

School of Business Annual Course Fee Committee Meeting

October 27, 2023

Attending: Dean Paige Fields, Executive Associate Dean Susan Scholz, Associate Dean Chris Anderson, Associate Dean Jide Wintoki, FAC members Amanda Winn and Keith Chauvin, Dean's Advisory Board Vice Chair Cathy Curless, staff members Trina Ramirez Stephens, Rich Lloyd and Jordan Yochim, Students: Julia Shaffer (Business Minor), Weston Pringle (MAcc), Caitlan Mattar (UBC), Jui Nagarkar (BSAN/MBA)

1. Introductions

Scholz - opened the meeting at 10:02am and reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting and committee.

Introductions were made around the table.

2. Background

Chauvin – gave a history of the establishment of course fees. Prior to course fees the School had only two majors – Business and accounting. A committee of students, faculty, alumni was formed that researched, benchmarked, polled and ultimately initiated course fees at the School. After the fee was initiated and improvements quickly followed, including new majors, faculty, programs, and improved student services. The fee was approved by the Board of Regents. This committee was established as an advisory committee to review the use of fees annually.

Curless – The course fee implementation committee was very concerned about launching students in productive careers, including placement, salaries, and expectations, and the case for the improvements funded by course fees was compelling.

Fields – The initial course fee was indexed to the Higher Education Cost Index and grew from the initial rate to the current rate.

Scholz – Current course fees are \$126 for undergraduate credit hours and about \$100 more for graduate credit hours. There has been no increase in the last nine years. The dean recommends no increase this year, the committee will vote on whether to endorse that recommendation at the end of the meeting.

Question – how do the School's course fees and related activities compare to other schools? Fields explained that the school receives a portion of standard tuition, but all of the course fees paid by its students. On campus, several other programs charge course fees. Most are significantly lower, but because the School's rate has been frozen, others are beginning to catch up. At other universities, many competitors have fees of a similar nature. Our fees allow us to offer competitive student services and programs.

3. Review of prior year's revenues/expenditures

Scholz gave an overview of academic year 2023 course fee financial report (July 2022 – June 2023). As usual, the largest single expenditure is for faculty. Faculty spending increased relative to prior years due to growth. Student employment and scholarships represent about 15% of course fees spent, weighted

toward employment and consistent with the intent of the original committee. Academic Advising decreased significantly because of the recent centralization of that function. A significant amount (\$1.3M) was spent to revamp technology in all the classrooms. The implementation has been delayed by supply chain issues but will begin soon. Overall, in AY 23 course fee spending exceeded revenue by about \$1.0M as the School strategically draws down funds that accumulated as growth accelerated.

Question – any Edwards campus spending here? Scholz - no, the School doesn't provide any of the services at the Edwards campus.

4. Plans for future expenditures

Fields – described plans to spend the remaining accumulated balance. Funds are to be spent hiring to accommodate recent growth, on areas of need identified by internal and advisory board task forces (Professionalism Program, DIEB, Study Abroad, Enrichment and Entrepreneurship programs), and possibly an Entrepreneurship Hub. These expenditures are expected to take place over four years, at which time income from the recent \$50M gift and funds raised from the recently launched capital campaign will become available to sustain the programs.

Recent and potential growth in the student body means we need to hire faculty, especially to accommodate upper-level courses as large freshmen and sophomore classes move through their programs. The hiring plan is based on a three-year projection developed with Area Directors and will include both tenure-track and non-tenure-track hiring.

The Entrepreneurship Hub would be a physical space providing student interaction with entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial support, perhaps a maker's space, and space for outreach programs. It could also provide much-needed classroom space. Course fees could provide about \$2M for this project.

Scholz – noted that committee's purpose is to provide feedback on uses and proposed uses of fees. The committee serves for a year and generally only needs to meet once. But if an issue or opportunity arises, the committee may be called upon again. Committee members should serve as ambassadors to various groups to expand general understanding of course fees, their history, purpose, and uses. Questions and comments from the committee are always welcome.

5. Vote on fee increase

The Dean recommended no increase in course fees for AY 2024-25.

Scholz – called for discussion. No argument was made for increasing the rate. The vote to hold course fees at the current rate was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.