**Student Fee Advisory Committee**

**1:00-3:00pm**

**Friday, October 23, 2020**

**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, Devin Dillon**

Faculty Rep: N/A

SFAC Advisor: **Christine Wilson**

APB Advisor: **Ellen Hermann**

**Atreyi Mitra** called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes for Fall 2020 Week 2 on 10/16/20** 
   1. **Gaby Barrios** motioned and **Bradley Alvarado** seconded to table the 10/16/20 minutes to next week. The minutes were tabled unanimously.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
   1. **Devanee Matcham** motioned and **Laxman Dahal** seconded to approve the agenda as amended. The agenda was approved unanimously as amended.
3. **Presentation and Q & A with SAIRO Director Kristen McKinney** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for Kristen McKinney. Kristen McKinney opened by sharing details on her surname McKinney. McKinney is her married name post-divorce. She shared why she took the name in the first place and why she decided to keep it. Kristen McKinney shared that she was married for 22-years and got married very young after her undergrad. She specialized in Women’s Studies, which at the time UCLA had specializations not minors. People were surprised that she took her husband’s last name. Coming from a divorced family and growing up with stepparents and different names, she did not want the same for her family. Now 20-years later, her whole professional career is ‘McKinney’ not Tweety her maiden name. McKinney is a part of her life now that is not quite the same anymore. In terms of where her community is, she been at UCLA since she started as an undergraduate student and has a lot of community on campus, has her professional community in Student Affairs and neighborhood community with parents of her kids’ sports friends. She has found that her community lift others up and are supportive. Her ‘gift’ is pathway planning. She shared that she is a very analytical person, which translates on how she handles her job, being a supervisor and a parent. She shared that she is not an emotional person and more of a “matter of fact” person. Aligning goals with strategy is a gift that she brings to various communities.
   2. Regarding data, Kristen McKinney shared her PPT with the committee: *The Student Experience during COVID-19.*
   3. Data Sources:
      * University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey
        + Launched April 28, 2020
        + 7753 respondents; 25% response rate
      * SA Graduate and Professional Student Survey
        + Launched on May 5
        + 2862 respondents; 24% response rate
      * Top 5 Concerns for Undergraduates
        + Doing well on tests and assignments in online courses
        + Being isolated from friends
        + Leaning effectively in the remote instruction environment
        + Not getting a job after graduation
        + Interacting with faculty outside of class
      * Degree of Learning in the Remote Environment is a Major Concern (compared to in-person classes – how much have they learned)
        + Performance/studio-based courses (less)
        + My labs (less)
        + Live remote lectures (less)
        + Recorded remote lectures (less)
      * Top 5 Concerns for Graduate Students
        + Not getting a job after graduation
        + Being isolated from friends
        + Leaning effectively in the remote instruction environment
        + Ability to conduct research
        + Paying bills
      * Accessing Safe Transportation and Caring for Family Members are Prominent Challenges
        + Accessing safe transportation
        + Caring for others family members
        + Supervising at home education
        + Accessing healthcare/services for dependents
        + Caring for a sick family member
        + Losing access to childcare
      * Response Themes: Undergraduates
        + Mental, emotional and physical well-being
        + Difficulties at home
        + Academic challenges
        + Financial and professional worries
        + Missing social life and “college experience”
      * Response Themes: Graduate
        + Financial concerns
        + Loss of research progress and lab/field experience
        + Learning and coursework concerns
        + Home/personal concerns
        + Mental and physical health
        + Challenges as TAs
      * Most Students are Taking Steps to Protect Themselves from COVID-19
        + Handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizer
        + Wearing a mask in public
        + Avoiding public transportation
        + Maintaining a distance of six feet from others outside the home
      * Students are Finding Ways to Engage in their Communities during COVID19
        + Engaging on academic research on COVID-19
        + Made a donation
        + Helped others obtain food or other necessities
        + Volunteered with community groups
        + Checked in with friends/and or family members
   4. Kristen McKinney opened the floor for questions. **Gaby Barrios** asked for the graduate population, do you have the data separated out into time to degree. Kristen McKinney said yes and that the comparison is on their website. **Devin Dillon** asked what others groups on campus has this data been shared with. Kristen McKinney has shared his data with Deans Council, Undergraduate Council, academic and departmental counselors, institutional research and assessment folks, and Academic and Continuity Task Force. **Atreyi Mitra** asked how she envisioned utilizing this data in recommendations moving forward. Kristen McKinney shared to be mindful of the fact that not all experiences are equal, being data driven and understanding those vulnerabilities.
4. **Presentation and Q & A with Vice Chancellor Monroe Gorden** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for Vice Chancellor Monroe Gorden. VC Gorden shared where the name Monroe came from and that he was named after his father. His father was born in Arkansas and was born to a sharecropper. He was sure that somewhere down the line he had slaves in his family. There were not a lot of Black folks in Arkansas named Monroe, so his only assumption was that at some point in his lineage, his grandfather or great-grandfather copied the name Monroe from somewhere. Gorden is not a typical last name you would see Black people have in the South either. He understood that his grandfather wanted to have more legitimacy and changed their name to Gorden, even spelled their name with an ‘e (instead of o),’ which is also unusual. He also shared that Monroe is a Scottish name and hails from a Scottish origin. However, in terms what it means to him, it was the name that he was given. In terms of where his community is, he would like to think that community is with folks who are like-minded, in the sense that they are willing to be open and respectful. He shared that people do not always have to have the same perspective and agree on everything. However, one thing that he must agree on and people who hail from his community, is that there is respect. If there is not respect, they tend to not be in a group that he would call his community. He shared that he was born in South LA and had wonderful people that looked out for him and his family. As he got older, he moved to the Westside of LA and again met with terrific people. He then went to UCLA as an undergraduate and shared that UCLA opened his eyes in many ways and that it was not an easy trek. He was a student athlete at a time when it was very difficult to have any sort of a voice. He shared that many student athletes, even today, are feeling that their voices are muted. He shared that he came around at a time where the muting of the voice was even greater. He stated that it was not always easy, however, there were a lot of people in his corner who helped him along the way. One thing that he gives consistent praise, gratitude and thanks to his family for is that they were always open. Identify never mattered to his family, as long as people were nice to him. His father was a huge believer in getting out there and talking to people, anyone and everyone and a part of this must have rubbed off on him. When he got to UCLA, he was very open and very blessed to have people across the institution who were willing to help him. He believes that the success that he has been able to have in his life is shared by everyone that he has come across and everyone who has helped him. For that he is very thankful. VC Gorden is a big believer in faith and has a big faith in God. The one gift that God has given him is the ability to have faith in him. Another gift that God has given him is his family. He met his wife when he was a freshman at UCLA and they have been together ever since they were freshman at UCLA. He has three children born in LA, two in college and one in high school. His family has been a tremendous gift to him, his “North Star” in everything that he has done. He has been blessed to do a lot of really exciting things, culminating right now as the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, but really doing other things as well. He shared that he is a lawyer by trade and that talking about himself is something that they do not teach you in law school. In fact, it was just the opposite.
   2. VC Gorden address the questions submitted by the committee:
      * How can SFAC focus on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) as a part of the decision-making process. He shared that he is a little sad that this question has to be asked because EDI is something that should be embedded into all the work that we do in ways that we do not necessarily have to identify and distinguish what EDI is. However, he is a realist and knows the world we live in. He shared that data has always been something that he has relied. He is data driven in the work that he does and the work that he asks his colleagues, who work with him. He relies on data because as human beings, we have certain proclivities and certain biases. Hi interpretation and perception of a situation or incident may not be the same as yours. He tried to take out as much subjectivity as he can when making certain decisions. For his to do this, is to actually have data. VC Gorden suggested that if the committee wants EDI to be a part of their work, is to really spend the time and looking at data. Know who is coming in, who is getting service, more importantly who is not getting service. He shared that there is a lot of value in reading open ended questions for surveys. Reading through the comments can be quite instructive, even if the information is not an action item. EDI cuts across so many areas that we work with. Clearly ethnicity, and right now, an area that is very important is people with disability. There are different ways we can design products and services for students. We can do this from a universal design perspective. He shared that the universal design perspective is not something that is legally mandated, meaning that everything we do is intended to be accessible. He believes that this is an important way for the institutions, not just UCLA, but any institution to proceed in a universal design manner so that we can make the services that we are providing as accessible as possible. Again, this information can be retrieved through data.
      * Temporary SSF funds. He shared that they are diminishing. The bottom line is that the amount of funds that SFAC has to make recommendations to the Chancellor are dwindling and very low. There is a need to think from the committee’s perspective, whether SFAC is opening up a process that allows units to be able to request funding for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as the next. Or if the committee wants to do something similar to last year, which is to say zero dollars for that year then looking at the following year. From a Student Affairs perspective, they are not dissimilar to any other organization on campus in terms of the need of funding. There are unique challenges within Student Affairs because of the large constituency base that they serve and because he thinks that they have a pretty awesome responsibility of looking after the development of all undergraduate and graduate students, across the board for all students. When Student Affairs is not provided temporary or permanent funds and SSF for particular fiscal years, there is an impact. COVID-19 has place UCLA and higher education in the world in a difficult financial situation, so this impact is not just on Student Affairs (SA). However, for Student Affair, it will be difficult if they have another year where there’s not some funding recommended to the Chancellor to cover some of SA programs. In terms of priorities, one recommendation that VC Gorden made is to provide him with the opportunity to give the committee a prioritized list of the requests that SA would like to get funded. One thing that he would like to know are all the requests. He shared that he tries to be very transparent with the committee of seeing the requests that have come in, giving the committee the opportunity for questions. **Gaby Barrios** shared that she is conscious of a lot of grad student roles as workers and students in the university and asked VC Gorden what his perspective was on funding resources for graduate students that cross over lines, and prioritizing international workers and students with dependents. VC Gorden shared that it would depend on what they would be providing funding. There are some pretty clear lanes. The committee in the past has made some really important decisions about strategic funding for childcare and that is something that sits squarely within student services, similarly with legal advice. It would depend on what the funding was for. SA has a student legal department that is open for international students for domestic and international students. He shared that if the legal advice was for something that related to unionized activity, they could still take that in, however, at the same time, there may be a bit of a cross over between the two areas. Childcare and legal advice fall squarely within student services. As Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, VC Gorden shared that it is his responsibility to make sure that SA has critical services available for students. If he is asking for funding from one area, know that he is trying to plan to get funding from the committee in a different area. He shared that there are certain commitments that must be made. If he is unable to acquire the necessary funding for one particular expenditure through the process, he will need to find another way.
      * **Devanee Matcham** asked if VC Gorden considered rent for the Transfer Center and the Veteran Center one of the higher priorities. VC Gorden shared that is it difficult for him to answer that right now because before he gives the committee his list of priorities, he wants to talk to his directors. The directors, from his perspective, are the subject matters experts on the services for the students. He would not want to try to establish a list of priorities without having significant impact as getting input from his directors. Potentially after getting this input, he could see rent as a priority. He shared that he does not see at this point, requesting the full amount of rent from the student service fee process and sees there being some form of contribution that they would request if it rose to that level.
      * Should SFAC be looking at the impact of the pandemic on units and students when making recommendations to the Chancellor. VC Gorden shared that it is going to be a challenge for the committee to not take that into consideration. One thing that the committee can assume is that the requests that are being made are being done at a time when the campus is looking at constricting funding overall. This is not just a student service fee issue. With the constriction on funding in every area, it means that it certainly has greater impact in particular areas and it is one assumption that the committee can make. In terms of the impact of the pandemic, when trying to help our students who were accustomed to having jobs on campus and who are unable to do so in a remote environment, and where departments can show that there is an impact to the students because of it, yes, that is something that the committee would want to talk about for sure. VC Gorden shared that there are already some mechanisms that are attempting to put funding into the hands of students, which is still not enough. Had COVID-19 not happened, the committee would still be looking into bolstering student basic needs. He shared that if the process includes speaking to directors and others, the committee should certainly ask questions about what offshoot impacts have been on the student population that department has served.
      * VC Gorden closed with a thank you to the committee.
   3. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor to the committee to debrief. **Gaby Barrios** asked about VC Gorden’s timeline for his list of priorities so that the committee could act accordingly on whether they agree or disagree or need to push back. **Christine Wilson** shared that Student Affairs Leadership (SLT) wants to know SFAC timeline because SLT wants to give SFAC the priorities after the proposals and requests come in.
5. **Discussion on SFAC Budgetary Categories of Considerations and Priorities** 
   1. **Atreyi Mitra** shared the list of budget categories that the 2019/20 SFAC did not consider. **Gaby Barrios** shared that she would like to reconsider Professional Development for Career Staff from the list. **Atreyi Mitra** shared her rationale for not considering this recommendation. She shared that this would not necessarily go directly back to the students as professional development for student staff.
   2. **Atreyi Mitra** shared the list of budget categories that the 2019/20 SFAC did consider. **Christine Wilson** shared what benefits and TIFs were. She share that whenever a position is funded, benefits have to be paid. **Laxman Dahal** asked what Facilities Maintenance included. **Christine Wilson** shared that student service fees fund big maintenance problems, such as floods, and ongoing long-term projects.
   3. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor to discuss the consideration conflicts. **Carina Salazar** shared why she thought communication and mail should be supported. **Atreyi Mitra** asked if **Carina Salazar** has any issues considering communication only and not mail. Carina Salazar shared that she has put in too much though about using Mail. **Jackie Markt-Maloney** shared if it was really necessary for the committee to say, yes or no, and to perhaps create a section that the committee may probably not consider or fund. That way, when sharing this with the units, they would see that this is not a priority and should not bother submitting a request. **Ellen Herman** shared that from a budgetary perspective, she does not see a value in ruling out certain line items. **Atreyi Mitra** shared that this was the way the committee did this last year, however, the committee can start from scratch and consider everything instead of it being so concrete and perhaps word it – ‘will likely’ versus ‘will not likely.’ **Devanee Matcham** shared that will likely’ versus ‘will not likely’ gives some leeway depending on the context. **Atreyi Mitra** changed the verbiage. **Devanee Matcham** asked for clarity on what communication and mail means.

**Ellen Herman** shared that that fields are identified by whoever is requesting, which is a little different from what the ledger and financial system identifies as communication. So, there is a big difference there. If someone were to label something as Communication and Mail the system may pick it up differently. Typically, the things that would be labeled as Communication and Mail in the requests would be things like flyers that would be considers as communication or mail or actual letters sent out. However, because the requests are self-identified, there could be a lot of different things that would get considered communication or mail. She shared that she would focus less on the specific types of line item requests and focus more on what the program is actually doing and if it something that the committee could support.

* 1. **Atreyi Mitra** shared that the values and priorities for the committee – supporting students during the pandemic, especially in reference to basic needs. Focusing on uplifting and centering traditionally underserved communities. Mental health and student wellness, as well as grad students. **Samantha Solemnidad** shared that focusing on uplifting and centering traditionally underserved communities can be broad. The focus should be more on the terms of uplifting accessibility at the moment because it kind of that intersection between supporting students in the pandemic and also focusing on uplifting communities. Making sure that we uplift by increasing equity and accessibility to different resources on campus. Carina Salazar suggested looking into the data SAIRO has presented because it can inform the priorities for the committee. **Gaby Barrios** shared that any resource that helps build community amongst students is really important for professional development and networking. She shared that our building community services included centers such as the LGBTQ, Undocumented Student Program, Transfer Student Program and Veteran Student Program. Programs that are linked to an identity group. **Christine Wilson** shared that proposals that are of the moment may not be appropriate for 2022/23. However, community building is important. She shared that when student service fees increased, a part of that money goes to mental health. The Office of the President came out with a mental health report that identified many communities that were at risk and graduate students was one of them by itself without other identities put at the top.
  2. **Atreyi Mitra** opened the floor for grad student to discuss the priorities for grad population and childcare. **Laxman Dahal** shared that creating a space for grad students is a priority for their community. **Paarth Shah** shared that he wants their voices heard when proposals come in and to recognize the diverse needs. **Gaby Barrios** shared that Career Center is a priority, especially during this recession. Professional development and legal services is also really important. **Bradley Alvarado** made a motion to suspend the rules and **Gaby Barrios** seconded. The committee agreed unanimously. **Bradley Alvarado** shared that basic needs has become a broad topic. The committee should focus not only on housing, food and financial insecurities, but also take a look at how students are dealing with technology and Wi-Fi issues working in an online environment. He shared that he know many people who are having trouble accessing their online classes or even hoping onto a meeting, solely because their technology isn’t working.

1. **Discussion on Creating a Social Media Presence for SFAC** 
   1. **Bradley Alvarado** shared his idea of taking the committee to social media. Whether it be Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, to be more accessible, held more accountable and to share what the committee is discussing and to share any plans. He believes that this will increase accountability and accessibility to the student body and have more of a presence on campus. He feels that no one knows what the committee is or that it even exists and feels that social media would change that. **Atreyi Mitra** shared that this would be a shared responsibility with the students on the committee. **Jackie Markt-Maloney** shared her concerns on the extra work and suggested having and additional point person that specializes in social media and has the time and willing to do it. **Samantha Solemnidad** echoed what **Jackie Markt-Maloney** shared and would like to continue the conversation.

**Samantha Solemnidad** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Bradley Alvarado** seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:03pm.