



Services and Activities Fee Committee (SAFC)

Friday, May 16th, 2025

3:30pm

GWP 320

Zoom Link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/98089084773>

AGENDA 26

Attendance:

Voting Members Norah Duncan – Absent (Excused) Madai Espinoza – Present (Zoom) Kailey Lawless – Absent (Excused) Samuel Pena-Rojas - Present Anchal Turna – Absent (Excused) Kaily White – Present (Zoom) Administrative Staff Sean Schmidt – Absent (Excused) Hayden Busic – Present	Ex-Officio Members Bernard Anderson – Absent (Excused) Alicia Whitten – Present (Zoom) Gordon Craig – Present (Zoom) Cherie Berthon– Absent (Excused) Guests None
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Because a quorum requires four voting members and only three were in attendance, Gordon advised that while the group could proceed with discussions, no official actions or decisions could be taken. As a result, the meeting was formally designated as a study session, allowing attendees to review and discuss agenda items without moving forward on any votes or resolutions.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm by Sam.

Land Acknowledgement. A land acknowledgement was given by Sam.

Safety Briefing. A safety briefing was given by Sam.

Roll Call, Guest Introductions, Connection-Building Activity. Roll Call is documented above.

Study Session:

- Kaily raised a question about whether the PowerPoint that Sam previously shared would be the final version used for the upcoming workshop. Sam responded that he is still working on the slides and plans to have them finalized by the 27th. He clarified that the presentation would serve as the foundational structure for the workshop. Additionally, he is incorporating Gordon's suggestion to include a visual graph that illustrates the gap between fee revenues, funding requests, and actual allocations. This will help students better understand the financial context in which funding decisions are being made.
- Kaily also brought up that the Dean of Milgard noted an 18% increase in admissions, when there is the notion that there is less enrollment than the year before. Sean emphasized that if the Services & Activities (S&A) fees remain at their current level, the amount allocated to student programs and events will continue to decrease over time. In response, Gordon mentioned that the state budget lacks the flexibility to accommodate significant changes. If the state cannot provide more funding, then the university is similarly constrained. He recommended that this limitation be clearly communicated in the slides. However, he also stressed the importance of framing the situation positively, acknowledging that while fiscal constraints are inevitable, this is not the right time to pursue a dramatic increase to the S&A fee, such as raising it to \$4 million. The message should reinforce the need for prudent spending without discouraging student engagement.
- Sean pointed out that there is already a slide in the presentation that covers SAFC data tracking, particularly the trends in requests and allocations. Gordon added that while it's acceptable to show allocation data, care must be taken not to overemphasize spending expectations. Doing so might inadvertently encourage programs to spend irresponsibly to justify future requests. He mentioned that a predictive surplus line may be included to show financial trends. The committee expressed interest in displaying annual and special allocation totals alongside what was actually spent, what was denied, and how these numbers relate to ongoing and future special requests. Sam noted that fiscal year-to-date data could still be retrieved from Workday, supporting a more comprehensive analysis.
- As the conversation turned to responsible spending and future planning, Gordon emphasized that next year may not be the right time to prioritize non-essential funding. Many programs are already aware of the tight budget environment and could potentially seek outside resources to supplement their needs. Sean suggested hosting a separate workshop next year for students and RSOs to explore alternative

funding sources. He recommended involving Conor and his team in this effort. Sam supported the idea and proposed inviting someone with experience managing an RSO budget to share best practices and collaborative strategies that can help groups work together more efficiently.

- Toward the end of the discussion, Madai asked Sam if he needed assistance with finalizing the slideshow or organizing the LettuceMeet/Doodle poll. Sam reiterated that the primary goal of the upcoming workshop is to gather information and community feedback. He introduced a few structural ideas for the workshop, such as aligning it with campus processes or adopting a more open, transparent format. The intent is to manage expectations and give proposers a better understanding of how past allocations compare to current requests. He emphasized the importance of listening to community members and being open to suggestions for refining the proposal process. To support transparency, Sam will also prepare a UWT land acknowledgment message and ensure that the final PowerPoint and proposal materials are shared widely in advance of the workshop.

Announcements

- The Met Gala tonight by the MESAA at WPH from 530 to 9 pm with dinner music and live performances.

Adjournment

- The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:29 pm.