



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION FEE COMMITTEE

February 6th, 2019 9:00am VU 462A

Members:

Present: Anne Lee (ASVP for Student Life), Natasha Hessami (ASVP for Governmental Affairs), Kay McMurren (Program Supervisor for Student Transportation), Jillian Trinkaus (Sustainable Transportation Program Coordinator), Brian Burton, Darcy Allen (Student-at-Large)

Advisor: Greg McBride

Secretary: Grace Drechsel

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

- I. **Introductions**
- II. **Info/Action Item**
 - a. **Fee Increase**

The committee discussed the potential fee increase. It looks like the deficit for this year will be about \$103,000. McMurren presented a series of projections that demonstrated what certain inputs would do to our cash balance. There will be a WTA contract negotiation in Fall of 2020.

Allen brought up her concern of a potential for repeated fee increases. She suggested having a larger conversation and include concerns over service issues and necessary changes for the upcoming WTA contract. McMurren said that WTA is very receptive of comments and criticism, and also, the amount of money that we pay WTA through the fee is just around 3% of their total income.

Hessami added that she disagrees with investing in WTA enough to sway them to make changes concerning bus routes, because that will be a huge financial burden on the current students (a double or triple fee increase).

McMurren said that there are two options: to take our best guess on what an appropriate and sustainable fee increase would be, and put it out to the vote of the students, or not do anything this year and have our balance continue to decrease, and hope that they vote for the increase that we need eventually. McBride pointed out that the current fee is valid until Spring of 2022, although it can be changed with a student vote before then.

Hessami and Lee said that they are comfortable considering a fee increase now so that it never becomes a “now or never” situation. Hessami said that in terms of timeline, if this needs to be voted on in the spring elections, there needs to be a solid, numerical decision on the proposed fee increase by the very beginning of spring quarter, because that is when campaigning will start (which will fall on this committee’s shoulders, as the sponsor of the fee increase.)

The committee decided to bring this issue to the Board of Directors meeting on Friday, looking for feedback and also just giving a heads up that this is on the radar. McBride asked if there’s a place for

Student Senator input in this conversation. Lee said that she will consult with Eckman, and also, there will be Student Senators present at the Board meeting. McMurren said that she will attend the Board meeting and present the fee increase and get feedback.

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 9:56am.