



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Student Government Association

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Senate Meeting

March 20, 2024

Call to Order: 5:30 PM

Special Presentation: Potential Athletics Fee:

President Jada Cartwright:

- *Potential* addition of an athletics fee
- Hold questions to the end
 - Q&A at the end
 - Contact them or speak after the meeting if question is unanswered

Presenters:

- All fees have to be justified under State statute
 - TEC Sec 54.5202
 - SFA is allowed to have an athletics fee as of 2015 with a cap of \$10/credit hour
 - Increase can only happen if:
 - Needs to be approved by majority vote of student body
 - If increase is less than 5%, needs majority vote of SGA
- Why having discussion?
 - Interest in Student Service Fee Committee and Student leadership
 - Committee doesn't want to transfer the \$960k to athletics and use it to fund other student initiatives
- Impact on Student Service Fee
 - Allows for elimination \$960k of Athletics funding from SSF
 - SFA redid tuition/fee tables 4 years ago and wanted to freeze fees at 12 credit hours to be on the cutting edge of tuition
- Conversation Timeline
 - Nathan emails in October regarding process
 - October-March: discussions with UT system
 - Needed to clarify procedural processes in the transition
 - March 2024: Fee proposals due
 - We didn't find out about fee proposal changes until late because of system transitions
 - Just found out Wednesday before Spring Break
 - Early March: Discussion of draft resolution and timeline
 - 3/18/24: President's Cabinet discusses process
 - 3/18/24: E-Board informed by VPSA
- Timeline Going Forward

- o Want to ensure compliance with Texas education code
- o Raise awareness and encourage discussion/debate
- o Gain knowledge/insight during each phase of referendum
- o 3/20/2024: Information Session I
- o 3/27/2024: Information Session II (Athletics Presentation)
- o 4/3/24: Information Session 3 (Recap, Q&A)
- o 4/4/2024-4/5/2024: Potential vote on referendum
 - Has to be 48 hours
 - Referendum: Campus wide, student vote to gather the official opinion of the student body
 - Want to make sure we're hearing from the student body
- o Would be implemented Fall 2024 if referendum approved
- Comparative data:
 - o UT System fees range from \$8.50/hour (UTA) to \$26.25/hour (UTRGV)
 - UT Austin does not have this
 - UT Tyler, UTSA, UTEP each have per credit hour caps
 - o First athletics fees were temporary initiatives to create buildings, etc.
- Q&A
 - o Cap at 12: Tuition and fees level out
 - o Category Fee Falls Under: Other
 - It's not under a general piece of legislation – authorized very specifically
 - o Pros and Cons for everyday students
 - Clearly understood fee
 - We're already funding but with less transparency
 - Fee can only be used to support athletic activities
 - Even if you're not part of athletics, it enhances student experience by putting money back in SSF
 - Orientation, Student Success, Cheer/Dance, etc.
 - Benefit (Dr. Dies): Puts more money into SORF allocations
 - Con: Increasing tuition
 - o If the student body votes no, effects and going forward?
 - Stay the same. Don't get money back into SSF
 - o Student Service Fee Elaborations (Dr. Dies):
 - Funds academic student travel, FSL, SGA
 - Also funds Veterans Resource Center, Shuttle Buses, Counseling positions, CCPD, Campus Rec, Campus programming, LMB, pep band, sport clubs, Title IX
 - o If we vote it in, will the SSF decrease?
 - No conversation about decreasing bc we can't reallocate funds
 - o Granted to charge in 2015
 - o If we go back to the legislature, would it be more for inflation?
 - Yes
 - o SSF legislation defines who's on committee, terms, etc. Makes recs to president who makes ultimate decision
 - President has not previously overruled recs

- Athletics would have to go to the committee and the committee is now empowered to say No with a fee
- Two issues:
 - Relieving the need for the SSF to fund the athletics costs
 - Athletics funding is a separate issue
 - Allows us to regain control of this fee
 - Intent is not for this to increase the athletics budget but to compensate for some of the transfer funding out
- Generate around \$280,000 SCH -> \$2.8 million
 - Some backs off bc of exemptions, waivers, etc.
 - Estimated an additional \$1.7 million which would be allocated by the president towards the university
 - Additional revenue for the university
 - We support athletics from all sorts of errors already
 - Reduces the need for funding from other sources
- Speculated purposes for \$960k?
 - Hoping for it to go into student orgs, which do not have enough money
- Is there no other way to fund this other than having the SB foot the bill especially as tuition increases?
 - Admin is not unaware of that
 - Analyze how we compare to peer institutions
 - We're in the top half of charges at 12 hours but bottom half at 15 hours
 - Fixed price model goal is to make education more affordable
 - We're had leadership turnaround and new president coming
 - Once we're focused in, we can make better decisions

Legislation:

- Test My Drink Bill
 - Presented by Dacoda Burkholder, written by Nathan Lyons
 - Friendly Amendment by Carlos Salazar
 - "On a date" not "On date"
 - Repeat of previous bill which was very successful and often handed out at tabling events
 - Passed unanimously with no abstentions
- Bill to Sponsor Lumberjack Orientation
 - Written by Nathan Lyons, presented by Rebekah Cook
 - Austin presented last meeting, supplementing his presentation
 - Would leave \$1500 in budget
 - 2 abstentions, passed
- Resolution to Support a Paid E-Sports Coordinator Position
 - Written and Presented by Senator Stormy Kiara
 - Yield time to Nolan Shrewsbury, VP of E-Sports Club
 - Club is facing issues with how many oversight procedures they have
 - Decisions take a long time and having issues replacing parts because it's student center property
 - Help coordinate and alleviate burden on student leaders

- E-Sports has 800 casual members including alumni and local high schoolers, About 50-100 students competing every semester
 - Coordinator would be for both sides
 - Previously looking at alumni but we're not specifically looking at alumni
 - Asking for alumni donations slowed by larger leader team
 - Helps with time management for head officers and allow coaches to focus on their actual jobs
 - Friendly amendment to update date
 - How is a sponsor position different from an advisor
 - Would have to fall under Campus Rec and funding would have to come from SSF
 - Looking at \$50-60k requested by Campus Rec
 - Greek life of a similar size has a coordinator
 - Vote Pass:
 - For: 11
 - Against: 2
 - Abstention: 0
- Swear in Briley Smith as new civil affairs chair
 - Revive the committee and encourage SGA to participate in Civil Affairs Committee\
 - SFA community should be more involved in Nac community
 - Current relationship is strained – we don't have high views of each other
 - Can help repair relationship
 - Community garden, food drives, clothes drives, writing cards, donations, etc
 - Visting people in local nursing homes

Announcements

- Advisor Comments:
 - Thanks for being attentive to speakers on serious decisions and I'm proud – Dr. Hollie
 - It's a critical moment in university and this is a way to make more impact. Speak with people in classes and community. – Cameron Shepard
- Exec Reports
 - President Jada Cartwright:
 - Athletic Fee:
 - Reiterate we'll keep you in the know about the process and what's going on
 - Please make sure you're talking to people and we can't expect students to just know
 - Communicate potential changes
 - Prepping for banquet so look at the GroupMe for forms
 - SGA Week!!! Planning Traderjacks
 - Let Jada know if you want to help with planning process
 - Farewell Address from Jada and Gina
 - Updates on the University
 - Vice President Nathan Lyons:
 - Nothing
 - Chief Justice Andrew Johnson:

- Nothing
- Communications Director Abigail Archibald
 - Vote and remind people to vote
 - Zattertots
- Speaker of the Senate Emilee Cude
 - SASW is having a movie next week on the 27th from 2-4
 - Go support each other!!
 - Bring items to donate
 - Watching White Savior
 - Discussion from multicultural social work class following
 - Lumberjack achievement awards are in the GroupMe
 - Recognize leaders! Nominate people!
 - Due by this Friday
 - Senator of the Week: Kyle Hutchins
 - Perfect attendance for two semesters
- Coffee Chat
 - Tomorrow at Starbucks 3-4pm in collaboration with DoS office
 - First 100 people get free coffee
- ROTC Kyle G. West 5k
 - Hosting in memory of Kyle G West, an ROTC student who was killed overseas
 - April 13th
 - Look on ROTC IG for information

Adjourned at 6:48pm