**Student Fee Advisory Committee**

**12:00-2:00pm**

**Friday, April 9, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Graduates: **Jackie Markt-Maloney, Gaby Barrios, Paarth Shah, Laxman Dahal**

Undergraduates: **Atreyi Mitra, Bradley Alvarado, Devanee Matcham, Samantha Solemnidad**

Administration: **Carina Salazar,** **Erinn McMahan, Charles Turner**

Faculty Rep: N/A

SFAC Advisor: **Christine Wilson**

APB Advisor: **David Navar**

**Atreyi Mitra** called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

1. **Community Sharing – Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest and why?** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for the committee to share given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would they want as a dinner guest and why?
2. **Approval of Agenda for Week 2 Spring Quarter 2021** 
   1. **Bradley Alvarado** motioned and **Gaby Barrios** seconded to amend the agenda and add Second Year Transfer Housing Support as an agenda item and to be discussed first. **Devanee Matcham** made a motion and **Laxman Dahal** seconded to approve the amended agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. **Second Year Transfer Housing Support**
   1. **Bradley Alvarado** discussed the email that was sent out to campus from the Chancellor and EVCP regarding housing priorities. He shared that the housing priority committee made recommendations to prioritize transfer students, specifically first-year transfers, a guaranteed one-year of housing upon admittance. However, because of the pandemic, there was not a chance to do that this year. Yet, housing again and again informed these students that their guarantee would still be available the next academic year. That promise was not upheld. The housing priority committee put transfers first as a priority but senior leadership, specifically Emily Carter and Gene Block decided to deny that recommendation and have put incoming freshmen, next year sophomores and incoming transfer class of 2023 as priorities, which leaves out the transfer class of 2022, who have not had any type of experience on campus and only have one year left before they graduate. Because of this decision, transfers most likely will not experience any type of true Bruin experience. Because SFAC is a committee for Chancellor, **Bradley Alvarado** asked the committee if they would sign a letter as a whole committee to stand in solidarity with the transfer community. He shared that this has been a big issue that has impacted his community. He shared that he sent out a petition last week and has received over 1200 signatures and that they have also written a letter that they are hoping to send out as well. **Gabby Barrios** made a motion that the students of SFAC sign the form to support returning transfers housing petition. **Samantha Solemnidad** the motion. The motion passed unanimously with students votes only.
4. **Putting together feedback for units in groups** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** assigned the committee into breakout rooms to debrief. **Samantha Solemnidad** shared that she will share her Google doc with the committee.
5. **Bruin Emergency Relief Fund (BERF) Referendum presentation** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor Tayloneei Jackson, Matthew Richard, Layla Tondravi and Yabeth H to discuss the Bruin Emergency Relief Fund Referendum. They shared that BERF is a referendum that seeks to ensure the student-ran support of those in crises, by increasing student fees by $2 per undergraduate per quarter.

This will grant the opportunity to establish a USAC emergency fund that will be allocated to students that are facing emergencies that require financial assistance. In other words, they are building an emergency funding source by and for students, regardless of system impact, transfer status, guardianship, immigration status, employment, existing aid, or any other potential barrier, so that students have somewhere to collect financial support when facing emergencies, which from late capitalism, to pandemic, to climate crisis, have only been increasing. An emergency fund is necessary and overdue. The actual ballot reads that the undergraduate students association ensure the student run support of those in crises, by increasing student fees by $2 for undergraduate student per quarter in order to establish a USAC emergency fund that shall be allocated to undergraduate students facing emergencies that require financial assistance. They came to the $2 fee by assessing the undergraduate student association pandemic relief fund, which raised around $280,000 for 1120 students and $120,000 for 482 students respectively. BERF will net around $135k annually for USAC to allocate, with $45k going to financial aid as 25% of the fee goes towards them. They are asking SFAC to act as an immediate source of relief inclusive to all undergraduate UCLA students in need regardless of immigration status, transfer status, system impact, which will include formerly incarcerated students or students otherwise impacted by incarceration, guardianship, federal and financial aid eligibility, and international residency. Some of these communities were left out of the higher education emergency relief grants/funds. The way UCLA defines basic needs does not encompass the needs of all students - safe and secure housing, sufficient and healthful food, peace of mind, sleep, transportation, and hygiene. The definition was recently updated, however, still does not encompass all of what basic needs should be. Basic needs should also include sanitation, child care, mental health, education, healthcare, and access. This year, their office conducted a survey to assess the financial needs of undergraduate students and to understand their financial impacts. They asked questions regarding financial related stress or anxiety and financial difficulties because of the coronavirus. Students were primarily concerned with employment, paying bills on time, and getting their basic needs met. The UCLA Center for Transformation of Schools, had a number of important stats. They found in 2020, 5% of University of California students are experiencing homelessness. UCLA Newsroom listed that more than 35% undergraduates receive Pell grants - federal aid for students from low income families. BERF can add financial support for students and will offer a new resource for students in need that will directly complement the preexisting funding bodies, especially since some of these funding sources may not fully meet all the needs of a person has. One such funding bodies is the Economic Crisis Response Team (ECRT). ERCT was established to provide support for students experiencing financial hardship beyond financial aid resources. However, students can only get access after completing the ECRT self-assessment intake form, which determines the extent of individual’s financial need. Some crisis awards may need to be paid back to the institution within a 28-day period, as they have a lot of loan programs. Additionally, there is a meal voucher program that can only be accessed at most 20 to 30 times per quarter, depending on the student’s demographics. It is important to understand the limitations of some of these funding bodies that do exist on campus. BERF is a unique and inclusive student-initiated fund that provides sustainable yearlong monetary relief, without affecting an individual’s financial aid, as it is in emergency relief care package. It is a funding body that students can rely on. It extends beyond the common basic needs necessities such as food and housing, which are currently addressed by various UCLA programs. In an effort to aid a larger percentage of the student population, BERF is crucial to ensure the financial needs of all are fulfilled, and since students vote on the referendum, there is a collective decision on where the money goes so students actually have a say in funding that can be assigned to other individuals. In the referendum, the emergencies that will be covered are: outstanding medical expenses, natural disasters, changes in employment, immigration expenses, incarceration, tech support, victimization due to a crime, housing and food insecurity, unemployment climate crisis, and predatory healthcare legal systems.

1. **Discussion of SFAC Temporary Funding Spreadsheet**
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** and **Christine Wilson** discussed the SFAC Temporary Funding Spreadsheet live with the committee.
2. **Updates from 3 sub-committees**
   1. **Gabby Barrios** shared that her subcommittee wants to encourage mental health resources and not just CAPS. They are trying to uplift those resources, not necessarily remove funding from CAPS, but rather approve temporary funding for other units such as the Career Center, who has helped with mental health issues for graduate students. RISE is mostly serving undergraduate students and not doing a lot outreach for graduate students. However, they are partnering with the Graduate Student Resource Center. Her unit also had a conversation about addressing toxic advisor culture between Grad students and faculty, which is something that is a part of the GSA right now - their initiative and referendum for graduate needs. The subcommittee also discussed if a certain percentage of SSF could just automatically go to mental health resources, which seems to be happening whenever there is an increase. They also discussed using the information from unit reviews to identify areas for support for mental health. The GSRC already does a lot for mental health, however, encouraging those initiatives would be good through temporary funding approval, as well as graduate division, which has a variety of tier two tier three type situations. They would also like to provide critical feedback to units, however, also encouraging the programs that really do help with mental health and graduate students in general. **Bradley Alvarado’s** subcommittee discussed rewording the compensation policy document. The SFAC Committee discussed the document live.

**Bradley Alvarado** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Samantha Solemnidad** seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2pm.