SFRC February 11, 2014

In attendance: Claudia Covello, DeeJay Pepito, Max Gee, Fabrizio Mejia, Hugh Graham, Walter Wong, Bahar Navab, Mark Lucia, Lorraine Atallah (proxy for Michelle Chan), Joy Chen, Nolan Pack

Via phone: Kelsey Finn

1. Introductions
2. Call for additional items-
      A. Fall departmental referendum timeline-
      Campus based fees usually happen on Fall. Timeline would require initial draft by
      March
      B. Above item will determine next meeting schedule.
      CACSSF needs to approve concept (by Dec 31- but CACCSF does not meet until
      March 1)

3. Update on Tech Fee-
      Two main points to discuss:
      Feedback provided by UCOP for our review.
      Question re: fee levels.

Fee Level-
There has been some confusion between IT, SAIT and other parties to discuss fee levels that may require in-person meeting between impacted parties to sort through. Conversation must be held with impacted parties to determine fee levels. CFO's office can help coordinate this conversation and schedule meeting. Reminder to be mindful of ASUC timeline. Language must be submitted by FEB 24 for Spring ballot.

DeeJay's understanding is that this fee would be for more than just software because students don't want to pay a fee for just software. Some push back exists around this, but intent in putting this referendum forward is for more than just software.
Concern that passage will be difficult if total fee is equivalent to buying software on one's own. There is hesitancy to increase software component of fee if fee ends up being more than cost of software. Students are requesting a more aggressive negotiation with Microsoft and Adobe to make this viable.

Return to Aid component is fixed, can't be lowered. Estimated at 1/3 of fee.

Propose $20 cap for software; after Return to Aid, remainder of fee goes to committee for review of proposals and disbursement. There has been conversation that Chancellor could reduce fee if there are not enough or no viable proposals were submitted.

Additional question is when students become eligible. Summer Bridge is an example of students who would need access to software but fee is not charged until August.

Clause in referendum indicates that Chancellor's office will work with committee to define implementation policy.

Reviewed UCOP required changes
UCOP Comments:
UCOP comments question whether we can say Microsoft and Adobe, or whether we can be more vague and say Productivity Software in order to not lock us into particular vendors. There is concern that if we soften and make vague, it will be a harder conversation with students and feel less transparent. Campus Counsel has reviewed and agrees that language written as is, is acceptable.

Pg 3- Hugh will request clarification because we do not want to limit IT staff's ability to support approved initiatives. We want flexibility to use IT staff for subsidized projects if appropriate.

More details on the number of student surveys can be added to the referendum, but committee does not agree that full survey methodology is necessary. More information can be added concisely to include more information on how many students were surveyed and a metric to indicate what percentage of students were interested in improved additional technology services.

Comment R7: Some examples of proposals might include printing resources, open access, smartphone apps, etc…

Is this a refundable fee or non-refundable? Committee believes that the fee would be non-refundable

Idea is that in March, we would prepare guidelines similar to CACSSF guidelines for tech fee committee so that students could review before funding. Guidelines for committee completed separately would allow more flexibility for student representatives and Chancellor's office to refine as needed. If guidelines are included in referendum they are not flexible. However, guidelines must be created before vote in order to maintain transparency and have clear understanding. CSF may take a first pass at guidelines and submit for review.

4. Rec Sports Fee
- Not happening this semester. Current fee expires Spring of 2016 and Spring of 2017. No action required at this time.

5. Health and Wellness is not happening this semester.

6. Fall Referendum-

UHS – due to changes in benefits and salaries are connected, UHS will be running a $1.7 deficit on salary. There is currently a gap greater than 12% of industry standard for staff members that either needs to be filled or services will have to be cut. Health Services has consistently ranked as a top student priority so this is a major concern.

Brief conversations have questioned whether we need to explore an additional health fee or modify existing health fee. This is not a new issue, however it has reached a critical point. Proposal has been submitted to Administration requesting campus make an equity adjustment to budget for salaries. Presumption is that it will not be augmented, but that UHS will be advised to look for ways to increase revenue to support. UHS is hopeful that students will not be the first source of support for the budget shortfall and feels that referendum is not the ideal solution. However, without coverage, the alternative is to cut services.

Current health fee has strong caps and can't be used to resolve the problem. Current fee does not expire. Referendum would be required to eliminate it. The language of current referendum does not ever allow to catch up with real costs but it can be amended by referendum- either Student or departmental-led. Ideal Solution is long-term rather than a series of intermediate fixes. Health fee is 12% of the budget. Not the majority of UHS budget.

Not certain that referenda will be put forth. Will be dependent on administrative response but need time to explore potential referendum. No action at this time, other than to request that there may be an exception to the timeline to allow time to explore alternatives.

Committee recommends that, if this will be proposed for Fall, UHS to work with CACSSF to get concept approval.

No next meetings for committee scheduled- final vetting of proposal will be conducted via email.