



# AS Finance Council

May 11, 2021 4:00 p.m. Teams Online

**Members: Present:** Noemi Bueno, Chair (AS Business Director), Abdul Malik Ford, Vice Chair (AS President), Ben Crandall (Central Services Rep), Ranulfo Molina (AS VP for Diversity), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Rep), Selam Swier (AS Student Senator), Nichole Vargas (SAIRC Rep) **Absent:** Sargun Handa (AS Senate Pro Tempore), Brandon Lane (Student at-Large), Kaylan Rocamora (Activities Rep)

**Advisor:** Raquel Vigil, Viking Union Organization Business Manager

**Secretary:** Cindy Monger, Viking Union Organization Fiscal Specialist

## MOTIONS

- FC-21-S-15** Approve the Ethnic Student Center budgets in the amount of \$110,991. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-16** Approve the Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Center budgets in the amount of \$126,895. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-17** Approve the Professional Advisement & Leadership budgets in the amount of \$1,366,370. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-18** Approve the AS Subsidies budgets in the amount of \$133,289 with the stipulation that if there are any shortfalls in the Service & Activities fees collected, the VU Business Manager will be able to make any necessary cuts to these budgets. **Passed**

**Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**

### I. Call to Order

**II. Approval of the Minute-** no minutes to review this week

### III. Revisions to the Agenda

### IV. Public Forum

### V. Action Items

#### A. Ethnic Student Center (ESC)-

1. FXXEOR ESC Retreat
2. FXXEPR ESC Programming
3. FXXESC Ethnic Student Center Admin.
4. FXXESP ESC Club Programming Funds
5. FXXEUN ESC Building Unity

It looks like a large reduction, but it is only a \$115 reduction overall. The large reduction is due to moving the salaries for the professional staff to the FXXVU-Viking Union Administration budget. There is a new position of Assistant Director for Multicultural Student Engagement, the bulk of that funding will be coming from the money that was transferred. This will cost more money than the historical manager position, but it will be covered by the VU Admin budget. The candidates for the AD position are coming in the next two weeks, the meeting times were announced for students to attend the open sessions.

*MOTION FC-21-S-15 by Ford*

Approve the Ethnic Student Center budgets in the amount of \$110,991.

Second: Rodriguez Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

**B. Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Centers (SAIRC)-**

1. FXXDOC Disability Outreach Center
2. FXXLGB Queer Resource Center
3. FXXROP SAIRC Center Admin
4. FXXVOC Veteran's Outreach Center
5. FXXWCA Womxn's Identity Resource Center
6. FXXWHL Western Hub of Living Essentials

1.9% decrease from last year's request. The council had no questions.

*MOTION FC-21-S-16 by Vargas*

Approve the Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Center budgets in the amount of \$126,895.

Second: Crandall Vote: 5-0-1

Action: Passed

**C. Environmental & Sustainability Programs-**

1. FXXECA Environmental Center
2. FXXERT Earth Day
3. FXXEVS Envi & Sustainability Admin.
4. FXXOUT The Outback

This area saw a 1% increase in their budget due to the reinstatement of summer hours for the ESP Director. Vigil reminded the council that when Greg McBride presented, he said that they could move the AS Environmental Center Coordinator funding for one year into a position for a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Vigil said that they would need to make a motion that states this in order to ensure that it happens. Vigil said typically if Budget Authorities save money, they don't get to earmark funds. In this case, because there is a commitment from the organization to DEI work, this might be an exception. The Coordinator was not hired in the current year because the Environmental Center Coordinator would typically do many hands-on projects, since this might not be possible in FY'22 they would prefer the funding go to DEI. Historically allocations approved for salary and benefits can not be reallocated for other use. So, they couldn't move it some where for a concert, but there isn't something that says they can't move it for salary for a different position. However, this is a whole different use of the funds. The Services & Activities Fee Committee has this proposal already with the current numbers. Vigil said that with minutes noting a potential transfer, then the funding could be used for funding a DEI student position. Molina wondered if they should have the office remove the Environmental Center Coordinator and approve that funding. Vigil said it is late in the process to have them resubmit this for review. At this stage she feels like this council can make a decision on what to do. Ford asked if they could review the recording

before next week and table it until they get the rest of the information. The council tabled this item by acclamation, in order to get more clarification before voting.

**D. Professional Advisement & Leadership-**

1. FXXVU Student Activities Admin

Professional Staff funding is almost one million dollars and fringe benefits (medical, retirement, etc.) is about \$300,000. The committee reviewed the staff that are funded by this budget.

*MOTION FC-21-S-17 by Crandall*

Approve the Professional Advisement & Leadership budgets in the amount of \$1,366,370.

Second: Ford

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

**E. AS Subsidies-**

Vigil said that the Services & Activities Fee does not think that they will get the level of revenue estimated in the budget. This current year the AS reduced Western Leadership Advantage and the Child Development Center subsidies by 5%. They knew they were decreasing the fee this year (\$15 for winter and spring, in addition to reduced enrollment) and asked all areas to take a decrease in their allocation. She is not advocating to reduce these areas. However, they could fund these areas at their optimal amount and the rest of the AS may need to reduce their expenses or go into AS Reserves if the fee revenue is reduced as anticipated. Vigil said that when an area is a subsidy that means they are also getting funding from other areas. They could decide to fund the small increase, fund at Carry Forward amounts, or reduce as expected proportionally. Upon further reflection, Vigil is not as concerned about this and retracts her statement.

1. FXXLLCE Leadership & Community Engagement

The budget for this area is \$150,000 total and the AS contributes approximately \$24,000.

2. FXCHLD Child Development Center

Vigil said that the CDC is asking for a very small increase. Typically, their budget is around \$617,000 for their total budget with the AS request this year being \$108,754. Ford clarified that they made the decrease, due to loss in revenue, after the allocation had been approved this year. Vigil said that they did. Ford asked if they could do that again next year. Vigil said that they could do that. They could pass the motion with a stipulation that if any required reductions need to take place due to a shortfall in revenue, the VU Business Manager has approval to make these reductions. Vigil consulted Bueno on the decision this year. Ford said since he doesn't have all of the context, he doesn't want to get hung up on \$1,100. Vigil said that there are some dire predictions out there that they might be \$300,000 short. Vigil said they could handle this with AS Reserves. This year they have decreased, by a large amount, their spending because of the inability to do programming and services at the same level due to the

Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions that have required campus to remain remote for the entire year. Vigil respects and admires this council and the way that she learns from them, just as she hopes they learn from her. She has learned that she needs to be more clear, she can be confusing, and even make statements that surprise her and then retracts them.

*MOTION FC-21-S-18 by Ford*

Approve the AS Subsidies budgets in the amount of \$133,289 with the stipulation that if there are any shortfalls in the Service & Activities fees collected, the VU Business Manager will be able to make any necessary cuts to these budgets.

Second: Crandall      Vote: 5-0-0      Action: Passed

## **VI. Information Items**

## **VII. Other Business**

### **A. Services & Activities Fee Updates**

Bueno, Molina, Alexander, and Vigil met today to discuss the Services & Activities Fee expected revenue. Bueno said they anticipate a big shortfall and they will be in the red by a lot. Today comparing how S & A Fees typically work, with an increase in enrollment, they almost always receive more funding than estimated. Last week they showed that enrollment has decreased compared to past years. Most likely there will be a budget shortfall in Fiscal Year 2022.

Bueno shared numbers from the committee meeting. The committee has access to \$191.98 per quarter to allocate to the 5 constituent groups. For the estimates they are utilizing the numbers from FY'20 which was originally 8.3 million estimated. They are anticipating a 7.5% reduction in students or about 1,000 students. With the current estimates they usually have just under 6 million, but they anticipate about a \$850,000 shortfall. The AS isn't anticipating it being all the way to the 850,000 shortfall and thinks it may be 100-200,000 less of a shortfall. Bueno has requested that they redo the numbers to show actual revenue distributions.

They voted at the last meeting on a small increase of the fee and that did not pass with the AS voting against an increase. Other groups have not been offering reductions.

In 2020 the AS was allocated 44.32% of the fee or 2.98 million, but the actual distributions after the AS voluntary 85% reduction was 2.24 million or a difference of about \$740,593. This amount was not collected from students. This year the request is 3.06 million and this would be 44.65% of the fee money. The AS will be asking for more clarification about the numbers because the amounts on the form distributed didn't match the original requests. The committee will be sharing the shortfall prediction with the Board of Trustees and Vice President Huskey. There is a lot of concern and lack of clarity in some aspects. The Departmentally Related Activities Committee (DRAC) shows a \$330,160 and Campus Rec took a \$25,792 reduction as well in recognition of the first Covid-19 restrictions. Vigil said that in doing some

math on the side, it seems like they may be more like \$400,000 short next year. Vigil said that there could be a mandate by Services & Activities that each area decrease their budget by some percentage. Vigil said that there are many one-time reductions already included in the AS budgets. They were also just informed that there is a mandatory 3% increase for professional staff, this is not in the numbers that are before them because they just found out about that. The AS could also decide that they are going to dip into the AS Reserves. The AS could also ask for the percentage split to change.

## **VII. Adjourn**

***The Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.***