

## UA Council Meeting Minutes 11/16/15

### Attendance:

Daniel (LGC), Mandy (Baker), Sonia (EC), David (IFC), Trevor (IFC), Katelyn (Panhel), Charlotte (Panhel); Jack Gordon (IFC), Jason (IFC), Paul (BC), Kate (Simmons), Eric (Random), Adrianna (Senior House), Trey (New House), Arthur (MacGregor), Matt (President), Alekhya (Treasurer), Alex (Secretary), Mary (McCormick), Emma (The Tech), Haley (Next House), Taylor (Panhel)

Matt: I have worked all four years throughout college, as I know many people, and I'm sure many of you have done. And I think that it is super important that we have this \$4 fee increase this year.

### Powerpoint presentation by Matt

(link:

<http://web.mit.edu/ua/council/47UAC/presentations/UA%20Student%20Life%20Fee%20Presentation%20Nov.%202016.pdf>)

### Timeline:

- student-oriented funds include the Costco shuttle, etc.
- UA internal operations for keeping committees and organization running—doesn't include food or anything
- Arthur: What is the breakdown? Matt: The breakdown is approx.. 2/3 is general institute money and 1/3 is student life fee (combo. of tuition and endowment); vast majority from alumni contributions and intellectual property

### Basic overview of finances:

- # of student groups exponentially increasing
- expenses exceed income
- shuttles and ASA database are also becoming expensive
- would like to bring student group funding (avg spend of \$1200/ group)
- Sonya: What does the shape of the curve look like for all students? Matt: Off of the top of my head, based on work from the summer, I think it would look like a bell curve.
- Charlotte: What does it look like when you normalize? Matt: You can't get that information from the ASA database currently. Good question; I agree.
- Kate: Do we think student groups will only grow in number? We must have reached a balance point, right? Matt: I'm sure we will, but this number does not take that into account. Next semester, we will be looking at what the definition of a student group is and how/what we fund.
- Paul: Why not investigate the tactics the GSE seems to employ? Matt: We will be looking into that.

### The proposal:

- no guarantee of future increases—puts on the table though if necessary in the future
- budget planning will be rearranged
- \$4 increase proposal means we tell Dean Colombo and then he presents to the enrollment management group, headed by Dean Freeman, and they go to academic council and they look at it and then President Reif goes to the exec committee of the corporation (in March or April) and

they decide whether to increase the fee or not. Important to remember that at no point in the process will this number go above \$4—can only go down

-Paul: Distribution of UA's percent of the GSE pool and DAPER's, etc.? Matt: I will address that at the end. If you want to change the distribution of the funding, it is much too late. But I will address that again at the end.

-New project, very much in the beginning stages, that Alekyha and Jitesh are working on to a) reorganize and streamline funding process; b) have one big funding board; c) addition to this, let's centralize finboard and asa and easily audit groups and how they are spending

-the good thing about the fee is that it is like a check or an insurance policy—for if new people (Pres, R&D committee, etc.) aren't as good—with money; If we have a great R&D team like we did last year, then we can go and see and decide not to raise the fee

-Certain funding we have this year from the GSE, etc. will not happen next year and so we need to plan for that.

-Eric: How does the GSE feel about charging undergrads another \$4? Matt: They are fine with it. We have never increased the fee, talking to my predecessors in a long time. Grad students have increased theirs—I think the last time was 2 years ago.

-Paul: My question and my constituents feel as though austerity, not expansion, is the way to ensure financial stability in the future... officers should understand their parameters better and be more fiscally responsible...

-Matt: I am here to pay for student groups. No matter how fiscally responsible the next Pres. is, if they do not have any money to spend on student groups, they won't be able to.

There is still a Gap:

-a million what ifs—need flexibility

-if we do not increase the student life fee now, I don't know when/how it would be increased in the future

-already effects on student groups and life this year

-systemic ineffectiveness—It will be hard to retain talent... I would rather resolve that now

-Alekhya: question on Paul/ his constituents' feelings. Paul: My constituents have lost faith in the UA as an organization... Predecessors have to deal with a finite budget that might now change...

Clips from Audit Report:

- #1 negative feedback from undergrads: student groups spend a lot of money

The Proposal (again):

-Eric: budgeting of \$1200/ group not a cap? Matt and Alekyha: Yes.

-Paul: question on increase now vs. in the future; Matt: Traditionally, this is not easy to do. Yes, it is possible to change, but these certain situations have lubricated the process.

-Kate: What are the chances if we approve the increase tonight, that the corporation approves it next year? Matt: I would be shocked if it wasn't approved post- our approval.

-Paul: Have you thought about writing a memo to your predecessor about asking the institute for more money—you said that would have to be done earlier? Matt: Yes, I plan to transition them so hard and that is definitely something.

-Alekhya: I see this increase as an investment to our student activities. In my opinion, we would get so much more than \$4 out of this. I can go to Starbucks and get a \$4 coffee and we could get

so much more out of these \$4 than a coffee. Some groups have fallen apart or felt discriminated against because we have not been able to give them the funds they want/need and it is just because we do not have the money to.

Motion by Taylor to votes. All but Paul and Adrianna approve.