everyone: Aye

VP Cinq-Mars: Beautiful. We are just missing one more vote. Perfect, we had:

Official Vote Tally:

YES: 21 Votes

NO: 0 Votes

**Athletics Fee Increase Discussion**

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, before I open the discussion up for the athletics fee requests, I'm gonna read the response from Diana Sabau, the VP of Director of Athletics and then we will let our Executive Director, Tate Bennett go ahead and give a couple words as well. David, I think Alex is going to share with you the PDF. So I'm just going to speed through.

Dr. Eric Olsen: Yeah, just for clarification, we, because it was split. We did. I reached out and Linda we reached out to Diane Sabau and just shared with her our perspective. And also, I think were the President had a conversation with her and talk to her about lowering the fee to $3. So, they went back and looked at their proposal and then resubmitted this, and this has happened over the years, we really give this week for departments to clarify, submit change, whatever. So , that's why we've received this and there possibly were some questions about why did we get this from athletics and not from the others? And, again, I think it wasn't because the others were pretty unanimous. But we were split on this one.

VP Cinq-Mars: The Department of Athletics reserves the right to modify its request for an increase in student-fees to a reduced amount of $3; per semester, per student for the Fiscal Year ‘25. One of the questions that was asked, “Can we get an accounting of where the dollars would be spent specifically?” The answer is, the request for $3 per semester, per student will be used to enhance the mental health support for student-athletes. The NCAA has new requirements for the quality and direct mental health programming for student-athletes. In order to remain a Division I Department of Athletics Institution, Utah State University must be in compliance with the new health and wellness requirements. USU will not remain a DI institution if we do not invest in a mental health resource. Educational programing, enhanced resources and webinar sessions are areas to be added for student-athlete mental health services. The Department of Athletics also has an increased need for enhanced nutritional requirements for our student-athletes. Athletic success is directly tied to the overall student-athlete well-being and nutrition is vital to that success. Nutrition and performance, energy levels, injury prevention and recovery, immune system health, mental focus, acuity, and endurance go hand and hand. The Department of Athletics currently spends over $1.5 million in student-athlete nutrition. A portion of the student fee increase could be also invested in growing the game-day experience of all students attending athletic events, which the Department of Athletics currently spends $45,000. Second question, “How does athletic success benefit USU and effect enrollment?” Data shows the direct connect with an athletics team performance in the postseason and national TV exposure related to spikes and enrollment upsurges. An athletic programs success also shows direct data points to increased donations for a university for the greater good. During the 2023 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, USU played Missouri in a first round regional in California. The earned media exposure to the brand, Big Blue, student-athletes and the fans in attendance drives affinity for the institution. Increased success in the athletics department at the university affect the overall visibility and recognition of the campus on a national scale – thus growing awareness. In addition, community engagement grows as the pride in success draws the fanbase together. Donations rise from alumni and fans when the teams are successful. Media exposure enhances the marketability of the campus. Enrollment increases for the greater good of the university. The more brand awareness that is created, funding can be spent and differentiated to produce better KPIs and reduce expenditures. The third question was, “Last time a fee raise occurred for athletics and how did it help?” In 2012, a fee increase was approved, which assisted with the rising cost to retain head coaches and increases in head coaches salaries. Football began to have sustained success and ultimately the program was able to join the Mountain West Conference after years of competing as an independent. This support along with additional fundraising efforts assisted in the growth opportunities and profile of USU athletics. Number four, “What would athletics settle for if the committee does not give full $5 increase?” The original request for $5 is based on strategic needs to assist in growing the athletics department essential requirements to compete at a Division-one level, while growing comprehensive excellence in all we achieve. The increase of $5 was based on the changing climate within intercollegiate athletics and the expenditures associated with beginning a process to catch up to peer institutions in the Mountain West and across the country. We are far behind those in the Group of Five conferences. This is an opportunity to send the message that the students of USU are investing in athletics with the goal to encourage alumni and fans of the program to join in that vision. Providing an investment internally, is an important consideration and a budget planning principle to not reduce student free seats/tickets to events. We have now reduced the asked to a $3 increase after not having made a student-fee request in more than five years. The fifth question, “Other groups have come in asking for the students to cover budget deficit. Athletics does not have a deficit, so, do you really need our help?” Athletics does, in fact, operate in a deficit each year, due to rising costs we cannot control, such as air travel, gas prices, and unexpected events and expenses as an example. We did not feel it responsible to speculate inflation and make this a duty of our student’s fee committee to solve. Rather, assist in providing better resources to grow the future is the center focus of our ask for a fee increase. Departmental fundraising is used for gaps within the overall operating budget. The operating budget at Utah State University for the Department of Athletics is one of the lowest in the Mountain West Conference, therefore, strategically allocating funds to achieve the greatest impact. For USU to remain relevant in the conference realignment space, we need to continue to upgrade aspects of the athletics program, which will dictate an increase in all our existing and future potential revenue streams. So that was from Diana Sabau and now we'll let Tate go ahead and share with us the information that he had received.

Executive Director Bennett: Most of what I will. Tate Bennett. Most of what I talked with Jerry and Diana about was listed in that document. There are a few things that I'll add though. In that document it listed that if we don't increase the nutrition resources and mental health resources for student athletes, that the NCAA will not allow us to continue qualifying as an D1 athletic institution will drop to Division two.For those who are not familiar with Athletics. Division One is the highest level of competition in college athletics. Division Two is in football kind of two steps below that there's a Division 1A that we compete in. There's Division 1AA. You may have heard of some of those schools like Montana and Montana State and North Dakota State our D1AA. D2 is even below that. Truthfully, I can't even name a D2 school. So it would be really detrimental to the school to play D2 athletics.The benefit of increasing those resources or athletics is that we'll be able to move into a power five conference. The PAC 12 is planning to renew. For those who don't know the PAC 12 is a premier conference in NCAA athletics.This year they have fallen apart. They've lost 10 of their 12-member schools in search of more money with bigger TV deals. But the two schools that are still there are Oregon State and Washington State. They intend to stay in the Pac 12. And the plan for the PAC 12 is to expand backup to eight teams taking the top six teams from the Mountain West. Our performance puts us at the top of the mountain west. Those two resource deficits in nutrition and mental health for student athletes. Put us at the bottom of not just the Mountain West but towards the bottom of all group of five conferences. And those are pre-requisites to get into the PAC 12. The benefit of joining the PAC 12 is greater exposure. It's the revenue increase that comes from joining a conference like that is super significant. I can't get numbers on it, I don't know what it is. But I think it's not unrealistic for a small market team to double their revenue going into power five conference. So that's kind of the basics of it. Let’s see Tyler? Was everyone looped in on the email chain.

VP Cinq-Mars: No

Tyler Rich: No

Executive Director Bennett: Okay, should I just close that? Okay, if you don't mind, I will share.

Tyler Rich: Yeah go for it.

VP Cinq-mars: You are welcome to.

Executive Director Bennett: Okay. Tyler asked a bunch of great questions to Diana over email the last couple of days. Asking about today specifically about how does ticket sales factor into this? Will ticket sales, like prices of tickets go up for general fans to offset the costs of increasing these resources? And the answer is yes, ticket prices will go up for the general public to help offset that. But that still does not get us out of the money that athletics loses on, basically the opportunity cost of the HURD seats. Okay, so I've got some numbers to back this one up. Basically, football and men's basketball, a general ticket sales per $57 at Utah State. The seats that the HURD has are much better seats than the average seat in either of those, they would probably sell for upwards of $100 a seat. So, here's the opportunity cost, okay. It's the athletics needs to raise this money. Regardless, the ways to do that are through student fees through donors, and through ticket sales, the donors are not pulling through, there is potential that we do pull through, there's potential that we don't. And if we don't, then it will go to ticket sales. So I mentioned the average price is $57. If we look at what we currently pay in student fees, and simplify it to just be that those student fees go towards, student seats at football and men's basketball. That puts us at about $5.31 per seat, per sporting event. Okay. So simplify it and say that we can sell those seats for the average cost of $57. There's about $52 to be made per seat, athletics could reasonably decrease our student section by 500 seats at football and men's basketball, and make upwards of $500,000 a year. And that's if they just sell it at the average price. I don't want that to happen. The reason is because we fill those seats consistently, we overfill those seats multiple times a season in football and in basketball. And so if nothing else, this is insurance on keeping those seats for the students that we're here to advocate for, for the games that we need them. So that's most of my thought. I guess I'll be able to speak after everyone else to answer any questions. But that's, that's what I've got.

VP Cinq Mars: Perfect. Thank you Tate. I will now go ahead and open the discussion for the athletics fee request. We'll go Nate, Jaxton, Fran, Ronan, Tyler, and then we'll go from there.

Senator Omer: Nate Omer, Senator for Natural Resources so.

VP Cinq-Mars: Also. I just wanted to point out. Tate, if you have anything to respond to them since they're technically asking you the questions. That’s okay with me.

Executive Bennett: Oh Ok.

VP Cinq-Mars: Go ahead.

Senator Omer: I want to start by saying I do think funding for mental health resources and nutrition resource is a more clear and more likeable way of spending student fees. But I think an important question to ask again, and I don't know the answer to this one genuinely. I want to hear everybody's opinion on this. Are student fees the appropriate funding source for resources that will not be available to the general student body, right take your average student, there are going to pay these extra student fees to fund mental health and nutrition resources that are directed towards student athletes are not directed back at themselves. In my view, any student fees that a student is paying should be allocated somewhere where they can, you know, benefit from the spending of that student fee. If student fees are going to be spent on mental health resources, all students should be able to access those mental health resources, not just. Yeah, it's that's kind of my thought on it. I'd like to hear other thoughts. A second point, or kind of question I have. This is more about the flow of money in the university. This argument about increased funding from, you know, potentially joining the PAC-12. Does that extra funding, does that extra revenue stream, come back towards the institution and spread out throughout all the colleges to increase educational experience and overall university experience for each student? Or does that funding simply funneled back into athletics to continue to improve athletics solely? So if, yeah, if all the money, if the argument for students to pay this fee is that it's going to increase funding by greater athletic success, and that funding is genuinely going to spread out throughout the whole university, and each college kind of go and be able to get a cut and improve, you know, educational resources, and I think that's a great investment to make. But if that funding doesn't go anywhere, besides, just back into athletics, then I have concern that it's, again, not the most appropriate use of student funds, student fees.

VP Cinq-Mars: Dr. Olsen.

Dr. Eric Olsen: To answer, well really both of it. You know you could look at it. Athletics will have to hire a full time clinical psychologist, but this fee will not go to that salary. When that happens, by providing that mental health resource for student athletes that could take pressure off of CAPS, so on, I mean, it's not a direct return, if you will, but there it would free up some time for the entire student body. In regard to the financial return, some very successful schools, athletics actually turns around and gives money to different entities at the university. Also, if looking at the big picture, if by joining the PAC 12, it that becomes an opportunity. And we do increase revenue athletics, again, funds that the university as a whole are providing athletics could be redirected to other areas of the university. So again, not a direct, to answer your question beginning, not a direct dollar for dollar service or return, if you will. But both of those are indirect opportunities where all the students could benefit, as well as again, if we're looking at the overall experience of students attending an athletic event. Anything that can enhance that will enhance the experience. So I think there are several ways to look at it. Does that make sense?

Senator Pope: I have a point of information for clarification, for what Dr. Olsen just said. Is that okay? So, what I'm hearing you say is that this fee would actually not go to mental health resources for athletic students, since

Dr. Eric Olsen: It would not go to pay a therapist. It would go to additional outreach education for student athletes, which again, can take a drain off of CAPS and other services that meet the needs of all students.

VP Cinq-Mars: Jaxton

Senator Winder: Before I.

VP Cinq-Mars: State your name please.

Senator Winder: Jaxton Winder, Science Senator. Before I go into my comments, I have a quick clarifying question for Vice President Olsen and possibly a Director Pugh as well. At this point, athletics has stated that this $3 fee will be used for mental health resources and services, what oversight is in this that would guarantee that those $3 will be used for that?

Dr. Eric Olsen: Again, if you read that there, there are options because the,

the fee will not cover everything. Again. This, this board in of itself is has that, that accounting that oversight every year. And so, again to oversee understand the big picture, it becomes pretty challenging to, you know, in a budget as significant as athletics has that this fee to say, Okay, I mean, they can tell us, this amount went to provide to go toward mental health resources. But again, the Fee Board has never been a micromanager. So, we would leave it up to them what is the most needed and they may say, “Well, we're going to take this portion for to enhance mental health, we think it's only fair that we take this portion to enhance the game day experience for that will benefit more students.” But I think it is fair and possible for the athletics department to turn around and give us an accounting next year. This is how we spent this increase in these areas.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah. Tate.

Executive Director Bennett: Might I add a comment on that. Athletics also has the clearest ledger of expenses of any organization within the school. I think Linda can attest to that they give, they give a list of every dollar where it came from, who it came from, where it's gone, who it's gone to. They have a strong, like history of being transparent with where the money comes from, and goes, that they're trustworthy. And if we give them money for a specific purpose, it will only go to that purpose.

Senator Winder: Thank you, thank you all so much for that. I do have a lot of concerns about the changing nature of this fee, not necessarily the fact that it went from $5 to $3. I have no issue there. My concern is why the mention of the mental health and nutrition was not ever discussed last week, when there was so much discussion of how these fees were going to help students in general it was going to help give out giveaways and stuff like that. And I understand this is a very strong word to use. But It honestly feels disingenuous, it feels like they're putting our body into a tough spot, where if we vote to not approve of this $3 fee, it looks like we're not voting to support mental health on campus and mental health for our student athletes, which I want to say I'm fully in support of, I think it's great for all students have access to mental health resources, I understand that our student athletics has special needs and fully support that I just feel like the way that they've changed this on us in the last second is putting us in a tough spot kind of intentionally. And it's tough for me to be able to support this, I really want to our athletes. Athletics is an awesome program here. So many students use it. The free seats that we have are amazing that not a lot of other universities provide. But this just doesn't feel right to me. It also doesn't feel right that there's been a lot of attempts at correlating the fees that we're giving to athletics to the success of our athletics. I'm sure that yes, providing them with more resources does help our students get better, but time this direct correlation that if we improve, this will stay in D1 will stay winning all of these championships and stay just an awesome team. It doesn't feel right to me that this fee is being used to say that it's directly going to correlate with lower enrollment with our team being better and with all of these mental health resources when we're seeing this added as what feels like a last-ditch attempt to get an increased fee for athletics.

Executive Director Garces: Point of information. Just in response to that.

VP Cinq-Mars: Please state your name.

Executive Director Garces: Alex Garces, Diversity and Organizations Executive Director. Just responding to that. Vice President Sabau this is her first go at being an athletic director. This is her first year. She's like six months into the job.She's never presented a student fee board that she doesn't know what we expect. She doesn't know what we want. And they came with us with kind of trying to show us what we what they thought we would want those giveaways the things that would directly correlate and impact us, which makes sense. They just didn't realize the audience they were applying to. Yeah, I think it's a little bit different from like presentation they showed us to what we have now. Like, we all can agree that it's different, because it is. But they just. Vice President Sabau came in just not knowing exactly what the audience wanted. And now we have more information. So, I think to give him the benefit of the doubt, and just understand where they're coming from, and that it's just a learning process for us all.

VP Cinq-Mars: We are going to go with Fran next and keep the line moving. So that other people can talk. So it's not just back and forth.

Senator Simpson: I am Fran Simpson, Art Senator. I have a few things I want to touch on. I have a question first, on the response that was given on the second like bullet point, there was the talk about reducing expenditures and KPI. I just don't know what that means. So if someone can tell me what KPI is, I would love that.

Dr. Eric Olsen: Key performance indicators.

Senator Simpson: Thank you. That was just I didn't know what that was. So, I appreciated that. I just want to echo what Senator Winder had mentioned, as well, I just, I was a little bit confused as to why, if mental health or the lack of mental health resources is such a detriment to our standing as like a division one school why that wasn't a bigger deal in the presentation, if it's in jeopardy, if we're in jeopardy of losing that Division one standing, why that wasn't the first point of discussion in the presentation that feels like a heavy deal, like something we should probably be paying attention to. And I don't know, I just I wondered why if if that is really a concern that we're going to be demoted to not be a division one school that I don't know, but just was a little weird. And I also would like to echo what Senator Omer mentioned about all the students paying for something that only a portion of students will be able to benefit from that was a concern that I also thought about. And then I also wanted to just echo that I understand the benefit of TV coverage and the changing divisions and being Power Five, conference, all that stuff. But I just I don't know how my $3 will ensure that. Like, I don't think there's a guarantee that my $3 increase of a fee will ensure that we become like, we go to the PAC 12. Like, how does that, I don't see the correlation there. Which again, like Senator Winder mentioned, I think it's important to understand that, yeah, like, increased funding means increased resources and facilities and things like that. And that's important, but I just, I struggled to find that this is the right forum in which to get that funding. So, I think that's all that I had.

VP Cinq-Mars: We will move on to Ronan.

Ronan Spencer: I'm Ronan Spencer own student at large. So yeah, you've pretty much covered a lot of stuff that I was gonna say, um, yeah. Senator Omer. I think that it's extremely important that, you know, we recognize that this isn't going to be going to the general student body. And even when they said that some of it was going to go to the general student body, they said that there would be a portion used for the game day experience, which when they presented it to us, they said the all of the money was going to go directly, mainly to game day experience stuff, like how three of them were giveaways, and I understand Director Garces that you said that, they possibly wouldn't know what they want by going to a presentation like this. But I think it's pretty clear that if you'd go to a student fee board meeting, you'd have numbers prepared, you'd have budgets, you would have directly, exactly everything that would kind of justify why you need this. as well. Director Bennett, you were talking about how they are transparent and stuff. I do appreciate that. But I didn't see any of the numbers. And so, they directly in their statements said that there is a deficit and the athletics budget, but they didn't tell us the deficit. They just said that there's a deficit in the budget. And so, I would have liked to see more numbers just because I feel like that kind of just adds to the reputation. And I'm not anti-athletics. I think that Athletics is extremely important. But I think that this fee increase is not going anywhere where I would see any innovation or going anywhere, where one mainly the feed is just going to be going directly towards football, which is the main athletic thing I understand, but we're still pushing more and more money towards one team. Instead of dispersing it around to make all athletics good, we're focusing more directly on football. That's just a small little thing that I was a little bit confused about. But also I want to kind of say what Senator Winder said, which how it kind of seems a little bit disingenuous, I do think that it is kind of going on a slippery slope directly going down and saying how we're going to not be in the D1, if we don't go with this, and then we're going to fall out of our conference, and then we're going to have worse things just by this $3 increase. And I think that would be amazing to be in the Pac-12. And I really do want a strong athletics, but I just, I'm just not really seeing it. I'm just kind of seeing, they're going back and forth and changing out their original intentions. But I'm not anti-athletics. Just want to say thank you,

VP Cinq-Mars: Tyler, your next.

Tyler Rich: Okay. I just had a quick question about kind of going off of what Senator Simpson said, how confident are we that if we don't get this new, the mental health psychiatrists hired? That will not be a D1 anymore? That seems like that's pretty clear that if we don't get this will be not at D1. Are there resources that we already have in mental health, that can be put toward athletics? To not be dropped out of D1? That seems like a pretty significant impact? I don't know.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah, Dr. Olsen.

Dr. Eric Olsen: My understanding is this is a fairly new requirement in NCAA and I think we've got to the year 2025, to have a designated therapist in place for students at student athletes. So again, yeah, it's not, it's to remain in compliance with an NCAA regulation, not necessarily will drop D1 or D2, if we don't do it, it's to be in, in compliance in any of our sports.

Senator Winder: I have a question related to that.

VP Cinq-Mars: Yeah, just one more thing, just, I just want to reiterate, please, please, please state your first and last name before you speak your position, and then remember to speak super loud, and a little bit slower so that David can keep up with the minutes and stuff.

Senator Winder: Jackson Winder, Science Senator. So, the requirement is that we need to hire a therapist. Right? And this fee, the money for that cannot go directly to hire that therapist?

Dr. Eric Olsen: Correct.

Senator Winder: Okay. Thank you.

VP Cinq-Mars: Matt Richey

Matt Richey: Matt Ritchey, Student At-Large. So I mean, a couple of the questions that I haven't seen, why support, it's something that only some students will benefit from. I haven’t ridden the bus a few years, I haven't gone to the ARC

in a while, right. I mean, we support fees that we don't directly benefit from that's part of being here. I think, when it talks, we talked about to not directly like it's about financial pressure, right? Athletics Department is now under financial pressure to get the fees to that therapist. Right. So instead of, from my understanding, and they did mention this last week, is talking about student tickets being reduced as a source of revenue . And Tate also follow up with that this week. So we're not directly paying those people. We are reducing the pressure.

VP Cinq-Mars: Can I ask you to slow down a little bit. Thank you!

Matt Ritchie: Yes. Thank you. I get so excited about these things. The financial pressure that is being faced because of these new requirements will be offset by this new fee, helping aid in the funding of those student tickets. Right. So while we're not paying the therapist fee, the therapists salary directly. We're offsetting that financial pressure. To my understanding. And I, yeah, that's, I've got a lot of notes here. But I don't want to take all the time.

Senator Hasting: Colin Hastings, CHaSS Senator. I think one thing I think about as we talked about this is as representative of the students, I went and talked to a ton of students, and got with the information that we were given at the first meeting and got probably three to one people against the vote. So with this new information, I really don't know how those same students would felt because we were just given it this morning. I feel like they should have done a way better job presenting and I understand it's their first year doing it for a long time. It's both Jerry’s and Diana's first time. But there's people they could have asked, lots of people have asked for student fee raises before so that. I do feel like they could have done a better job and come more prepared. I think a lot of things are iffy. I think they have no clear outline of where the money's going. And I think that's kind of been seen a lot. So, I think if we deny it here today, that doesn't mean they never get that funding. That means it just takes a year. That's your they can look for other ways to fund that. That's a year that they can take to actually give a decent presentation next year. That's a year they can take to refine what they're asking for, and what they are going to do. So that's kind of just where I'm at right now.

Xander Hayden: I think it is clear where the money's going,

VP Cinq-Mars: Please state your name,

Xander Hayden: I'm sorry, Xander Hayden, Student At-large, I think it is clear where the money's going. We're framing it as if my $3 bill that I'm handing them is going directly to that resource of mental health, when actually it is insurance for our previously utilized student experience will stay the same. And they don't have to take from that revenue source for mental health. These they have several avenues, which they mentioned in the document that we read, for funding for mental health and other things that we have a resource deficit, not a financial deficit in athletics. And so, I think this allows the money that they can use to hire a therapist and benefit those resources that can go there. And then the student money will stay where students need the money.

VP Cinq-Mars: Alex.

Executive Director Garces: Alex Garces, Executive Director of Diversity and Organization. I don't know where to start. One of the last thoughts I wrote down was, why this year and just not next year, TV deals, contracts realignment. The reason that PAC-12 is, all the teams left this last year, just because they're, I'm not sure if the deal was 10 years, but they were all under a contract, they all signed a contract. And they don't really negotiate these things once a year, like these are decade-long contracts. And that's why everyone jumped up and left is because they didn't lose money. If anyone's aware reads the news, San Diego State tried to leave the Mountain West early. And then they re-entered and they had to pay, because there was a clause in the contract, and they had to pay back a lot of money to not leave the conference. And so that's why it matters this year, and not next year. Because it isn't next year, it's a decade out. That's usually how these contracts work. Another thing, one of the precedents to be in the PAC-12. Every university to be admitted into the PAC-12 has to be an R1 institution, An R1 research institution. We are. BYU for years and years tried to get into the PAC-12, they're not R1. There's a lot of other reasons they never got in, but that was one of the big ones. So that's one of the precedents to get into the PAC-12. It's not athletics related. That's a research related thing. So, money, I don't know exactly where money will go or what money will do. But if you're expected to be an R1 institution to be granted a member of the PAC-12, I'm sure they'll provide resources, I'm sure that will aid and give back to the university, not just athletics. And then, I think that's about it. I think one thing everyone left out and forgot from the presentation, like the beginning of this was nutrition. Money is not just going to mental health resources, it is going to nutrition as well. Something no one brought up once, that everyone was thinking they’re only hiring a therapist, but it's nutrition resources, its mental health resources, and then also is to enhance the gameday experience. So there are a lot of different avenues where the money's going. A lot of other people who came and spoke to us the Rec fee. We approved that. And they said, Yeah, this might be they said it might go to like a lot of different avenues. And yeah, it's gonna help them to cut the deficit, but they weren't super finite and sure, with what the money would go to, they said like, it'll just help us remain out of the deficit. Especially as enrollment declines, and there's a deficit or a lower enrollment, just keep them safe. So, we approve that one. They weren't entirely clear. We trust them. I trust them. But they weren't entirely clear to say like, okay, each penny is going to go

to salaries to this. They said, “Yeah, we might raise salaries. Yeah, we might do this. Yeah, some of them might go to a rainy-day fund.” Like I worked with Katie and I read what was over that fee, but she's very, “It might go here, it might go there. But we're gonna have it just to help us remain out of a deficit.” So I think that's, it's up to them, but it's also up to us to trust them to utilize that fee and the stewards of our fees. But that's all I have.

VP Cinq-Mars: Thank you. Isabelle.

Senator Santini: Isabelle Santini, College of Engineering Senator. Like Senator Hastings. I also talked to a few of the students in my college as well. And I don't know everything about this like please correct me if I'm wrong, but there is a lot going on with the DEI stuff in the state of Utah right now. And I think that, like, from what I've heard from my students perspective, like, a lot of people don't understand that. And I think it is a bad look if we protect mental health resources for student athletes, but not, we're not really doing anything for the entire college. It is a perspective some people have let me know about. As well that it would be, if our DEI funding gets cut, it would take, it may, take some CAPS resources.

Dr. Eric Olsen: No.

Senator Santini: Okay, thank you.

Dr. Eric Olsen: Yeah, DEI has nothing to do with mental health.

Senator Santini: Okay, I did not know that. I don't think that's clear enough to students:

Dr. Eric Olsen: Sorry. I didn’t follow parliamentary procedures.

Senator Santini: No, you're fine. And I just think the students that I've spoken to, it feels like the student fee just goes to a few students, and it's not available for everyone. And especially with the DEI, stuff like that people don't understand, apparently, I obviously do not understand as well, but it's feels like a very messy situation.

VP Cinq-Mars: Ronan.

Ronan Spencer: Yeah, so I, that was a really good point. I didn't even think that but I just had a general question for I guess, whoever can like to answer it. How much money would it cost to like pay one of these therapists? Because I don't know if like, my math was right, maybe it probably wasn't. But I think I saw that only $84,000 would be generated from this, is there a number on how much it would cost?

Dr. Eric Olsen: Again, to let me just clarify, number one there aren't any student fees going to the DEI and DEI has nothing to do with mental health and has really nothing to do with athletics right now. And, again, let me make it clear this, when they're talking about mental health resources, talking about possibly prevention programs, awareness of self-help, other resources available. It is not going to a therapist, the therapists in CAPS right now make anywhere from about $85 to $90 to about $113 plus 47% benefits. But again, this is not going to hire a therapist, it would be for trainings, education, awareness, you know. Again, to supplement other aspects of mental health. I mean, obviously, CAPS is not the only mental health resource on campus, we have a lot of other resources, supplement students mental health, Campus Rec, being able to go work out in the ARC, supplements mental health needs. So anyway, just want to, I guess, let's quit talking about a therapist, as far as this fee, has nothing to do with the therapist, but with supplement additional mental health resources. And if you think about last week, they provided a broad menu of where money might go. One of the criticisms they heard was you're not very specific. So, they came back with a more refined approach. And really, again, in our process, department has up until five o'clock today to provide additional information. So I, I just want to, I guess give that perspective. That's why we have the hearings week apart for you as members of the board to if there are concerns to go back and clarify and get additional information. So, it's not a last-minute effort.

VP Cinq-Mars: Perfect: Ok we will go Sarah, Fran, Tate, and then we’ll Call it.

Senator Pope: Thank you. I have a lot things. I’m going to try to keep it short. I would like to mention that mental health resources within USU. There are some that are free such as the ACT program, the Act programs with the College of Education, we already have a lot of resources dedicated to trainings, we already have resources going to individualize self-help. I don't quite understand where this would go, which leads me to my larger point, whether it's mental health, extra resources or nutrition, there still wasn't a good plan of where that's going or where this money is going to. Yes, it's going to offset and I feel like when it came to the ARC Building during discussion, they were pretty clear and how like, things will move around as money does. But this is the deficit we are, you know, $13 million behind. Whereas not only during the conversation last week, when asked if there was a deficit, that question was avoided, but there wasn't any explicit

VP Cinq-Mars: Can you slow down a little bit?

Senator Pope: There wasn't any explicit. What's the word? They didn't say that they didn't explicitly say what that deficit was, it sounds like there might be a deficit. And it sounds like there's a deficit within resources. But we're here to talk about money. We're here to talk about student money. And I think that I would like I don't know if I can do this, or if we as a body can do this, but what I would love to see happen is us approved like $1.50 fee raise. And then next year, when we see that there have been actual increases in that money has gone to actual things that they can tell us, then we can give them the rest of that $1.50 Or even talk about more, if that's what they need. But as it stands right now, I do not have enough information to confidently say that 3,000 graduate students are able to give them $3 each, for generic help. I just don't think there's enough information.

VP Cinq-Mars: Thank you. Fran.

Senator Simpson: Moving away from the nutrition and the mental health aspects of their proposal. I did just want to touch a little bit on those game day experience that they had mentioned.Director Bennett had mentioned that there was a survey sent out to ask students what they wanted to see at Game days. I just am curious what that pool looked like. And who was involved in that survey, could you?

Executive Director Bennett: Yeah, it's given at basketball games, it's given at Midnight Yells to the people who attend. Okay. We get we get thousands of respondents.

Senator Simpson: I guess I wonder if maybe that survey could have been, I don't know. I just, I know that if speaking from my college perspective, the people responding to those surveys are already at the games.

Executive Director Bennett: Of course, they are. That’s their target audience.

Senator Simpson: That’s the target audience, I understand that. But if they want to involve more students and create a better student experience overall, I wonder if they could have made that pool just a little larger and included other students in that survey. That was my only thought.

VP Cinq-Mars: We will go Myra than have Tate have last thoughts.

Myra Lomax: Myra Lomax. I just have like a few questions in regards to like, like, the structure of like, the athletic fee in general, I guess. So like, does the like athletic fee. So I guess, if we're going for nutrition and mental health, like in regards to nutrition, does the Athletic fee like already fund some of their nutrition? Like what money comes out of that in order to like fund like student, like students, because, you know, we're trusting student athletes with our money. And so but are they using it in a way that's like, appropriate, if that makes sense? I just want clarifications on that aspect.

Dr. Eric Olsen: Eric Olsen. So, in regard to the nutrition. When football is in-season competing, they have what they call the training table, where student athletes are fed down at a maverick stadium, a much higher protein. So, we're not giving money to student athletes to go buy food. We're, well, we at the University Athletics is paying Dining Services to provide a meal that has a much higher, caloric and protein than if they went to McDonald's and just, you know, we're eating ramen or whatever, when they're offseason. So, again, I think the comment was about, “it focuses completely on football.” I mean, our basketball players right now are being fed in a different way than they are offseason. Our gymnasts, our volleyball, our soccer so the training table is for all student athletes when their season is on. So that's what the, the meaning behind the nutrition is they are fed. Again, I think one meal a day at least in in football and basketball as well. But anyway, that's I hope that answers that.

Myra Lomax: So, they're not receiving any extra money? No, tangible money?

Dr. Eric Olsen: No money is going to the student Athletes themselves. If you want to eat at the training table you show up and eat and here's a steak or whatever that's going to give you the additional protein needs. So that you, you can compete. And if you're injured, you have a better chance of healing. You're you have the energy to compete at your highest level and so forth.

Myra Lomax: So any money they're pocketing is coming from student fees?

Dr. Eric Olsen: Pocketing?

Myra Lomax: Pocketing like, like any money, like, like, like scholarships or like anything.

President Rodriguez: Or stipends that we're referring to?

Myra Lomax: Yeah, kind of like anything, anything that like, anything like that?

Dr. Eric Olsen: So scholarships go toward tuition, some athletes get a housing stipend.

Myra Lomax: But yeah, they're not getting any other stipend?

Dr. Eric Olsen: They're not getting rich off of scholarship, and it's not coming from student fees.

VP Cinq-Mars: Whitney Pugh.

Executive Director for Finance and Administrative Services, Whitney Pugh: Whitney Pugh from Budget Office. So just to your question a little bit, I mean, the student fee money and E&G money that is set aside for athletics is sort of combined in one pot, generally. And so, athletics just pays the bills, you know. And so they certainly can isolate certain revenue sources that say exactly how this is being spent, if that's needed. But generally, they just combine those sources into one pot. And so, your fee revenue, whatever they said back in 2000. whenever, that they were going to use it for it. Yeah, that's being used for that. But it's just sort of combined with everything, all the other revenue sources that they receive.

Dr. Eric Olsen: And that would be really the truth for all fee receiving areas.

VP Cinq-Mars: And final word with Tate.

Executive Director Bennett: Okay. I think my final thought is to consider the student athletes. I'm not so in favor of this because I love the athletics department, I want to be whipped by the athletics department. And I'm doing this because I was elected to speak in behalf of the student athletes, who are our peers. And this fee affects them. This increase this I mean, this affects their quality of life. This affects what, what they came here to do, why they chose Utah State. You know, some people will draw was public transportation, some people draw was the recreation department on campus. Specifically, for student athletes. The reason that they came to Utah State is because of the athletics department, their students still, their students before their athletes. I think we've lost sight of that a little bit, but they're just some people who are here to be professional athletes. And that's not why they're here at all. They're here to get an education. Our football team is far outnumbered by the other student athletes who received. To Ronan's point, if we're talking about just football, it's that's a narrow, narrow view of what we're looking at. We're looking at the track-and-field team. We're looking at cross country we're looking at golf, like all of these student athletes are here to get an education and participate in the sports that they enjoy. So to not consider them in our decision is to not do our job of advocating for the students on the student people. So that's my final thought.

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, with that I would like to entertain a motion to vote on the athletic fee requests. Can I get a “So move”?

Multiple People: So moved

VP Cinq-Mars: A second?

Multiple People: Second.

VP Cinq-Mars: All in favor say, “Aye.”. All not in favor say, “Nay”. Any Abstentions

Everyone: Aye.

VP Cinq-Mars: Go ahead and pull out your phone. Fran, Do you want to use my phone

Senator Simpson: Yes. Thank you.

VP Cinq-Mars: Final Results. 15 people say no and six people say yes to $3 increase. So I believe the majority rules on that there is no increase.

Official Vote Tally:

Yes: 6

No: 15

Executive Director Bennett: I would like to motion to open this back up at $2.

VP Cinq-Mars: Is there a second?

Multiple people: Second

VP Cinq-Mars: All those in favor say, “Aye.” And all those not in favor say, “Nay.” Any abstentions.

Motion to vote:

Aye: 15

Nay: 6

Abstentions: 0

David Higashi: Can you repeat the results [for the $3 increase]?

VP Cinq-Mars: 15 no and six yes. Senator Omer.

Senator Omer: With the revote, can there be a few more points of discussion? Or will we just go straight into the revote? Can I motion to open a five to ten-minute discussion?

Senator Pope: So moved.

Executive Director Garces: Second

VP Cinq-Mars: All those in favor say, “Aye.” And all those not in favor say, “Nay.” Any abstentions.

Motion to vote:

Aye: 20

Nay:

Abstentions: 1

Senator Winder: Abstain

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay, we'll go ahead and open it back up for five minutes, we'll do Sarah, Nate, matt.

Senator Pope: Again, I think that having half of that student fee would be good enough. I think it's a compromise for those students who think it is frivolous to give $3 to athletics while compromising with athletics, saying we see you we see your struggle. We see what you're trying to do come back next year and show us what you did. And maybe we'll give you more. But I just don't think that $2 is low enough to be worth it. I think that going half would be fair for all parties.

VP Cinq-Mars: Alex.

Executive Director Garces: Actually I am not going to say what I was thinking.

Senator Von-Niederhausern: Bryce Von-Niderhausern, Business Senator. U just had a question. If anyone knows the answer, I'm just really curious. How many students at Utah State are student athletes? .... Okay, just curious.

Senator Santini: Nate, you were next.

Senator Omer: I agree with Sarah. I like the idea of introducing a smaller fee, and then seeing where it goes, how it helps, and then moving forward later on. Second. I want to ask a similar question to what I asked the very beginning. In context of the nutrition of the fees going towards improving student nutrition, we are all sitting 50 feet away from the Student Nutrition Access Center, a whole service directly, you know, aimed at improving nutrition access for the entire student body. If you ever here when they open and you see the massive line forming outside, it's very clear that that's something that the entire student body needs. So again, I want to ask, Are we okay? And two, two kinds of questions. It's clear to me, the way the money flows is not? Yeah, we give them $3. They use that $3 to go buy chicken breasts that they feed the students like? It's, I understand that money doesn't flow that directly in large institutions like this, it just can't. Are we okay with the indirect movement of money and trusting that this fee will support and grow the university as a whole? And two, Are we okay with asking students to basically pay an extra fee to help support the nutrition needs of the athletes, when they themselves very well might be in a nutrition deficit, basically, for lack of a better term themselves? Again, you know, if you are not a student athlete, this fee is may benefit you down the line very indirectly. But I just think it might not be fair to ask students to give up a resource that can help them to give that same resource to somebody else.

Matt Ritchie: Matt Ritchie, Student At-large. I think I felt like a lot of a lot of the disdain for the see I don't know if that's the right word, but like this,

VP Cinq-Mars: Remember to speak slow.

Matt Ritchie: The distaste, maybe, for this fee comes from the fact that they did a really poor job presenting it. But what the first thing I said last week was they made it really hard to want to give them money. I agree it was bad. I don't see how that matters, I don't because if this fee is necessary, that's what matters. If that's if this is actually going to have an impact on the student body.

VP Cinq-Mars: Please remember to be respectful.

Matt Ritchie: This is going to have an a Positive impact on the student body. That's why we're here not to rate people's presentations. Following up on that, I also had the opportunity to speak with some students after learning more about the why behind the student fee increase, I quote, I had someone say earlier to me today, “Increase my fee by $50. If it means that we don't go down to D2.”, like, I think this is something that students are willing to do if they knew what it meant. Also, we said are we okay with this? Are we okay with the nutrition level or something? It's not about are we okay with it, the NCAA has decided that we are not where we need to be we are ranked lower, in the Mountain West, and among Big Five conferences. It's not about where we are, it's about where we are in relation to everyone else, and the standards that have been set forth. And then final point. I lost it. So, I'll stick with that.

Senator Santini: Alex, you were next.

Executive Director Garces: Alex Garces, Diversity and Organizations Executive Director. If you guys are all want it at half, half is $2.50 from their initial bid, so it should be 50 cents higher. But aside from that point. Not all fees pay for all students in what they like not all our student fees. All of our student fees go toward things that benefit students but not all of us utilize them. A huge issue, not within the university, not within current legislation, but around the country within DEI offices, is it's not benefiting me, it's not going directly to me. That's more a lot of the discourse has arrived with DEI offices because people say it's not directly benefiting me. To go off of what Vice President Olsen said last week. He pays taxes for schools that his kids simply don't go to anymore. He doesn’t have any kids at home. And it's the same way with the university. We all pay student fees for students for different facilities and different things that all can benefit us. We all can utilize these student fees for the most part, but not all of them directly go and impact certain students. I don't know, I think it's important that you look at the bigger picture of what this student fee is. At the end of the day, it's a couple of dollars. I know not everyone has that resource, those abilities. But at the end of the day, it's a couple dollars. And it really can go a long way to not just benefit athletics and the student athletes, but just the institution as a whole. That's my last thoughts.

VP Cinq-Mars: We will here from Collin and Dr. Olsen had something to say. Then we will take it to a vote.

Senator Hastings: Collin Hastings, CHaSS Senator. I think it's important to realize as we talked about, like the SNAC or CAPS that us giving money to the athletics for nutrition or mental health resources isn't necessarily taking that away from other students. It's not like it if we don't provide $2. If we do provide $2, that automatically means the snack is going to do worse. I don't think that's a fair comparison. I think a compromise is a really good idea with us. So evenly split, whether that's $2 or $1.50. There's a there's potentially benefits. I don't think that has been made very clear. And I think all of them seem kind of iffy whether we get those or not. But I think Alex was right in saying that at the end of the day. It's either $4 or $6 a year per student and that's not going to make a dent in paying for student’s therapist or if they're in a nutrition deficit going for that. I paid $7 for sushi this morning. The Quick Stop is outrageously overpriced. So, I think there's other places we could potentially look at in the future to help students get rid of that nutrition deficit who aren't in athletics. So, I think I would say I'm in favor of a compromise whether that's $2 or $1.50, or whatever.

VP Cinq-Mars: Dr. Olsen

Dr. Eric Olsen: I just like to clarify things. SNAC serves less than 3% of the student body. SNAC will not meet the nutritional needs of athletes and SNAC has no screening. A lot of students use SNAC because it's free not because they need it. And we know that from just anecdotal conversation, so food insecurity is real for some people. But a lot of our students come to snack every week just because it's free and the food is there. So, anyway, I just want to clarify snack is not a substitute for the nutritional needs of athletes. And again, less than 3% of our student body utilize snack.

VP Cinq-Mars: I would like to now entertain a motion to revote on the athletic fee request of $2.

Multiple People: So moved.

VP Cinq-Mars: And a second?

Multiple People: Second

VP Cinq-Mars: All in favor say, “Aye”. Any opposed say, “Nay”? Any abstentions?

Motion to Vote:

Aye: 20

Nay:

Abstentions: 1

Senator Winder: Abstain

VP Cinq Mars: Perfect go ahead and pull out your phones. All votes have been put in. 65%, 13 votes are in favor of increasing the athletics fee $2.00. 7 votes 35% are in favor of no increase.

Official Vote Tally:

Yes: 13

No: 7

VP Cinq-Mars: So it looks like we will go ahead and approve that. Does everyone feel ok with that? As much as they can be. Okay.

**Career Design Center New Fee Discussion and Vote**

VP Cinq-Mars: Okay. Lastly, we have the Career Service Center new fee request. This board only has the authority to approve this to go to the student body vote in the upcoming election ballot if this fee is voted down it will not go to the student body. Any questions. Alright go ahead to vote on this

Senator Winder: Motion to vote on this

Senator Pope: So moved.

VP Cinq-Mars: Oh yeah. Sorry. Second.

VP Cinq-Mars: All in favor say, “Aye”. Any opposed say, “Nay”? Any abstentions?

Everyone: Aye.

VP Cinq mars: We are just waiting on one more.

Senator Von-Niederhausern: Is the last one Xander’s?

VP Cinq-Mars: No. Okay, looks like there were 14 votes for no. Seven votes yes. So it does not pass therefore will not be going on the ballots for student elections.

Official Vote Tally:

YES: 7

NO: 14

VP Cinq-Mars: Just a couple of things before we close out this meeting there will be an upcoming student fee board meeting to vote on the updating the student fee board policy. I will schedule a breakfast one morning in the next couple of weeks that will be at 7:30am. You're all required to be there and we will discuss the needed changes that will be proposed, this board will need to vote ot approve any of those changes. And then once approved, President Rodriguez will move the policy over to the Board of Trustees for approval. So keep that in mind, keep your emails, keep checking your emails, I should say. And then just another thing. All of these fee voting/ opinions and everything that we talked about today is a recommendation to the President. So, we'll be going ahead and writing a letter to her kind of discussing what we talked about in today's meeting. And she does have the overall say so just because we proposed to her we're okay with the $2 increase, she can very well say, “No, we're gonna do it for three or do it for four.” At the end of the day. She has the last say. With that our business has concluded so thank you all for being here and representing the students. I want to entertain a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

Everyone: Second

Matt Ritchie: Second

VP Cinq-Mars: All in favor say, “Aye”. Any opposed say, “Nay”? Any abstentions?

Everyone: Aye.

VP Cinq-Mars: 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