

COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS: Meeting Minutes

Date and Attendance

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

March 17, 2025

Attendance: Ashley Swisshelm, Sunny Saini, Danny Glassmann, Brittany Crall, Peter Carrera, Matt Couch, Lorraine Pennyman, David Miller, Sheri Klatt, Adam Fromme, Kenneth Madsen, Jack Meyer, Jennifer Wolfe, Abraham Haikal, David Miller, Harpreet Singh, Rosemary Mullaghy (for Sahana Prabhu)

Absent:

Old Business

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes (March 3, 2025)
 - a. **Motion to approve by Sunny Saini /Seconded by Ashley Swisshelm**

New Business

1. Approval of Agenda
 - a. **Motion to approve by Sunny Saini/Seconded by Ashley Swisshelm**
2. Land Acknowledgement: earthworks.osu.edu/land
3. Presentation by Student Life Business and Financial Services (Dan Huffman)
 - a. **Variety of financial sources in Student Life and 850 different budgets**
 - i. **Auxiliary (e.g., Housing, Dining, Union, Student Health Services)**
 1. **Generate revenue**
 2. **Limitations include needing BOT approval on rate increases, fees are locked or restricted based on the tuition guarantee, and no external funding sources support**
 3. **Must build reserves for long-term facility improvements and must cover short-term deficits**
 4. **If any auxiliary brings in more money than it spends in a year, those funds go into reserves for long-term projects (e.g., deferred maintenance)**
 5. **For facilities, goal is to put 2% of the value of the building into reserves each year, though we are lucky when we hit 1% right now because of the increases in utilities, labor costs, etc. without being able to increase rates**
 - ii. **Fee-based (e.g., SAF, Rec Fee, Ohio Union Facility, General Funds, Student Health Insurance)**
 1. **Advantages are that we can expect a generally predictable amount and can carry forward a surplus (as opposed to surplus in auxiliary, which must be directed into reserves)**
 2. **Limitations are similar to auxiliaries – e.g., fixed rates that need BOT approval to be changed, no external funding support**

3. Must be strategic and resourceful, since no increases are provided for wage increases (i.e., must decide to shift funds)
4. What will happen with the Ohio Union Facility Fee when the debt service is paid off? Too early to know, but a decision will need to be made about whether the fee will continue and/or be designated for the Ohio Union.
 - a. Any money collected right now must go toward debt service or be directed into reserves; cannot currently use for operating expenses
- iii. Development funds
- iv. Plant funds (for facility repairs, upgrades)
- v. Central support units are funded through a percentage of the other budgets
- vi. Annual planning process
 1. Fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30
 2. Budgets assembled in Jan./Feb. and submitted in March
 3. Forecasts done in spring, summer, and autumn to update based on enrollment changes
- vii. SL budget: total of ~\$319M – earnings account for 81% (~\$260M), general funds 15% (~\$47.5M), other 4% (~\$11.4M)
 1. Development brings in ~\$1M annually
- viii. SL doesn't have any influence on how money is invested; that is all determined by treasury office
- ix. Mandatory Fees
 1. Rec Fee generates \$13.9M
 2. Union Fee generates \$8.1M (\$7.9M goes to debt service)
 3. SAF generates \$4.5M
- x. FY25 Planned uses
 1. Salaries – 28% (67.1M for staff, 1.3M for GTAs, \$18.1M for students)
 2. Benefits – 8% (rate = ~36% of salary)
 3. Fee Authorizations/Student Aid – 1%
 4. Supplies and Services – 13%
 5. Cost of Sales – 10% (primarily food)
 6. Utilities – 5% (expecting another 8% increase for FY26)
 7. University Overhead – 3%
 8. Non-Capital Expenditures – 2%
 9. Capital Expenditures – 2%
 10. Debt Service – 21% (like mortgages on our facilities)
 11. Transfers Out – 7% (e.g., STEP, FOD contract work, some regional campus)
- xi. Student Wages
 1. Minimum hourly rate moved to \$13/hr. on Jan. 1, 2024 in SL and June 30, 2024 for other units

- a. Increased by 50% since 2019 (\$8.55/hr.)
 - b. Students work less hours than before COVID
 - 2. No new funding came with these increases, so had to be accommodated with current budgets
 - a. Have had to evaluate things like building hours, staffing levels, etc. to find out how to cut costs
 - 3. Impacted student wages at all levels of employment (compression affecting student managers who were already making that wage)
 - 4. Some positions had to have their rates reevaluated to be competitive (e.g., lifeguards, dining)
 - 5. Trying to find the right balance of continuing to offer a high level of service while also reducing our operating expenses
 - xii. What kind of facilities have debts? Majority is Housing (North District), but also Union, Rec Facilities, Younkin, some on regional campuses
 - xiii. Challenges include rising costs of utilities, wages, and supplies; deferred maintenance, and minimal, if any new funding
 - 1. Cash funding or short-term funding are also challenges when the funds run out (e.g., Ohio grant for mental health resources that expire this year)
 - xiv. How we address the challenges
 - 1. Cost reductions from evaluating programs/hours, supplier contracts, adjusting programming/events
 - 2. Always looking for new revenue opportunities through SL Events and Conferences, sponsorships, development
 - 3. Continually engaging in start/stop/continue planning exercises
 - xv. How can students be involved?
 - 1. Various councils that contribute to decisions about fees (e.g., CSA, RHAC, Student Governments)
 - 2. Attend and encourage attendance at events to demonstrate value
 - 3. Complete surveys from Center for the Study of Student Life
 - xvi. Other questions? Contact Dan Huffman at huffman.503@osu.edu
4. Committees: Issues & Allocations
- a. Issues (Sunny Saini)
 - i. One more presentation coming to full council – Jeff Pelletier/Ohio Union and Student Activities at next meeting on 3/31/25
 - 1. Brainstorm of questions for Jeff
 - a. How OUSA organization is structured
 - b. Student Org Success Coaches
 - c. Trainings for advisors and student org leaders
 - d. High level overview of OUAB and Signature Events, especially what is the work that team does? What are they most proud of? What are their challenges?
 - e. AV and Operations

- f. How has the Ohio Union evolved over the last 15 years; i.e., things done now that weren't done before and things we no longer do
 - g. Any AV upgrades that have occurred or are needed
 - h. How does the Ohio Union compare to peer institutions
 - ii. Transportation and Sustainability coming to Issues Committee
 - iii. Got feedback about carpooling from Off-Campus & Commuter Student Engagement as a follow-up from a previous discussion
 - 1. Had discussion about OCCSE resources on the regional campuses
 - b. Allocations (Peter, on behalf of Kirsten)
 - i. Allocations members need to complete the When2Meet
 - ii. Sherri Klatt is fully transitioned into the Fiscal Coordinator role
 - iii. May need to choose a meeting time that is different than the traditional Monday 3:30 time slot because of some scheduling conflicts
- 5. Student Government Updates
 - a. USG – Still have some pending Judicial Panel hearings before election results are released; new administration will start on April 1
 - b. CGS – Officer elections held at last meeting; President and Secretary returning, Treasurer and VP are new; senator elections occur at the next meeting on 4/4; Graduate Student Appreciation Week coming soon
 - c. IPC – Holding a town hall this Thursday for professional students regarding recent legislation; annual Drag Show happening this Saturday at the Ohio Union; next IPC Senate meeting this Sunday will feature officer elections; last big event is the Inter-Professional Summit on April 6 – topic is leadership in advocacy; reviewing their governing documents
- 6. Office of Student Life (Danny Glassmann)
 - a. Sibs, Kids, & Family Day on March 29
 - b. Encouraging people to review wellness resources available through Student Wellness Center as we end the semester
 - c. Dining Services looking for student employees; check their website
 - d. Student Remembrance Ceremony on April 7, 7pm at Fawcett Center – honors students who have passed away in the last year; all are invited
 - e. Program Reviews underway for Sorority and Fraternity Life, Student Conduct
 - f. Last Dining with the Deans on March 26 – anyone can sign up, conversation over lunch at Sloopy's
- 7. Code of Student Conduct Targeted Update
 - a. Ad hoc committee that met last fall made recommendations for some updates to the Code and to relevant sections of the Faculty Rules
 - b. Updates were provided to the Faculty Council
 - c. Ad hoc committee decided to withdraw its Faculty Rules recommendations so that Faculty Council could deal with those themselves
 - d. By the next CSA full council meeting, there should be some updates about the ad hoc committee's work, and CSA will have to decide whether to proceed with

recommending the changes now or pause so that any changes could be packaged with additional changes that might result from the Student Conduct program review

- e. Students do have most of the protections we want reflected in current practices, but we will continue conversations about whether/how to codify those more specifically in the Code
8. Open Floor/Announcements/Questions
- a. SAF review continues this week; Signature applications to be reviewed in the next 2 weeks
9. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn by Sunny Saini/Seconded by Ashley Swisshelm