**Student Fee Advisory Committee**

**12:30-2:30pm**

**Monday, November 1, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendees:**

**Graduates:** Michelle Luna, Gaby Barrios, Paarth Shah, Zuleika Bravo

**Undergraduates:** Samantha Solemnidad, Luis García, Karina Mara

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

**Faculty Rep:** Dr. Alison Chu

**SFAC Advisor:** Christine Wilson

**APB Advisor:** Judy Huang

**Gaby Barrios** called the meeting to order:

1. **Gaby Barrios** welcomed **Charles Turner** from Finance Administration**.** The committee introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
	1. **Samantha Solemnidad** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Luis García** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of Week 1 Minutes**
	1. **Luis García** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Samantha Solemnidad** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Finalizing questions**
	1. **Gaby Barrios** asked the committee to share their questions for guest speaker’s VC Gorden, kc Bui, Yogini Purohit, AVC Roth and Director Lee-García.
5. **Announcement**
	1. **Luis Garcia** shared that the social media subcommittee created a Google sheet to gather information of the SFAC – short bio and professional photo.
6. **Guest Speaker VC Gorden**
	1. **Gaby Barrios** introduced VC Gorden to discuss Student Affairs (SA) priorities.

VC Gorden shared that the university continues to be in a very challenging budget environment, particularly as it relates to the Student Services Fee (SSF). He added that other accounts are experiencing the same challenges as they think about general funded areas and sales and service. It is not exclusive or unique only to the SSF side. He shared that the vast majority of departments within student affairs actually received SSF. He expressed that Student Affairs is inextricably linked to the SFAC and to the recommendations that the committee provides to the Chancellor and that SA is doing the work that students think will be important. He added these types of conversations are vital to ensure that the work coincides and aligns itself with the priorities that the SFAC thinks are most important for undergraduate and graduate students at UCLA. VC Gorden shared that since the pandemic, Student Affairs has seen dramatic shifts in the ability to cover expenses. Some of that relates to a shrinkage of sales and service environment. Others pertain to it as having to pivot quickly and provide services and programs, initially in a remote environment and now significantly in a hybrid environment. There have been a number of expenses seen related.

* + 1. VC Gorden shared that one of Student Affairs priorities is to make sure that SA is able to provide for students in the hybrid environment for services and programs. This can vary, depending to great extent on the department, on the needs of the students, or the need to be more in person or remote. This remains a priority for Student Affairs.
		2. Providing a welcoming environment for our students and building community is another priority within Student Affairs. Staff had to think about what the building of that community means in a remote environment. The sense of belonging to the UCLA campus is so vital and critical in the experiential and co-curricular space. This remains a priority for SA as they think about the types of services to provide for students.
		3. Another very large priority area for SA is in resiliency and mental health, and has been a priority for a number of years. Resiliency and mental health remains and continues to be a very, very important area for SA. Mental health was an area that SA really tried to bolster and continue to work on even prior to the pandemic. There were other significant mental health challenges for students coming through the pandemic and remaining of the pandemic.
		4. Another important area of focus are basic needs, which is a huge umbrella in terms of what basic needs means. Campus has a basic needs committee and there are some clear things that fit under that committee in terms of housing and food insecurity type programs and things that nature. However, basic needs can extend beyond that. There are many basic need type services in a lot of different departments. Another priority for Student Affairs is to make sure there is sufficient funding in those departments to be provided for our students’ basic needs. An example, one of the things that clearly showed as a true basic need through the pandemic is technology. In the pandemic and through the pandemic, technology has vital and critical. Not just any type of technology but technology that is reliable and appropriate and allows students to access class, as well as instruction from faculty and others. This is just one aspect of basic needs. There are still basic needs related to food and housing insecurity, particularly in Los Angeles. LA has dealt with a lot of moratoriums on rent, not just to the broader community, but more specifically to our students. This has been something Student Affairs has been very cognizant and mindful. The basic needs of the broader umbrella continues to be something that is a great priority Student Affairs.
	1. **Luis Garcia** asked if mental health services will be funded by temporary or permanent funds. VC Gorden shared that both temporary and permanent funds are used. In the CAPS unionized environment about salaries related to unionize positions, there is a responsibility to make sure that those positions have permanent salaries associated with them. The university is at a point where there will be a need for more permanent funds for CAPS over the years. SFAC has been very responsive to that request. It is important for staff to feel protected and that they have levels of security. From a CAPS perspective, there is a need to think about more permanent funding.
	2. **Luis Garcia** asked how the Student Affairs will ensure mental services are extended to people who are commuters, Transfer students, people who come from minority backgrounds that tend to have a negative outlook on therapy and counseling. VC Gorden shared that the strategy is multi-prongs. There is more than one strategy to be able to make sure that the university is providing mental health services to the diverse communities at UCLA. There are many communities that have varying experiences and perspectives around mental health service. Some of that is cultural some of that is environmental. There are a lot of different ways in which individuals look at mental health services. First and foremost, the university wants to make sure to provide a high level of diversity amongst our clinicians. VC Gorden added there certainly has been a greater desire in diversity than the university has been able to accomplish but will continue to work at that every day when the individual identity is not able to be as diverse. Training has also been provided to all staff so that they understand as much as possible the various diverse perspectives that exist on campus. The next prong that becomes very important is really staying on top of the best practices seen around the country. This is one of the areas that the Executive Director for CAPS makes sure that she does. This allows the most relevant types of training and opportunities to our students. Another big prong is partnering with others within the organization that work very specifically with students of a particular identity. The university has been able to embed at times CAPS clinicians into certain offices, such as the LGBTQ+ Campus Resource Center, or work very closely with staff that come from a particular department, such as the Bruin Guardian Scholars and Transfer students. Trying to make sure that campus is partnering very closely with directors and coordinators that come very specifically from departments that work directly with students’ identities, is another prong. Although there are about 15-20 prongs, he wanted to conclude by sharing that partnership with the Faculty is really important. Students deserve to not have their experience compartmentalized - which mean students wear one hat in the classroom and a different hat outside the classroom. Students deserve to have as much of a single synergistic experience as possible. That requires reaching out and working with faculty and working with their academic colleagues. It becomes a two-way street to provide the Faculty with insight from working very closely with students typically out of the classroom and then faculty provides their insights of working very closely with students in the classroom. If this works, then the university is able to provide that one single synergistic experience to students and really helps typically with our minoritized students trying to think about how campus is providing for students from certain communities but in a way where students do not feel as though they have to take on different identities, depending on the spaces that they sit in. Those are just some of the ways to provide the best possible experiences for all of our diverse students at UCLA.
1. **Explanation of Benefits and Merits**
	1. VC Gorden shared that when benefits and merits are not recommended to be covered by the committee to the Chancellor, they operate as a de facto cut to the unit. Similarly, to the current distinctions of permanent vs temporary funds when talking about merits and benefits, however, really talking about salary. He shared that with the prioritization of merits and benefits they have to become a bit more creative with any temp dollar requests that come in. He shared that he is happy and eager to partner with the SFAC to understand what temp flexibility there may be and where Student Affairs will need to step up as an organization to provide more funding within the organization so that the committee has more temp dollars to be able to recommend for disbursement to the Chancellor. So that becomes a bit of a trade-off. If it were his preference, it would be a prioritization toward merits and benefits first and then working with SA and other units to think about how they can become more flexible with the temp requests. Gaby Barrios shared that what VC Gorden shared really aligns with the goals of the committee. As a committee, they understand the importance of covering the shortfalls because to sustain student services in general.
2. **Guest Speakers: AVC Roth and Director Lee-García**
	1. **Gaby Barrios** introduced AVC Roth and Director Lee-García. AVC Roth shared that instead of going over a spreadsheet by line item, he and Rebecca Lee- Garcia decided to discuss a planning scenario that would be a valuable tool for the committee – not only for this year’s committee and for the amount of funds to apply towards greatest needs but to create a model that has some sustainability so that future committees have an understanding of the prior committees work and about the funding in place to cover that year’s decisions but also funding available in the future for the next committee so that they can plan their work accordingly. He shared that there is a new model called a cohort tuition model. UCLA will have cohort tuition model and student services fee increases again over the next several years. UCLA will probably be a lot more flat in terms of enrollment. Some of the funds that past committees have had access to was due to a lot of enrollment increases. However, that is not sustainable. The university cannot continue to increase enrollment indefinitely. So it starts with some new constraints that did not necessarily exist before. There are pluses and minuses of cohort. The key plus is that it creates some good planning information and allows work towards this sustainable model. The challenges are that it takes a while for the model to get fully in place so all the students this fall will not have an increase. For the undergraduate portion of the fee, all students this fall will not have an increase during their entire time at UCLA. It takes about four or five years before things gets sorted. Second, is the regents influenced a proposal with a much higher return to financial aid component of the new version of tuition. 45% of the increase on the undergraduate side is going to go to financial aid. The math simply means that when UCLA eventually get to 3%, only 55% of the 3% increases will be available to support the operations of Student Affairs and the cost increases and new priorities that have been identified. Factoring all this in makes it pretty easy for ABP with an enrollment forecast with the cohort tuition model in place. AVC Roth agreed that is really important to cover the benefits and salary increases for staff supported by student fee funds and for staff providing mental health services. This is not to say that there will be times in the future, where there might be budget cuts – some happening now on campus. Campus does not want to roll out a budget cut by force across the board just by not covering cost increases. It should be more of a strategic process where proposals are prepared as to what services would be cut back. APB is trying to avoid that in their planning scenarios to present to the SFAC. The scenarios will provide but not limited to the following: Show involvements of the new revenue from cohort tuition and how that scales up over the next couple of years. Show the cost increases, if merits and benefits are covered each year and how much of the revenue that would consume. The model will continues the practice of allocating 50% of the revenue growth to support the mental health services. Next steps, is to have a rep from APB show the scenarios on a spreadsheet.
	2. The SFAC shared their perceptive of what was shared by APB and discussed different scenarios as a committee, asked answered questions.

**Luis Garcia** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:16pm. **Dr. Alison Chu** seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.