

**Services and Activities Fee Committee
Minutes
October 14, 2020**

Called to order:

Christian Castilleja called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Attendance:

Aubrey Heim, Brandon Wear-Grimm, Christian Castilleja, Deanna Corsilles, Gregg Schlanger, Jessica Thomas, Joseph Bryant, Josh Hibbard, Lacy Lampkins, Terry Wilson, Yunus Timurtas, Zoe Brown

Unexcused: Masina Ieremia

Agenda:

MOTION: Yunus Timurtas made a motion to approve the agenda. Deanna Corsilles seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes:

MOTION: Jessica Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2020. Brandon Wear-Grimm seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion: On the minutes, it had said that it is a CWU policy for base funded groups to get a priority. Do we have the ability to change that policy? That would have to go up to UPAC for approval. Policy changes go to UPAC and funding goes to PBAC. We will talk about this more as we start seeing requests.

Reports:

Chair –
None.

ASCWU –

I had some questions from people who are wondering how to find the meeting link. It is on the website, as are recordings of previous meetings.

Advisors –
None.

Public Comment:

None.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

A. Supplemental Budget

i. ASCWU

Brandon proposed to hear only supplemental requests from base funded areas for emergencies or exceptions. The current process is often a long process for students, where they have to request from multiple sources and wait for approvals to get up to PBAC. Since this funding is reimbursement only, students have to pay out of pocket and can go without the funds for months. Supplemental funding takes up the majority of the committee's time. Last year the committee spent 32 hours on supplemental funding, which is a budget of \$400,000, and less than ten hours on base funding, which is a budget of \$7.1 million.

Question: Was the reimbursement process fixed last year? Student Involvement would take on that expense, but they have to wait the time to see if the request will be fully approved. We cannot guarantee that Student Involvement will be able to front the costs this year. Committee funds are reimbursement only. Last year Student Involvement was approved to help with certain expense types. This year Jeff has indicated there is a financial stress and no guarantee that they could help.

The proposed plan is to allow base funded areas to request supplemental funds, Lacy would screen them, and they would present as needed. We would then vote the following week. Departments can more easily wait the weeks it takes for the approval process than students can. This allows the committee to focus more on business and the next four years. The supplemental process is so drawn out because it was not intended to be used for these small requests, it was intended to provide further support to base funded areas. Student travel requests have grown beyond the capacity for base funded areas, so students began coming directly to S&A. We can provide the clubs and orgs with the funding support needed to fund these smaller requests, and move that decision process from our committee down to over 100 diverse students that would be able to share their voice.

Discussion:

We have students that are not members of clubs, and are paying for these fees. I don't feel like this is more accessible.

The S&A fee is allocated to support the base funded areas and to pay the bonds. Supplemental funds could be used to make a larger impact. There are equity issues with the current structure, where groups were approved varying amounts or denied funding with no clear justification. We could not document the impact of these student groups or hold them accountable for what they said they would

bring back to the campus. Base funded areas come to us with historical data where we can see their impact. We can also hold them accountable to meet that impact. We can support these departments to better support the students. A budget has already been set aside for departments. Why would we remove the budget that is here for students to increase department funding? The idea is to increase resources for the departments to support the students. We could have a larger impact that way.

The recommendation is that we provide funding for base funded areas to fund student requests. How do we make sure they are spending this money on students? There are accountability checks for departments. Every year they have to report what they spent their funding on and what they have done for the students. When they come back to request base funding, they have to justify their impact.

We are not taking away a resource; we are giving the resources to departments that can immediately support students. These clubs and orgs can have same day or next day transfer of funds rather than months of waiting. If we reallocate the funding to the clubs and orgs, we would put the resource in the students' hands.

What about students that aren't involved in these departments? If departments request more funds, it depends on what the request is and we can intentionally say how the funds can be used.

Are department sponsorships from academic departments? They can be academic, but often the sponsorships are for events or travel.

For the supplemental requests, would we only allow a select few departments to request, or any base funded area? This wouldn't be across the board. We would be adding funding to programs that student know more like ASCWU. They know ASCWU more than S&A so it is more accessible. Maybe instead of allowing all base funding groups, we could identify key groups.

The problem in the past is that base funded areas would not have enough funding, so students would need to do another request at S&A. This allows students to be fully funded at their first request. We may not allocate the funding now, but would allow these groups to request more funding as they need it. Lacy would look at the requests and see if it meets the intent. That was the intended funding model of S&A.

Other areas may reach out seeking this funding. Base funding has to operate in how they are funded. Many areas would not be able to fund students.

I think this can be a model moving forward if we can identify a handful of groups to make it more open and equitable.

Last year, how many requests were there? Around 60. Why did these people not go to the other funding sources and come to S&A? Primarily, the funded areas exhausted their funds from ESC or Club Council. Then they are guided to go to S&A. Last year I saw students get funding from foundations that was not enough, so they came to us. I don't trust the departments.

It is our job to allocate properly to base funded departments. These departments don't have enough to help the students. This change is trying to break down barriers and administrative processes. How can we make this more accessible? This is a long drawn out process for the students. We can work as a group to decide what will better serve our students.

ii. Vote on supplemental budget for FY21

MOTION: Brandon Wear-Grimm made a motion to hear supplemental requests only from base funded areas for exceptions and emergencies. Deanna Corsilles seconded.

Discussion:

Are we setting the budget at zero and deciding as requests come in? Right now, we would not be setting an amount. Do we need to set a dollar amount? Think of this as two motions. The next potential motion would be to discuss a dollar figure. I like the strategy. I think pushing the structure down and closer to the students would help avoid having to go to multiple departments.

My biggest concern is that students will still want to access the funds. I assume the university would let the students attend things virtually and spend this funding. This is the student's money. The president would have to release the funds.

My concern is students that are paying the fee this year may not see benefits. Students may not know how to access these funds.

How do we know these groups will use the funds equitably? We can get the experts in Student Involvement and Student Engagement in to hear from them. They are the administrators that would be tasked with this. We could invite them to the next meeting. Has ASCWU had any conversations with these groups about this change – are they in favor? This year specifically, the departments are concerned about funds, the chairs of budgets are confident they have enough budget this year with the different circumstances. However, if the base funded areas need more funds, we have the historical data to show their impact. It would

also be easier for the students to access. Thinking about the equity and inclusivity. Some of these departments have funding processes in place already. Might be good to weigh out how much funding has been going to clubs vs individual students.

Would the departments be coming to us each time they need to fund something?

Only seven organizations can be funded by ESC.

The previous motion was called. The motion carried.

MOTION: Yunus Timurtas made a motion to table the budget discussion until the next meeting. Christian Castilleja seconded.

Discussion: I want to talk to Jeff next week before we set a budget.

The motion carried.

I will ask Student Involvement to attend next week.

Next week can we discuss which groups can request supplemental funding? This motion allows any base funded group to request funding. Lacy will review the requests and you do not have to grant their requests.

We will put this on the agenda next week and have Jeff Rosenberry come in as he oversees the majority of the funding that students have access to. He may be able to give a presentation to clear up some of these processes.

B. S&A Funding Marketing

This is student voice driven, so the majority of awareness comes from ASCWU. The number of requests go up every year. Awareness is often grown through word of mouth. This year is different, as it will be focused more on awareness for base funding. Last year, SURC Accounting did posters and info about what S&A does. How hard is it to send email to all students? That is strictly monitored by public affairs. Brandon can send information out to all clubs/orgs. We can post about this on something like CWU connect. PBAC has lots of representation from various departments and can share this information down.

It is a concern that we run out of funding every year, so advertising would worsen this. This year individual students are less of a priority, as they would go to base funding groups. We can help direct them to the right place. Having faculty and staff have this info is important because they are here longer term. I want to make sure that there is equity in the funding so I am trying to spread awareness.

International students do not know about S&A. It would be good for an advisor to come to International Orientation to speak about S&A. I would love an opportunity to come and talk to the students. I am always available for 1:1 meetings to talk about potential funding. I can help navigate where they need to go.

Other Business: Communications Received

None.

Public Comment

I appreciate you all having these discussions. The conversations are important. I appreciate you taking the time and not rushing through things. Meetings for the rest of the quarter may be shorter. I appreciate you taking the time to express your voices.

Thank you to Brandon for working on the presentation. Also, there will be candy in Brandon's office.

We have five new members here who are stepping into these meetings on Zoom. This is so difficult. It does get better. Thank you and welcome.

When are we going to be able to fill the committee? Brandon recommends committee members and then Dean Gregg approves them. It is a multiple week process. One is on the table and we are looking for another one.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Yunus Timurtas made a motion to adjourn. Jessica Thomas seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Schedule for Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, online starting at 5:30 p.m.