



AS Finance Council

April 23, 2020 2:30 p.m. Teams Meeting

Members: Present: Nate Jo, Chair (AS Business Director), Lani Defiesta (AS President); Adah Barenburg (AS Student Senate Pro Tempore), Selome Zerai (VP for Activities), Corey Griffis (student at-large), Keenan Kaemingk (Activities Rep), Christina Ngo (Resources Rep) **Absent:** Nicole Ballard (Student Senator), Rachel Walsh (Central Services Rep)

Advisors: Leti Romo, Assistant Director for Representation & Governance
Raquel Vigil, Business Manager

Secretary: Cindy Monger, Dean of Students Unit Fiscal Specialist

Guests: Dr. Fred Collins, Assistant Director for Viking Outdoor Recreation; Jenn Cook, AS Club Activities Manager; Casey Hayden, AS Assistant Director for Student Activities; Jamie Hoover, KUGS General Manager

MOTIONS

- FC-20-S-03 Approval of the Minutes of March 31, 2020. *Passed*
- FC-20-S-04 Approval of the Minutes of April 16, 2020. *Passed*
- FC-20-S-05 Deactivate the AS Student Staff Development Fund Policy. *Passed*
- FC-20-S-06 Deactivate the AS Budget Line of Authority Policy. *Passed*

Nate Jo, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION C-20-S-03 by Ngo
Approval of the minutes of March 31, 2020. |
Second: Kaemingk Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

MOTION C-20-S-04 by Ngo
Approval of the minutes of April 16, 2020. |
Second: Kaemingk Vote: 5 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

III. Revisions to the Agenda

IV. Public Forum

Griffis joined the meeting

V. Action Items

A. AS Student Staff Development Fund Policy (Deactivation)

The policy is being recommended for deactivation because it is no longer relevant and reference many old titles for areas. Fund guidelines are now held with individual committees.

MOTION C-20-S-05 by Kaemingk
Deactivate the AS Student Staff Development Fund Policy. |
Second: Barenberg Vote: 6 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

B. AS Budget Authority Policy (Deactivation)

This applied when students were considered Budget Authorities a few years ago it was moved to authority being included in professional staff position descriptions. Therefore, this policy is inaccurate.

Deactivate the AS Student Staff Development Fund Policy

MOTION C-20-S-04 y Griffis

Deactivate the AS Budget Line of Authority Policy.

Second: Ngo Vote: 6 - 0 - 0 Action: Passed

VI. Information Items

A. Summer S &A Fee Collection

For the average student \$70 is collected during the summer (fees are calculated per credit. Typically, the AS receives \$170,000 which does not cover all expenses but supplements the budget. The savings proposed reducing hours for summer employment are estimated at \$42,098. Griffis asked how much the hours would be reduced for employees, as they are typically planning for fall and he doesn't want programming for new students to be impacted. Jo said that the reduction is over many different areas with Budget Authorities recommendations. They were also asked to remove any known savings from their budgets in terms of programs that are cancelled over the summer. By next week they will have final numbers from Budget Authorities. Jenn Cook said that AS Information Fair will not be hiring a student, but it is all self-generating and doesn't impact the budget. Info Fair will be online this year and will be managed by Cook with the help of staff already working during the summer.

Jo said that the mandatory fee group is hoping to have their recommendations by the beginning of May to allow for fees to be charged at the correct rate. There is a chance that this can be handled by President's Cabinet and not the Board of Trustees. Griffis feels that they cannot maintain the reductions they made for spring quarter. He feels there is so much uncertainty right now that he doesn't know how to make a decision. He wonders if they should reduce the fee at all. Jo said that the summer fee is lower to start with at \$150 total verses \$230. Jo thinks it is important to consider the implications it has for the budget next year.

B. FY21 AS Budget Discussion

Jo presented a tentative timeline for the AS Budget. It will be presented by the AS to Services & Activities at a meeting May 4th or 5th. Then there will be public hearings and final recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The AS process currently has final revisions from Budget Authorities on April 27th. April 30th would be the last meeting of this Council to make recommendations on the AS Budget. Jo wondered if they should call an extra emergency meeting to allow for more time to review. Jo said that a finalized AS Budget has never been presented to the S & A Committee and so this should not be concerning. In this situation it may be more helpful to have a clearer version of how much revenue the AS may receive before the final AS budgets are set.

Jo shared a Video on the Tragedy of the Commons:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxC161GvMPc>.

Jo shared the video as a catalyst to think about collaborative processes in the AS Budgets and look at what is best for the whole community and all students. The assumptions are that we will have the same revenue as last year and no decrease in enrollment. Also, that there are no in person programs this summer. They are looking at a \$40,000 deficit if they do not take a reduction in summer S & A Fee. Last year, they passed a budget with a deficit and still ended with funding to put into AS Reserves. This year they may not have very much in residual dollars because they budgeted so tightly to give the 85% reduction to students for spring quarter. In decision packages, authorities were asked if they could reduce, move to a grant, or just remove the request and resubmit in the future.

Jo doesn't know the best way to facilitate this discussion at this point and in this unprecedented time. Cook asked how they would be reducing academic year wages. Jo said that some positions may not be hired next year and those should be removed. The goal is to reduce where possible, even though the assumption is that they will be back to normal operations in the fall. Jo said that potentially the AS will be asked to make a 5-10% reduction. Jo currently wants to look at any reductions that may be presented to S & A. Vigil thinks that it is acceptable to present to S & A a budget that is \$40,000. She thinks if they reduce further before the presentation to S & A, then it will take them years to rebuild the AS Reserves. Internally, it is a different process to react to any reductions that may occur.

Alexander agrees and thinks that during these times the hardest thing to do is step away from immediacy and doom and look towards the future. They will still need to have the same robust programming that they have offered in the past. Alexander said that if there are reductions in enrollment that lowers the amount the AS gets they can deal with that on a year to year basis, instead of permanently taking a reduction in the percentage that is given by S & A. Jo concurs and said that based on historical spending versus budgeting \$40,000 is a comfortable amount to be over budget. They would be shocked if there is a deficit at the end of the year. Vigil said if they don't get a summer allocation, it may be the first year that they do have a deficit or no additional funds to put into AS Reserves.

Hayden said in the email they were looking for \$100,000 in reductions for the next year. Jo said that at this point the wage savings have changed the amount of reductions needed. Instead they want to try to ensure that the budgets map on to the revenue. Jo said that internally given they may not receive the whole allocation; they should look at what the AS would look like at 5% and 10% less. Vigil agrees and said the internal exercise is a values exercise and will provide guidance throughout the year as the AS may need to pivot in place quickly based on actuals. Jo thinks it is important for the Council students to complete the exercise for the 5% & 10% deficit because they will have many new members next year. They would benefit from the knowledge and training this group of students contains.

Alexander said there are two ways he can think of to approach this: one is to take the 5-10% and do across the Board reductions and discuss what that would look like. In some cases, there may be places that could manage it and others who will not be able to absorb that kind of decrease. This may give the Council a chance to look at areas to redistribute. This will show that everyone is impacted. The other model is for people to dig deep and do reductions where they can. Romo said that think about this as a "what if" and looking at values to inform the next group of what they are thinking about. Griffis clarified that the recommendation going to S & A is based on the same revenue that was projected for this year with no drop in enrollment.

Vigil said that as they look at the passing of the budget at \$40,000 over allocation and the real possibility that they will have a 5%-10% reduction. She wondered if the \$107,700 budget that if the Child Development Center (CDC) would have a reduction in their subsidy. It is a very valuable program, but they also have no services being provided at this point. Vigil thinks that they are struggling, but they also have an opportunity of receiving funding from the CARES act at a much higher level than the AS. Jo said that it seems that the CDC hasn't been operated by the AS in a long time and is a core service of the university. Romo wondered if there would be a negative impact to students if the CDC becomes state funded. Romo said that once it became university operated at other institutions she has worked at, the slots available for students decreased. Alexander thinks about the CDC subsidy as a way to reduce the costs to student users of the space.

Jo asked if the council felt they needed the extra meeting to review the FY'21 adjusted request. Griffis is confused as to why they are planning on no drop in enrollment. To him this seems like a disconnect. Jo said they are expecting a drop in enrollment but the reasons they are doing the full fee is to have a unified assumption at the S & A level. That way they can have the same expectations. Based on the requests they are approving not the actual amount of money, but the percentage distribution to each of the constituents. Then regardless of how many students there are, it is based on a percentage of the available revenue. Alexander said they only had a 2.3% reduction in spring quarter when they were expecting more (5%). They do not feel they have enough clarity to make predictions. Vigil said that another reason to use the FY20 approved Board of Trustees revenue figure is to maintain the current S&A Fee level. Otherwise if the AS goes in with a higher projected budget the rationale to increase the fee by 4% exists. Jo and other S & A members do not want to recommend an increase. Kaemingk would like to look at budgets more specifically at the fast index allocation level. The Council is looking at 5%-10% internally because they feel this is likely. Jo will call a meeting early next week.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.