January 31, 2020

President Noelle L. Cockett
Utah State University
UMC 1400

Dear President Cockett,
The Logan Campus Student Fee Board met January 8, 2020 to hear presentations from three fee-receiving areas regarding potential increases. The board made a final decision on these proposed increases on January 22, 2020. These are the recommendations:

Logan Main Campus:

Library Fee
The Library proposed a $1.50 increase to their current student fee. Of that amount, $1.00 was proposed to go towards fully funding the Open Educational Resources Coordinator Position allowing the library to sustain current progress and expand investment into further areas of innovation, support, and promotion surrounding OER. The remaining $0.50 was to go towards maintaining and expanding streaming offerings housed in the library.

The board voted and approved the $1.00 increase for the funding of the Open Education Resources Position. The board disapproved of the $0.50 increase for streaming services. We believe that it is more appropriate for courses that heavily utilize these streaming services to add a course fee to subsidize the cost of the videos they would like to have streamed. This would be a 2.97% increase in the Library Fee paid by students for a total of $33.69 per semester.

CAPS Fee
Counseling and Psychological Services proposed a $0.49 increase to their current student fee. This increase is intended to go towards two of CAPS’ Psychology Predoctoral Internship Positions in order to meet the job duty requirements of an exempt employee. This increase is intended to raise the interns’ salary to $36,000 in order to maintain exempt status per FLSA guidelines.

The board voted and approved this full $0.49 increase. This would be a 3.39% increase in the CAPS Fee paid by students for a total of $14.45 per semester.

Health Services Fee
The Student Health and Wellness Center proposed a $2.97 increase to their current student fee, to cover the cost of hiring a full-time psychologist who will reside at the Student Health and Wellness Center. The primary roles for this position would be clinical service delivery and supervision of graduate student therapists.

The board voted and approved the full $2.97 increase. This would be a 6.16% increase in the Health Services Fee paid by students for a total of $48.20 per semester.

We do note that this is the second consecutive year the Logan Campus Student Fee Board agreed to increase student fees for hiring and expanding mental health related services. It is now the opinion of the board that Utah State University and the State of Utah have exhausted their requests for the students to subsidize these services. The board calls upon the university and the state to take a more active approach in addressing mental health in higher education.
Logan Campus Student Fee Policy Changes

The Logan Campus Student Fee Board proposed and approved minor changes to the Student Fee Board policy. The first change is renaming the policy to Utah State University Logan Campus Student Fee Policy. The second change included revising Article B in the purpose of the board to say, “Information regarding the purpose and use of student fees should be easily available for public review.” The third change was removing the second sentence, in the second paragraph, of the second page which states, “These committees will function according to charters approved by the USFB and will include, as members, both students and University faculty and/or staff.” This sentence was unclear and unnecessary as each fee does not have an individual charter. Lastly, the board approved all changes to references of Vice President for Student Services or Associate Vice President for Student Services to read Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

Regional Campuses & Blanding Campus:
This year, the Regional Campus Student Fee Board met on January 17th. During the meeting it was determined that no changes should be made to the current Regional Campus Student Fee amounts or definitions of use. The board did approve large changes to their policy. The changes involved the combination of the Regional Campus Fee Board, the Blanding Student Fee Board, and the USU Eastern Student Fee Allocation Committee into one body: The Statewide Campuses Student Fee Board. These changes will be submitted for approval by the Board of Trustees.

Also, of note, during the Service Region Fee Committee meetings in November, three of the seven regions represented by RC Student Fee Board voted to increase the CAPS fee as part of their annual fee review. They specifically cited a need for increased access to these services, specifically face-to-face access. At the RC Fee Board meeting, all of the members expressed general support for an increase, but were not sure if their specific regions had a need. Also, the changes in the EUSA and Blanding fees will create additional funds for CAPS this upcoming year. Due to these reasons the RC Fee board ultimately approved leaving the CAPS fee at its current level with the intention of asking next year’s board to revisit the subject. They felt strongly university administration should be aware of this matter.

The Logan Campus Student Fee Board appreciates the opportunity of receiving and providing input regarding the use of student fees. Thank you for your consideration of the above recommendations. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dexton Lake, Chair of the Logan Campus Student Fee Board.

Sincerely,

Dexton Lake
USUSA Executive Vice President
Logan Campus Student Fee Board Chairman

Sami Ahmed
USUSA President

Cc: James Morales, Vice President for Student Affairs
    Linda Zimmerman, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership

Approved
W. Cochell
1-30-2020