

Trustees Online: Jodi Hart Wilson, Eric Schmutz, Colter Bennett, Beverly Burgess, Marilee Eyre, Sydney Nakken and Caytee Wankier.

Others Present: Mindy Benson, Mary Pearson, Daneka Souberbielle, Tiger Funk, Shauna Mendini, Stuart Jones, Jared Tippets, Camaree Staheli, Dialea Adams, Landon Lee and Brian Shuppy.

Welcome and Call to Order by Chair Jodi Hart Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

Tuition Proposal Tab A

President Benson and VP Mary Pearson provided an overview of the proposed changes to tuition as included in the materials attached. SUU has continued to keep tuition increases to a minimum and our average increase over the past 10 years is 1.35% which is the lowest in the state.

This year the increase is recommended at 2.07% for undergraduate resident tuition, which is a combination of shifts in student fees to tuition and mandated costs as required by the legislature for compensation, health and dental and internal services. The increase also supports faculty promotion and tenure and student wage increases. Lastly, the increase will fund the Health Clinic, Counseling and Psychological Services, Tutoring and Testing Center fees that were moved under tuition from student fees.

General Student Fee Recommendation Tab B

The changes to the student fees were shared by SUUSA President Colter Bennett; there are 18 students that sit on the fee board who invested a significant amount of time in the review and evaluation process of each individual student fee. Colter Bennett felt strongly to bring the student fee forward as recommended by the student fee board.

The summary provided by SUUSA outlined changes of student fees including four student fees shifting to tuition and an additional three fees were reduced or discontinued. The net shift in student fees decreased by \$64 overall.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the increase fee to SUUSA-Student Association of \$5 per semester which would be utilized to fund a new staff position, support more student-led initiatives and increase SUUSA leaders stipends.

Chair Wilson shared that she has concerns about the fee adjustment proposal and USHE has guided us to increase fees only when they benefit the entire student body rather than specific areas that would see the benefit. Brian Shuppy from USHE shared that it is better to fund staff positions on E&G dollars, rather than placing them in student fees, as a staff position would warrant a salary increase that in turn would require the student fees to go up to maintain the position.

A motion was made to approve the tuition increase and student fees proposal as presented with the modification of removing the \$5 SUUSA student fee increase. Motion was made by Trustee Eric Schmutz, seconded by Trustee Beverly Burgess. Vote was six in favor and one opposing vote from Colter Bennett.

Course and Program Fee Proposal Tab C

Provost Shauna Mendini shared the proposed adjustments to course and program fees with the trustees. The fees are specific to class materials, supplies, equipment or direct costs as associated with a given program or course. Each college or school made requests that pertained to their own college needs.

Each proposed increase was detailed with an explanation of the need to increase and the estimated revenue it would generate. The School of Business has three separate fee increases (lower division, upper division and graduate courses) which would support an additional career advisor position that aids business students in workforce and job placement. Currently, the School of Business has one career advisor funded at an 85% appropriated funding and 15% program fee funding. The value was stated to be significant in assisting our students in jobs after graduation.

Trustee Sydney Nakken asked if program fees being increased and used to fund a new staff position was similar to the \$5 proposed student fee increase as requested by SUUSA but was denied. Is it consistent to support one fee increase and not the other? VP Mary Pearson and Colter Bennett both shared that the program fee is specific to that college/school and benefits all students that pay the fee.

VP Jared Tippet said that the Business Career Advisor position has been very successful and they are looking to implement career advisors in all the colleges, if funding becomes available. If other colleges receive this position, Jared has committed to finding funding for the School of Business as well.

Also mentioned by Jodi Hart Wilson that there is trepidation and we are treading lightly for funding positions with college fees. Recognizing that there may be some additional funding options with the legislature, hopeful that this is a short-term solution.

Motion was made by Trustee Colter Bennett, seconded by Trustee Cayee Wankier to approve the Course and Program Fee Proposal as presented with the caveat that the new Business

Career Advisor looks for and plans to get sustainable funding in the future without a college fee.

Vote unanimous.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

President Benson commended all the dedicated work that has gone into these proposals. Appreciation to the budget office, provost office and especially the student fee committee on working through the specific recommendations to tuition, course/program fees and student fees. Shout out to the professional and exemplary work and commitment of our student body president, Colter, from both the President and VP Tippets.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Marilee Eyre, seconded by Trustee Caytee Wankier. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Trustees Minutes approved: March 28, 2025

Signed: Dialea S. Adams