

Broad Based Fee Meeting 2/15/18

Barbara Ricotta – Opening Remarks.

This session is held in spring to let us know what students would like to have done with the fees. Feedback is very important.

Tom Tiberi introduced:

Laura Barnum and Ashley Kravitz – provided an overview of the Broad Based Fee process.

Two areas of Broad Based Fee (BBF):

- Comprehensive Fee which is a “bundle” of fees including Technology, College, Athletics, Campus Life, Health, Recreation, and Transportation.
- Academic Excellence Success Fee

Both make up BBF

- In fall – collect expenditure info from all fee stewards
- As part of the Annual Resource Planning Process, fee increase requests are received from each fee steward.
- SUNY sends a request to each campus for Broad Based Fee increases and provides how much the comprehensive fee can be increased based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) which this year is 2.5%. However, SUNY is allowing up to 2.6% increase. UB’s recommendation is to increase the Comprehensive fee by 2.53%.
- The recommendation is submitted to SUNY in beginning of March.
- UB hears back by mid-June
- Reports from last year are available online

Tom Tiberi stated that this is the formal part of the process, to get feedback.

Q: Where was this meeting advertised?

A: It was advertised on the UB Experience page on Facebook, Spectrum Ads, leadership of student groups were notified on two instances to disseminate the information, and the electronic sign outside the Student Union. The website has everything on it from last year: notes and reports.

Tiberi explained the format of this meeting:

- 1) Presentation (Town Hall)
 - a. How stewards use fees (1 hour)
- 2) Networking type format
 - a. Questions for specific fee stewards

Q. When are general questions asked?

A. Anytime

Q. When were students notified of this meeting?

- A. Save the Date was sent to all student leadership in January
- B. Sent out from Provost's Office on February 9th
- C. My Opinion Survey on MyUB, which is open through 2/23
- D. Spectrum Ads: 2/12, 2/15, 2/19, 2/22

Q: How was this day and time determined?

A: Room availability, Students and staff. More than one step process. There is also the My Opinion survey as a method to offer feedback.

Q. When is proposal sent to SUNY?

A. March 7th

Campus Life Fee – Tom Tiberi and Mara Huber

- On website there is a breakdown of expenditures
- Actual expenditures show how the fee is used
- Co-curricular activities, career services, job fairs, alternative breaks, opening weekend, (interlocking UB), orientation activities
- Academic engagement – One-on-one discussion with advisors, Marching Band (uniforms, music, instruction)
- Standards in safety – inspectors to look at properties in the Heights (Advocacy)
- Veteran services (guiding them through their benefits)
- Student Awareness – Title IX Legislation, voting registration/ community services program, victim's assistance
- Student Engagement – late night programs, (food, off-campus trips), Intercultural and Diversity Center (diversity programs) fee supports program expenses and staff (full time and students)
- Strategic Initiatives – changes every year depending on need. Victim's assistance, civic engagement (get students in the community), suicide prevention

Q. This is very general and hard to understand without dollar amounts. Can we get dollar amounts?

A. (Barnum) Yes. We can do that. However, the level of detail may vary based on the activity. For example, Accessibility Resources may be difficult to break that down to every task and specific activity a staff member may be involved in such as snow plowing.

(Rogan): We can say how much went to Accessibility Resources, but not what percentage went to snow plowing, for example.

(Tiberi): We heard loud and clear that students want items broken down more.

(Barnum): Fees may not cover everything in a department's budget - there may be other funding sources that are utilized as well.

Tiberi suggested moving on and talking to Beth Rogan and Laura Barnum

Student: No, every student in the room wants to know that answer and how it's broken down.

Tiberi suggested to hear all stewards first and stay as a group to discuss afterward

Q. Can we get a breakdown of undergraduate and graduate costs? We have been waiting for two years.

A. (Tiberi) For Campus Life, we can give you some breakdown. Our programs are open to all students.

Mara Huber - Experiential Learning Network (ELN)

- Some services are undergraduate only
- Hoping to overlap both graduate and undergraduate
- We give \$50,000 to undergraduate to support research in small grants.
- Graduate school is expanding its sessions
- Work with faculty to increase experiential learning in the classroom.
- Helping to customize experiential learning based on their interests and experience. Students are looking for this.
- Connecting the experience to credits

Q. Where do you get this info that graduate students want more?

A. Surveys, fairs. We are centrally working to get that information.

Student Feedback: UB is not giving Graduate students any money for conferences. Graduate students need that. It's important. Some departments give it, some don't. Students have asked for that for the past two years.

(Huber): Some departments offer graduate and undergraduate scholarships. We are working with global partnerships and classes that are ripe to experiential learning.

Q. What if faculty don't want experiential learning?

A. We put calls out to faculty members to solicit people. This allows us to reach throughout the campus, through Student Engagement. We design the experience around them.

Student Feedback: CURCA pays \$50,000 for undergraduate research. Looking toward the future, graduates are required to do research yet they fund their own research.

A. Experiential Learning Network could potentially focus on graduate as well as undergraduate research but currently serves undergraduates. CURCA, the \$50,000, pays for undergraduate research awards.

Q. How do you know how many students you serve?

A. Pre and post audit, get metrics with results. Everything goes in to qualitative research. The new Experiential Learning Network model focuses on classes.

Athletics Fee – Nate Wills

Fee supports 3 areas:

- Student employment
- Women's sports (to meet Title IX obligations)
- Team operational costs (for all 16 teams – recruiting, travel, etc.)

Asking for 2%, which is about \$10 per person

Q. Cutting four teams – how did that impact this?

A. Need additional money to keep services where they are.

Q. So the Athletic Fee goes to tutoring for athletes?

A. It is used for paying tutor support, student employment (the students are tutors).

Q. Athletic Fee for tutoring is only 3% of the total Athletic budget of \$9 million, so where is the 97% going?

A. Four hundred students play for our sports teams, Division I sports teams. There are other funding sources – University funding, fund raising, ticket revenue, self-generated revenue (playing at other institutions) Athletics has a \$30-32 million operating budget

Q: How can we change this so more students can take advantage of the fee?

A: We are open to discussion but we have to find ways to fund things. We are charged with representing the University.

Q: Are hotels, etc. for away games paid for by this fee?

A: No

Q: Tutoring?

A: This is typical for Division I athletes to expect. We are the only Division I team in the SUNY system. It's expensive.

Academic Excellence Fee (AESF) - Ashley Kravitz / Laura Barnum

As part of the onset of NYSUNY2020, it was recognized that to realize the full UB NYSUNY2020 academic strategy, we need to invest in quality education and research to provide a high quality student experience. All SUNY institutions must charge like tuition for like academic programs, regardless of the institutional mission and/or costs. The AESF provides a crucial margin of resources beyond the rational tuition policy which is to support the four University Centers. The quality of education and experiences at these institutions requires more resources to recruit premier research faculty and provide infrastructures to enhance student experience.

This investment provides support to and enhances the quality of your educational experience at UB as well as the value of your degree you earn here.

AESF is only charged at the four SUNY University Centers.

- Increase of \$100 would bring it up to \$475
- At the onset of the AESF, the Provost, as our Chief Budget Officer, requested proposals to support research and high quality faculty and interdisciplinary initiatives. This was referred to as the E-fund. For 2018-19 the \$100 increase is to support new faculty and instructional classrooms and technology.
- In 2016-2017, SUNY made a decision to put the \$100 increase in the college fee so it would be financial aid eligible.
- Fee supports various initiatives programs, and student services across many departments all over campus.

Q. New faculty funding?

A. Yes. SUNY Centers hire quality research faculty which require more resources and the AESF provides that additional funding that we cannot charge with additional tuition.

Q. Can we have it broken down on the bill? We get charged fees and have no idea what they are for. There is no detail.

A. (Barnum): I will take it back to see.

Q. Where do you “take” that?

A. (Barnum): To our University Controller who oversees student accounts.

Q. Where does this feedback go?

A. (Barnum): Each steward will take it back.

For example, last year we heard about the graduate students request for more funding to support “professionalizing their degree and attending conferences”.

It should be noted that today we are discussing the Broad Based Fees, which represent roughly \$70M of UB’s operating budget which is \$700 million. Many units that you are hearing from today have several funding sources that they are working with to make their budget work to support all of the programs and initiatives they provide. This is important to keep in mind when they are responding to questions you may have on detail for various activities and programming as more than one funding source may be supporting it.

Q. What is the decision making process to increase the fee \$100?

A. (Barnum): Comprehensive Fee – we have to stay within the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). 2.53% cannot be over 2.6%.

With the onset of AESF, the Provost requested proposals for the “E-Fund/3-E” program. These programs were then vetted by committees and recommendations were made for funding. Initially the fee revenue was not enough so the University has been covering the overages from other funding sources.

- The College fee is bundled in the Comprehensive Fee. In 2016-17, SUNY decided to increase the College Fee by \$100 instead of the AESF because it would be financial aid eligible.
- The Academic Excellence Success fee is separate from the Comprehensive Fee.

Q. The Spectrum gets \$0 funding from the University. We are requesting to be included in the fee, \$3 per student. How do we do that?

A. (Barnum): I don't know. I will take it back. We would need to look at the purpose of the AESF and whether it would be appropriate to fund The Spectrum. My initial thinking is it would not since the AESF was established to expand academics, research and the student experience by supporting innovative University initiatives like hiring faculty so to accelerate UB's efforts to be a leading public research university and enhance the value of your degree.

Q. Speaking of Scott Weber, where is he today? Why isn't he at this meeting?

A. (Hernandez): Scott is in Albany today and tomorrow and apologizes for having to miss the meeting.

Health Fee - Sharon Mitchell / Sue Snyder

- Grad students account for 43% of health service, 33% for counseling services
- 90% of budget goes to Personnel and fringe, 10% to programming and outreach
- There has been a 70% increase in the number of students using Counseling Services over the past 10 years and a 30% increase over the past 3 years.
- Counseling Services has a waitlist for the first time in over 15 years. There were 146 students on wait list last week and today there are 70 on the wait list, so the waitlist was cut in half.
- No increase to the fee last year
- Recently hired a full-time Nurse Practitioner and a Clinical Case manager, which has allowed us to provide more psychiatric care hours and provide assistance for students who need specialized care in the community, including those related to food insecurity and housing needs.
- It takes 40 hours per week to hand out medication
- In Fall 2017, Health Services provided care to 22% of UB students, gave 1000+ flu shots and installed kiosks for self-check-in to increase speed and efficiency.
- In Fall 2017, Wellness Education started a new program called Stress Busters, which was offered 25 times and added modules to their online alcohol education and sexual
- Starting in March, there will be mental health services on the Medical Campus.
- In March 2018, new online counseling intervention to address anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, and substance use will be rolled out.

How do we decide what to ask for and how we will spend it? Student feedback, including from customer satisfaction data and educational program evaluations are used to assess students' health needs. However, the most important tool is the National College Health Assessment that is given to UB students every 3 years. Spring 2016 was the last time it was done and 2000+ student participated.

We are requesting a cost of living increase (\$20) for staff and an increase of \$3 per student for 2018-19. This will be used to fund health promotion initiatives; one that focuses on developing resiliency skills and the other focuses on developing a healthier campus at all levels. There has been a 70% increase in the number of students using Counseling Services. There were 146 students on wait list last week and today there are 70 on the wait list, so we were able to cut it in half. Starting in March, services will be on Medical Campus.

Q. No new counselors?

A. No.

Student Feedback: No argument with this fee. Mental Health is crucial. Should ask for more to get more personnel and staff.

Q. Can you ask the Provost for more money?

A. Health fee funds all costs. No state money. We don't report to the Provost, but to the Vice President of Student Life, Scott Weber.

Student Feedback: This is crucial for graduate students. Appreciate all the work that your staff does and it is so appreciated. Thank you.

Recreation Fee – Wilson Bautista / Nate Wills

- Student staff – largest student employer
- Upgrade facilities – cardio room at Clark was upgraded as well as the security at Clark.
- Equipment

Looking for \$1 increase to maintain cost levels where we're at.

Q. Budget fee does not cover the total cost, so where else does money come from?

A. State

Q. Why are you only requesting a \$1 increase? Why not more?

A. The \$1 is to offset the increase in costs. We can only do a portion of what we want to do because of that. There are conversations to have a stand-alone recreation facility.

Q. Can we put money aside for a fund for a recreation center, like health services?

A. That's challenging with what the fee is right now. Set fee established to build a stand-alone center.

Q. How do we get answers?

A. Sharon Sanford, Director of Recreation and Intramural Services will be back and fee stewards will take it back to Scott Weber.

Q. Can there be a reallocation of the existing fee?

A. Fees that have been established cannot be changed. We can discuss current requests and request to go above Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). That is how we can request.

Student Feedback: Advocating that other stewards lower their fees so health services can increase theirs.

Response: Fees go to SUNY to be approved. We can look at increase and advocate where increase can go. Other fees would have to change their level of services. Another thing we can do is put in a request to increase to above HEPI. There is a longer term plan for recreation on campus.

Technology Fee - Christopher Clune / Charles Lyons

- Student engagement is important to UBIT. Student focus group feedback helps drive our IT service delivery.
- We conduct surveys annually and are active in social media engagement.
- UBIT help center locations – North and South campus. Our online ticketing system can be used on your mobile device as well.
- Last year we launched UB tech squad – a free service specifically for students. Staffed by our highly skilled technical student employees available to help with your personal devices. Tech Squad service comes to you but also located in the Lockwood Cybrary
- Previous feedback suggested students wanted Apple computers in the computing sites. We listened and we now have iMacs in the Lockwood Cybrary.
- We are in the process of trying to get student printing in the new JSMBS building downtown.
- We are improving technology in the classroom.
- We have a reliable and robust network throughout the university.
- Wi-Fi upgrade has been completed in all residence halls and we continue to enhance the service.

Fee increase is to continue software licensing and student minimum wage increase.

Q: Can we see specifics?

A: I will take that back.

Q: Microsoft Office provided to students, but students don't know about it.

A: We have heard this feedback before and we're making changes to the UBIT website so all students would be informed about the software that's available.

Q: Graduate students and instructors think they should not be paying for classroom upgrades.

A. I will share that feedback with CIT administration.

Charles Lyons – The libraries

- The libraries get 33% of the technology fee and the money is used to provide access to scholarly online resources like e-journals, databases, over 800,000 e-books.

- Greenr (Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources) and Health & Wellness Resource Center (Gale) are two examples of resources purchased in order to meet the changing information needs of students. Both are one-stop sites that provide journals, news, background information, videos, commentaries, primary source documents and statistics.
- One way we incorporate student feedback is by closely tracking which resources are used and how much. We also do surveys, run focus groups, and gather input through our many subject librarians.
- We are also investing in newer, emerging resources (breaking free of “boring type” resources) in order to better support teaching and learning on campus. Streaming videos is one example. The library also has two video recording studios recording studios on Silverman 3.
- No increase over HEPI limit. This helps cover standard inflation (5-7% is industry norm) and to keep up with new and emerging resources.

Q: Is the Tech fee for used for facility upgrades?

A: No, that comes from state and other funding sources, but we are looking at our spaces and facilities closely. There is a Facilities Master Plan in process, assessing our libraries across all 3 campuses and we are looking for students to provide input and even to serve on the committee helping develop this plan.

Parking and Transportation Fee – Chris Austin / John Kisker

Revenue Services

- 91% transportation fee
- 5% meters
- 2% events, tickets
- 1-2% paid parking in Fronczak

Uses

- 58% transportation
- 42 parking services
- Of our expenses, 52,000 service hours for UB Stampede (approx. \$4.4M), 26% salaries and fringe, 21% fuel, permits, uniforms, vehicle cleaning, bike share, racks, fix it stations, and parking lot maintenance, repair and cleaning. Also, the balance of campus shuttles, repairs, maintenance, parking management software and e-business.

Transportation fee would increase \$10 to go toward mandated increase.

1. Swipe instituted on shuttles for safety.
2. License plate recognition.
3. Space availability. We can better manage and get vehicles to parking.

Q: Is safety on shuttles an issue?

A: Initially the swipe readers were installed to make sure people were using them because they should be using them. There were are no safety issues.

Q: What is the campus shuttle cost?

A: Approximately \$80,000

Q: What about a parking garage?

A: \$20,000 – \$30,000 per space

Q: Swipe system. I never had to swipe in 5 years and once I swiped an Applebee's gift card.

A: I will take that back.

Q: You removed the late night bus. Has that helped the budget?

A: Had no impact on the budget. Service hours impacted were shifted to other services, in particular a new line that connects Governors, Lee and Ellicott on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Q: How likely is a parking garage?

A: Surface space lots cost between \$5000 – \$8000 per space and a parking garage costs between \$20,000 – \$30,000 per space. A parking garage is challenging with the infrastructure that is already in place.

Q: President Tripathi wants to increase enrollment. How will that work with parking?

A: There is car share, and we are working on a transportation program, NFTA access passes for all students.

Q: NFTA program?

A: Yes, to decrease the number of vehicles on campus.

Q: Parking garage on table?

A: No. On south campus, considering the number of departments moving from north campus to south campus, possibly considering a garage.

Q: There has been concern shown over and over that parking is a problem. Did you ever do it at 11AM? You can't find a spot. People circle for hours. I want to voice the need for a parking structure. It could take 2 hours to get to campus with public transportation.

A: One week of every month we have someone drive around to find open space. We can share that info. I don't know if we will have sufficient parking in the core. We recognize that from year to year and we hear "there is no parking!" The reality is there are hundreds of available spots. Many students are saying it is difficult to find spots. I will take that back as to why that is.

Student Feedback: Faculty/staff lots are sometimes empty. Maybe students can park in Faculty/Staff lots or Faculty/Staff in Student lots.

Response: That feedback will be considered.

Transcript Fee – Kara Saunders

- Free transcripts for the rest of your life
- Fee spent on paper, staff
- No increase requested
- Students want transcripts electronically. We are working on it. It would be for an additional fee.

Q: I just want to clarify that the fee is for transcripts only, not student employment?

A: Correct. It is for confirming degrees, the schedule builder, it supports the HUB system. Student workers do other things, but they do not produce transcripts.

Q: So the fee is just paying for transcripts?

A: Yes, you are paying \$5 for lifetime transcripts.

Q: Where are Student workers paid?

A: Most are work study through their financial aid. We have two graduate students who are paid through state funds.

Tiberi closed the meeting stating:

- An additional opportunity to provide feedback is through the online survey, which is open until 2/23/18.
- We will follow up with people's names from the sign in sheets.
- We will be looking for feedback on how to run this meeting.