**Student Fee Advisory Committee**

**3:00-4:00pm**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

**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** recapped last week’s meeting regarding APB’s projections. Guest speaker will be Vice Chancellor Monroe Gorden. The SFAC would like to hear the priorities of Student Affairs after seeing the anticipating projections.
2. **Vice Chancellor Monroe Gorden presents Student Affairs financial priorities**
	1. VC Gorden shared that the current projection is not that different than some of the discussions that he has engaged in over the last few years. The trajectory fiscally has somewhat been consistent. Last year, they had a better sense of cohort tuition. Cohort tuition is still going to take a few years to where the university is receiving the full financial benefit of what cohort tuition will be. VC Gorden shared that in the last couple of years, there has been a pretty precipitous drop - in both perm and temp funding. There have been a few years where the carry forward in particular goes down before it starts to come back up again. As it starts to come back up and because of cohort tuition, every year the university proceeds with tuition and funding for another cohort, it becomes beneficial for the university and specifically for students’ service fees. This year, a tremendous priority in Student Affairs will be to cover benefits. If benefits are not covered through funding or at least through the recommendation from the committee to the Chancellor, then they will have to get those benefits covered through another source of funding. It is an important priority to cover the benefits. VC Gorden has had conversations with APB discussing the importance of making sure that they are at least forecasting covering the benefits. He acknowledged that when the committee covers the benefits that it is a pretty large number and it reduces the overall flexibility that committee has to make recommendations about other funding. Student Affairs will have to continue to dip into their own carry forward and perhaps continue to provide funding for temp positions in hopes that over the years, particularly with cohort tuition that they can start putting some perm dollars toward positions. There are a number of temp positions, particularly on the students’ service fee side that they really want to start engaging a strategy of covering those temp positions with perm dollars. Especially if those positions have been in existence for more than five years - which tells them that there really is a need, in many cases for those positions to continue. As they think about the use of funding, first and foremost recommendations that come from available funding through students’ service fee, they would love for it to go toward benefits. Secondarily, they would love to work on a strategy where they would work with the committee at identifying certain positions that they could start to look at putting perm dollars toward. VC Gorden acknowledged that this will be a fairly slow process while the perm, temp and carry forward reduce. However, after three years, he thinks they will be in a better position to really start wholeheartedly moving back toward a time when they can bring more of these positions on permanently. He shared that he continues to be interested in the concern and ability to provide services on the student mental health side. There is so much need and they will need to continue to bolster that area. He wanted to talk to the committee to give a sense of where he thinks the bolstering is going to be important. He added that there is always a need for more positions as they think about the ideal ratio between psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and students. The university needs to work on strategies other than students meeting 1:1. For instance, Student Affairs has been working with the Depression Grand Challenge to look at online modules that can be provided to students as they begin in orientation and for graduate students as they begin their programs. The goal of that online module would be to help identify students that need longer term care and support to have resources available for students who could use some online resources. In terms of the ability to initiate this program this year, they are good. However, every single year moving forward, they expect that the module will be used more and more, in which case they need to be thinking about what that means in terms of securing funding for these programs. Additionally, there are a number of support groups and services provided through CAPS and RISE. Especially when there are traumatic events that occur – they try to set up healing spaces to provide opportunities within classrooms to help faculty as well as students makes sense of these things. These types of activities take staffing, programming and funding. One of the areas that is a consistent priority is that they are thinking through the strategies around a student mental health perspective. What is that proper ratio between the number of staff from a clinician perspective, and the amount available for programming and IT support. VC Gorden will be re-emphasizing the request from an IT perspective and help the committee understand where these resources are going, and try to place identifying marker on where departments would actually utilize these resources so that the committee can see that this is not a stockpile of IT resources, but really is specifically for the departments doing the hard work for students. VC Gorden added that the Student Affairs department directors are incredible at the work that they do, and trusts that they are coming forward with budgets that are needed. This year, they will again work closely with not just the SFAC but with SA department directors because they are going to have to look at providing more of the Student Affairs carry forward for those requests that cannot be covered through student services fee. They will want to be strategic to get the requests covered through SFAC. VC Gorden will be working completely in partnership with the SFAC, as he has the past few years, to look at Student Affairs carryforward and where they are unable to get that funding through the recommendations of SFAC. **Gaby Barrios** added that this year, the committee is really trying to get a bigger picture of what the carry forward is out there through the unit review questionnaire. Some units are not perhaps used to reporting this amount in a very direct way. She wanted to reassure units and in general, say that it is not because they are looking to recommend for them to use it. The SFAC just wants to know who has a cushion and if they plan to use and who does not. Before the cohort tuition model kicks in, they are still dealing with the current situation. Just making it to that point is a priority for SFAC as well. VC Gorden shared that he started at the university as the Chief Administrative and Chief Financial Officer for Student Affairs (SA). While working with SA units, it was his job to make sure that there was sufficient funding for unit needs - “put money away for when it rains.” The one thing that has been a staple of Student Affairs is that they have been able to cover units and their needs by being strategic about how they have engaged with their carryforward. It has been “storming” the last few years, and Student Affairs is in a position of telling SA directors to use funding that might make them nervous because carryforward dollars are a one-time use of fund - once used, they do not regenerate or replenish. However, at the same time, they hopeful and looking forward to the time when the cohort tuition model kicks in fully. Certainly, over the next few years units are going to have to take their balances to places where they are going to feel uncomfortable because they are going to have to deplete - not fully because they would never allow full depletion, but they will to have to go much lower than they would otherwise. **Christine Wilson** asked follow-up questions to last week’s presentation regarding the $500k coming from Athletics over the course of five years with half of that funding going to mental health services and the other half going to SFAC. **Christine Wilson** shared her screen and discussed the assumptions from APB with VC Gorden. VC Gorden shared that he did not want to speak on specifics as there are more questions. However, he shared that they have to try to extend the funding as long as they can, while also giving the committee meaningful opportunities to provide recommendations to the Chancellor about how they are going to cover different kinds of commitments. He shared the move of the funding from athletics back into the general pot has been long standing. In addition, he added that the conversation about the movement of that funding really came in the context of covering Student Affair requests. Last year, there were deficits within the student service fee area under SFAC in terms of funding that that was recommended to the Chancellor to be provided. One of the ways they were able to cover those deficits was to have APB temporarily cover them until they got more funding. This is more funding. **Gaby Barrios** added that the committee is united in their goal to make sure that people salaries are funded as sustainable as possible no matter what scenario the committee moves forward with. The main difference for how the committee will manage the plethora of temporary requests that units have been used to making. The main issue is more of a cultural change and opinion on how the SFAC is going to fund people's positions. VC Gorden added that as the committee makes these decisions, it is very important about staying tightly connected. The university actually wants to have temp positions. There are times and positions that gives staff members’ opportunities to grow and move on. These are positions to hire someone in the long term who can gain proficiency and then ideally move on within the organization into a high level position. **Christine Wilson** asked about the designing the Call Letter and what it should elicit. VC Gorden shared that it would helpful that within the Call Letter, division leaders provide responses that clearly elicits what the priorities are in terms of the requests that have come in.
3. **Announcements**
	1. **Gaby Barrios** reminded the committee to turn in their unit reviews on this day for the committee to have time to review before unit presentations next week.
	2. Next week there will be two 1-hour meeting – one on Tuesday one on Thursday.
	3. **Gaby Barrios** will be drafting the Call Letter this day or tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned.