

Western Washington University
Alternative Transportation Fee Committee

April 6th, 2020

MS Teams

Members: *Present:* Trever Mullins (AS VP for Sustainability), Grace Drechsel (AS VP for Governmental Affairs), Kenzi Garner (AS Alternative Transportation Coordinator), Kay McMurren (Sustainable Transportation Program Manager), Jillian Trinkhaus (Sustainable Transportation Program Manager), Brian Burton (Financial Manager for the ATF), and Greg McBride (Assistant Director of the Viking Union Facilities).

Secretary: Sierra Templeton

Guest(s): None

Motions:

ATF-20-S-1 To move forward with the 1\$ (3.6%) increase to the Alternative Transportation Fee starting Fall 2020. This would mean \$28.50 for the academic year and \$23.00 for Summer quarter 2021.

I. Call to Order

Trever Mullins, VP of Sustainability, called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

II. Additions and Changes to the Agenda

None

III. Approval of Minutes

None

IV. Discussion Items

A. Alternative Transportation Fee Increase Budget Projection

1. Looking at the projections, Burton noted that there was an error within projections C and D wherein D should be adjusted to reflect the 5% drop in enrollment.
2. Mullins asked why the number \$300,000 was important to keep as savings, and McMurren responded that this amount would be enough money to shut down the program if there were a student vote to get rid of the fee. Without this, the committee would be in the red.
3. Drechsel noted that she believes it's important to think mindfully about increasing a fee in the time of an unexpected event.

4. McMurren noted that if the committee were to decide on no fee increase, there would be no leeway and it may be a dangerous area to get into. The following years there may be larger increases. The Late-Night Shuttle is an added expense/contract wherein more fee increases may be needed to cover the cost.
5. Burton asked whether the ATF wants to smooth out these increases or not and see what happens with the contract. In past years the ending balance got slightly higher than it needed to be which is why the past few years there were some cuts to even out the number. Burton asked whether it makes sense for a smaller increase this year. Keeping in mind next year is an unknown, the ATF may need to wait and reassess then.
6. Drechsel asked if the executive board votes to increase the fee by 5%, if that would be charged in Fall 2020. McMurren responded that this would be the case, and this would affect the Summer fee for 2021.
7. Trinkhaus stated that the Summer quarter fee does not cover programs expenses fully, so if there's no fee this summer, it would set the budget even further back even if we don't pay WTA for a bus pass.
8. Burton asked Mullins and Drechsel if they had any insight on how the executive board may handle the increase given student concern. Mullins stated that currently students are having to pay these fees and not able to receive the benefits of them now. The conversation may be shifting more towards waiting until next year for a fee increase, when the services provided to students are clear. Drechsel responded that this would be a tough sell, but that the conversation about it would be valuable.
9. Trinkhaus suggested phrasing it as an increase of \$1.50 rather than a 5% increase as it may be less inflammatory. Mullins responded that any way this may be publicized, there would be a watchful eye from the Western Front and other student organizations, and the executive board would have all the documents stating this anyway.
10. Burton asked if the fee now is \$27.50, the \$1.50 increase would be over 5% by a fraction, so would this trigger the student vote? Vidana responded that he believed this to be the case, unless the board wanted to pass a provision.
11. McMurren suggested rounding down, even though a clean fee is easier. Perhaps a 3.6% increase would be better which would be \$28.50.
12. Burton noted that discussion of a fee increase would be good no matter what, and if anything, this dollar increase would be the way to go. Drechsel agreed that this needs to be taken to the board.
13. McMurren mentioned that even with this increase, there would still be a loss. Burton stated that looking at the projections, with no enrollment decrease, there would still be \$300,000 in the budget, and with a 5% decrease, there would be \$280,000 in the budget. McMurren added that there may be more wiggle room than this as she accounts for all expenses.
14. Trinkhaus noted that with McMurren's retirement, there may be less expenses. McMurren responded that this money may be used to fund whoever steps into the position or may go elsewhere, even with the current hiring freeze.
15. Mullins noted this motion may be too late for this week's agenda, but definitely will be able to be added to the next week's agenda. McMurren added that she will finish the spreadsheet projections in time for this.
16. Mullins stated that he will bring this item to the executive board for review, and we will go over what happens then on the meeting on April 20th. If there will be new fee language added in 2021, it will have to be approved by Winter quarter of the following year and recommendations should be made to Kenzi Garner

MOTION ATF-20-W- by Trinkhaus

To move forward with the 1\$ (3.6%) increase to the Alternative Transportation Fee starting Fall 2020. This would mean \$28.50 for the academic year and \$23.00 for Summer quarter 2021.

Second: Burton

Action: Passed

VII. Other Items

A. None

Trever Mullins, AS VP of Sustainability, adjourned this meeting at 11:21 a.m.

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