FEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2023| 5:00 PM | TSC Senate Chamber

WELCOME & DINNER

VP Abraham Rodriguez: Good evening, everyone. Thank you all for being here tonight just want to welcome all of you to our annual student fee board meeting. Unlike other years in the past, this year we do not have the need to meet twice. We’ll get everything that we need to get covered all tonight. I just want to say not only, “Thank you” on behalf of myself but “Thank you” on behalf on the student body for all of you guys to be here tonight. It means a lot. I also want to say thank you to the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Doctor Eric Olsen. I want to thank him for being here tonight. As well as President Alder, for making an appearance tonight. She didn’t have to be here tonight, but she wanted to show her support. And now, I want to turn over the time to Dr. Olsen to give his remarks.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Eric Olsen: I want to thank Abe for the Coke Cola even though we are a Pepsi campus. This is a historical fee board meeting, because we have no fees to discuss. I wanted to talk briefly about that. For those of you brand new to the fee board Historically, we would have multiple meetings there were multiple discussions about different fee increases and a lot of back and forth. We greatly appreciate the work you have done up till tonight working with your committees and administrators. And the governor comes out and says no tuition increase and really attach with that no fee increase. It changes how we approaches it. Where is our business senator? What product do we produce, Sadie? Here at Utah State.

Senator Jensen: Overarchingly, educated people.

Dr. Eric Olsen: So, everybody around this room is the product. And how do we generate revenue? Who buys our product?

Senator Jensen: We do.

Dr. Eric Olsen: So, the State of Utah, the way it works. You all pay tuition it goes to the State of Utah and they give us a portion back. And that is how we run the university. It is not like, there is a significant line of funding from the state, or somewhere else, and tuition is on top of that. So, when there are things like inflation and even pay raises for faculty and staff, that has to come out of tuition. When the governor says there will be no increase in tuition and yet he is proposing a significant increase in salary. We are sitting here thinking; “How is that going to happen?”. Bottom line we are waiting to see what legislature is going to do with funding us this year, in general. We won’t go bankrupt, for sure. We could be looking at some budget cuts. We could be looking at other ways to be creative. The message was very clear there will be no increase in tuition and no increase in Student fees. Which changes the involvement of this committee, certainly has been the way of the past. With that being said, I want to thank you, genuinely, for your participation and your stewardship. I always been impressed over the years how serious the Fee board takes the stewardship over seeing your fee dollars and making sure the decision you make are in the best interest of the students. Any questions were my analogy clear. I do not have any problems talking to you as consumers and education as a product. There are some people on this campus that will be highly offended using a business model. The reality is you pay money in hopes to get something in return, that’s your degree and education. The State of Utah has a very interesting funding model, which I have explained. Students often think, well if there is a direct correlation; if we just grow enrollment, we will get a hundred percent back. Clara knows this. We won’t get a hundred percent back by the State of Utah. I just want to thank you and briefly explain why things are so different this year.

VP Rodriguez: Thank you! Doctor Olsen. Now I will do a review of Logan and statewide campuses student fee meetings.

REVIEW OF FEE RECEIVING AREAS FOR LOGAN & STATEWIDE CAMPUSES

VP Rodriguez: So, with that the Statewide Campuses, the fee receiving area that they have are: Activity fee, the Building fee, the Athletics fee (which is only for USU Eastern), and the Instruction and Student Support fee. Each of the Eight of the Statewide Service regions met last semester and reviewed the information about each fee receiving area at their region. Service regions include: Blanding, Brigham (which also includes Kaysville), Eastern, Moab, South West, Tooele, Uintah Basin, and Wasatch. And each region fee committees including each of the following members: The Associate Vice President, The Director of Students, The Finance Manager, The USUSA Vice President and The USUSA Student representatives. This year there was no request to increase or decrease fees at Statewide Campuses.

For Logan campus, here are the following fee receiving areas: Activity fee, Aggie Shuttle Fee, Athletics Fee, Building Fee, Campus Recreation Fee, Library fee, Music and Theatre Fee, and Technology fee. Now the members of Logan Fee Board, which is comprise of you guys, were able to meet with each Fee administrator, to review information regarding your respective fee. And these members include: The Fee Administrators, the USUSA Officers (that are in the room right now as well as the Student representatives or Students At-Large), and Finance Managers. I do want to tell you guys why today’s meeting is short is because there was no request to increase or decrease student fees at Logan Campus. Also, there was no request for new student fee both at the Statewide Campuses and our Logan campus. And with that with no fee to review, we have completed our task for this year.

Dr. Eric Olsen: Point of Information. There are some wagers on what time this meeting will end. I am not involved but I am aware of them. The wagers of pride and no money.

VP Rodriguez: I would like to take the time to acknowledge our Students At-Large for being here with us tonight. I do understand that this year, you may have questioned yourself, to why isn’t there much going on in this process. But just like how Doctor Olsen has said, we are in a unique circumstance where we did not have any of proposals made. I do want to say that your responsibilities are very important and we are very glad to have you here. Sometimes, as USUSA Officers we get clouded by having the same opinion about certain matters. Of Course, that did not happen this year. But I want to say thank you for your commitment. I know a lot of you were here before Five o’clock. Just want to thank you for taking the time to serve. Also, all of you in general, I want to thank you for your service to the University and for all that you want to do and creating an impact. With that being said, I like to entertain to adjourn this meeting. Do I have a; so moved?

Executive Director Sasser: So moved

VP Rodriguez: Do I have a second?

Senator Pope: Seconded

VP Rodriguez: All in favor say, “Aye”?

All: Aye

IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Zimmerman, Eric Olsen, Sophia May, Clara Alder, David Higashi

**Officers**: VP Abraham Rodriguez, VP Erik Fogth, Senator Carter Ottley, Senator Sarah Pope, Senator Abigail MacKay, Senator Allison Bernhardt, Senator Gabriella Cale, Executive Director Ryder Sasser, Senator Cade Cox, Executive Director Dakota Oldham, Senator Sadie Jensen, Senator Adrianna Mortensen, Senator Scott Nelson, Executive Director Noah Evaga

**Students At-Large**: Benjamin Johnson, Chloe Richmond, Claire Hansen, Colin Hastings, Joseph Fica, Maggie Mace, Devin Sheehan