

Minutes
Fall 2017 Course Fees
Meeting Thursday
November 2, 2017

Introductions

Brief background (Susan) on implementation of course fees about 15 years ago

- Allowed hiring of more faculty so there could be more majors
- Enhance student experience through different opportunities (scholarships, internships, etc.)
- Requirement that a meeting be held every year to report on how funds are spent and discuss possible adjustments.
- Committee also discusses and votes on the possibility of allowing fees to increase with the HEPI (Higher Education Price Index) at these annual meetings
- Main criteria for fee use is that they are used to benefit students
 - Initially this was used to hire faculty to expand programs
 - Some of the funds should also be spent to hire students (student choice was to hire more than students rather than use the funds exclusively for scholarships to provide work experience)
 - There are currently seven undergraduate majors, two more than were initially anticipated at the inception of the Committee

Review of the current financials and discuss the Dean's plan for the future

- More than half of the fees from the 2017 fiscal year was spent directly on academic programs, mainly faculty.
- The School of Business is the second largest employer of students at KU
- There will be additional funds added in 2018 fiscal year; the budget adheres to the more conservative University estimate.
- A question was raised regarding what types of items fall into the "other" category
 - The "other" funds decreased for the 2017 fiscal year, the budget shows an increase for next year, but some of that budget will be spent in defined categories as needs come into focus.
 - Items here are also reflect KU employees that take classes (KU gives the funds for the employee portion of the course fees and then takes them back)
- A question was raised regarding why the MAcc programs appear to be getting less funding
 - MAcc classes, on average, have higher faculty costs than other programs, so some of the benefit to MAcc students is captured in the "Faculty" line.
 - The MAcc program is more classroom oriented than experience oriented
 - MAcc programs get funding from other sources, such as accounting firms that sponsor events
 - However, the School recognizes that the MAcc program should have more direct program support than it currently gets and some of the expected excess above

budget will be directed to the MAcc to correct the imbalance.

- It was pointed out that it would be nice to have the budget split out to show the difference between funding for the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, to develop metrics that demonstrate how course fees benefit EC students, and to ensure that EC students are aware of the services that course fees make possible.
- The information is also posted on the Course Fees website:
<https://business.ku.edu/admission/tuition-fees-scholarships>

Additional Questions/Comments

- MAcc representative: Emphasized that the MAcc students are concerned that they pay the same fees as the MBA students but appear to get less benefit. (If there is a difference in funding from other sources, that difference should be made more apparent.)
- UBC representative: Some undergraduates do not overall feel they are receiving enough benefit for the money they are spending because fees charged by other professional schools and the College are significantly lower. (Discussion included mention of School services that are of exceptional quality, such as Advising and Career Services, which make job placement and time to graduation at the School better, on average, than in most parts of the University, as well as the improvement in the breadth and depth of course offerings.)
- There is an overall consensus that fees use needs to be transparent and the benefit of paying them should be highlighted in a clear and concise way (It is also important to remember that there is a historical context that needs to be considered)

Vote on whether or not to increase the fees (part of the initial agreement was that these fees would increase with HEPI, typically 3-5% each year)

- The Dean has recommended to not increase the fees again this year.
- The Committee voted unanimously to not increase the fees this year.