

2025 Course Fees Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2025

Capitol Federal Hall, Room #2102

1. **Introductions:** *Dean Jide Wintoki led the introductions of those in attendance: Banner Williams, Jack Fowler, Ella Campbell, Allison Tuck, Xun Xiong, John Hymer, Trina Ramirez Stephens, Julie Popiel, Chris Anderson, Susan Scholz, Cathy Curless, Dieter Schrader, Ken Ward*
2. **Brief Background** was given on the purpose and implementation of the course fees and purpose of the committee: *(explained by Dean Wintoki, Executive Associate Dean Susan Scholz, and Dean's Advisory Board Chair Cathy Curless).*

The purpose of course fees is to increase the availability and quality of instruction, provide experiential learning opportunities and dedicated services for the students of the KU School of Business. The oversight of spending the fees includes this annual meeting, including faculty, board of advisors, and students to solicit feedback from those who pay the fees and benefit from the services provided.

Course fees were implemented in early 2000s, when there were insufficient resources for more than two majors. The school also needed to increase co-curricular activities. At that time, the dean proposed and student groups voted to approve an additional fee for business classes. The money from this fee is used solely to enhance student experiences; we do not support the research mission with these funds. These fees were designed to increase annually with the Higher Education Price Index, however, annual increases stopped several years back.

Currently the fees assessed are approximately **\$126 per undergraduate credit hour and \$226 per graduate credit hour.**

3. **Review and discuss** prior year revenues and expenditures:

Total fees collected in the fiscal year ended 6/30/2025 (FY 25) were higher than the prior year due to increased enrollment. Money is primarily spent on student support and programming, hiring student workers, and providing scholarships. The MAcc is supported primarily by hiring GTAs for 200 and 201, which shows up in the student wages expenditures. MS BSAN support is included in MBA Support and Scholarships.

The school has intentionally spent more than it has collected for the past few years to spend down an accumulated balance that built up due to a legislative spending freeze a few years back. The goal is to maintain a solid reserve balance, but to spend current fees on the students who pay them. Significant spending in AY 2025 included updating the technology in the building. This was paid from the accumulated balance, so we do not have to increase the per credit hour fee for to pay for the upgrades.

Q: Undergraduate Student Advising and Career Services are listed as \$0? A. Academic Advising has been centralized by the university, so the school no longer manages or pays advisors. Career Services is now part of the Professionalism Program expense, due to reorganization. (Additional discussion of how specific items roll up in the financial report.)

Students on the original committee wanted student employment to be a part of the expenditures. The School of Business is the second largest employer of students on the KU-L campus behind Dining Services. That support is intended to help both the student employee by providing jobs and experience, but also to support programming.

Q: Will part of the \$50M anonymous gift be used to help offset student fees? A: The gift will also support student programming. This gift and other endowment spending allows us to compliment many of the things that tuition fees support. It is another reason the dean does not recommend an increase in fees this year.

Q: What are the Impact Programs? Those include MSP programming, Math 115 Tutoring for Calculus, and some of personnel. Q: What is included in the Entrepreneurship Center expense? A: These are funds to build out the *programming* like “Lunch and Learn” or the Catalyst program. The additional anonymous donor gift received this year will go to the Entrepreneurship Hub building. Course fees are not used on building *construction*, but are sometimes used for building upkeep, furnishings, and technology.

Q: As the MSBSAN program grows and goes online, is there room to allocate more to those students in support? A: Currently MBA students are receiving the bulk of support rather than the MS BSAN students, but we will consider increasing support if there is need.

4. **Plans for future expenditures:**

In the next FY, our priorities will be like last year’s, with perhaps some additional emphasis on the MS BSAN program. We are reorganizing the way the school is structured, so some expenses may move to different lines.

Q: Do we assess the effectiveness of each expense line? Whether the investment was effective or not? Whether we should continue to spend it or not? A: We are mainly concerned about the overall success of the school, if we believe any expense is not contributing to the student experience, we change.

Q: Do we do any surveys for the students on their experience relative to this conversation? What is their opinion of their experience? A: We try to survey students frequently and have little luck. The university is also doing this, but we are not getting good participation. Our UBC leaders are the administration’s main conduit to and from the students. That organization has been a good source for vetting or hearing ideas.

5. **Conclusion and Vote**

The dean reminded the participants that if any ideas come to you or come from your organization, they should send those to the dean’s office. He reminded the group that they are members of the Course Fee Committee for the year and leadership will look to them to be ambassadors. As students, they can help others understand the reason for these fees and how

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they are spent. He reiterated that their feedback is welcome and to please share their thoughts with the Dean, Associate Deans, or program directors.

Q: Are there any arguments in favor of an increase, and if we were to raise fees, do we have to have a specific purpose? A: No, we do not have to have a specific reason or line item to raise fees, but we have sufficient funds for the coming year or two. We expect total fees to hold steady or increase due to a forecasted increase in students. Q: How do we compare to other Big XII universities? A: We compare across KU school/units vs. across other universities. We look at total cost vs. that of our competitors rather than how that cost breaks down in tuition and fees. Should this group recommend an increase, it would then have to be approved by the Provost and the Kansas Board of Regents. The base tuition is set by the university. Tuition is expected to increase, so by holding course fees steady, we are effectively making the tuition more affordable. The dean would like to continue that effort to reduce the tuition burden for students.

Vote to increase fees or leave the rate unchanged (fees can increase with the Higher Education Price Index, typically 3-5%). – The Dean recommends no increase in fees this year. The vote to leave course fees unchanged was unanimous.