

Incidental Fee Committee Meeting #7

Friday March 3, 2023 | 5:00PM

Via [Zoom](#) Passcode: 712329

Ever Young in Chair

Minutes

1. Call to order
 - 5:02PM
2. Approval of agenda
 - Sunny moves
 - Dennis second
 - i. No dissent
 - ii. Agenda Approved
3. Roll Call (name, position, pronouns)
 - IFC Members
 - i. Ever Young
 - ii. Jill Whisler
 - iii. Dennis Long
 - iv. Sunny Winters
 - v. Monét Jackson
 - vi. Alexis Ferdig
 - Advisors
 - i. Tina Fuchs
 - ii. Camarie Moreno
 - Area Heads
 - i. Rip Horsey, Campus Rec.
 - ii. Chelsee Blatner, Student Engagement/Student Media
 - iii. Rian Gayle, Access
 - iv. Tammy Gardner, Child Development Center
 - v. Kristen Perry, Abby's House/Food Pantry
 - Other Representatives
 - i. Samantha Cameron, Budget Office
 - IFC Secretary
 - i. Paula Taylor

Old Business

4. None

New Business

5. Open Hearing

- Discuss student feedback
 - i. What is the general consensus around the fee amount?
 1. Ever: Hope IFC members have read or done some research themselves on student feedback. What areas have strong student support.
 2. Dennis: Students say the fee is too high and students say they would like to pay more. Look at [higher fee amount spreadsheet](#). Lots of support for Campus Rec, ASWOU, Creative Arts, clubs. Strange comments about Wolf Ride and childcare. Maybe we need to do something different to inform students.
 3. Alexis: Lots of comments about campus rec. and lots of students use campus rec. Maybe we should consider that. People's biases about the services they use. There is a flip flop and we can't please everybody.
 4. Ever: Yes, I agree there are people's biases because they use those facilities, and then hearing people say: I do not want to pay for other peoples childcare. Areas have strong student support. Talk about budget packages, have students choose a package that has services they use. Is that a hassle for the business office and have we ever looked at that or has it been done in the past?
 - a. Tina: We have not done that before. Give prospective on IFC fee. This is a comprehensive fee that covers a number of services. Take apart the IFC fee and allow students to pick and choose what they want to pay, you might find students might choose to not pay anything. Campus rec. is really important to students, does not mean others are not important. Do all 2600 students feel strongly about Campus Rec.? Break it up and try to fund IFC areas based on what people want, none of these areas would be funded. Students want to save dollars. Everyone pays fees that support the overall community. Never had the IFC broken out. Advice against it. Same like paying taxes, do not like paying taxes. Some taxes used for things that I do not use. Be mindful, but would guide you in a different direction.

- b. Jill: I agree with what you are saying. Red flag of equity if we let people choose. Right in line with Tina, breakout package inequitable. Can you opt in to pay more? Set a baseline, but chose to pay more?
 - i. Camarie: Talked about that and the logistics of monitoring. Everyone is assessed the fee but going to foundation, and exploring fundraising and contributing to the service and looking at foundation accounts.
 - ii. Dennis: Opt in sounds good, but have a link on the IFC website to donate to an area's account?
 - iii. Camarie: Foundation is under new leadership and talk to her and see what their ideas are.
 - iv. Ever: What is that person's name?
 - 1. Camarie: Katie Wojke.
- 5. Sunny: The cut packages do not help our students at all. But know that Creative Arts has a page where you can give money to specific departments. I know, giving day is coming. Abby's House has sent out an email. WOU does that very well, advertise and this is how we fundraise.
 - a. Ever: Having more centralized on what IFC is for. Have a one stop shop for donations to areas.
- 6. Ever: I understand the push back about student pick about what to pay. There are 2 kinds of students who use campus rec. and not use campus rec. Curious about different packages? Could we have a baseline package?
 - a. Jill: Sounds like a good idea but how do you know what your projection is? How do you plan accordingly?
 - b. Alexis: Maybe somebody chooses the cheaper package and still uses Campus Rec. How do we monitor? How would you manage 2 groups of people?
 - c. Ever: Maybe with student i.d.?
 - d. Rip: Campus Rec and HWC was built by student approval. Debt service fee paid for by people who are members, issues as we currently do, off campus and on campus, it is really difficult. They have paid a portion of the fee. It creates a have and have not situation. There are give and take, but there are huge complexities. You give me \$1M and you expect \$200,00 in donations, are you really going to get it? We base our academic year based on when you are done. We will work with what you give us.

- e. Tammy: It would be very hard for us to budget. Just like all areas we do not know what funds are that are coming in until we know what enrollment is.
 - f. Ever: Just making sure I was accurately advocating for students. I agree it creates an inequitable have and have not situation.
7. Jill: Try to make sense of it in my head, paying a bigger fee for fall term and then reduce other terms. Does it have to be the same fee the whole year? Would that help our situation? Has that ever been done?
- a. Ever: Has that been done?
 - i. Camarie: No, IFC has not. Housing does it but that is because student athletes are on campus longer in Fall.
 - b. Ever: I do not know the benefits?
 - c. Alexis: I can see the benefits, and then dropping out after Fall term. Secures IFC payment coming in.
 - d. Ever: Could we do a higher fee raise (\$400 or \$410) and then \$390.00 in the spring?
 - e. Jill: Is that an option? Does that have to be a standard? We do have more people on campus in Fall and then students drop out. Camarie is there a way to figure that out?
 - i. Camarie: Yes, but let me check with the business office. Want confirmation from them.
 - f. Tina: In housing there is an extra week in Fall term. What is calculated is what is the total fee for the whole year. Then Housing does a split. Students pay more in fall and less in Winter and Spring. Do not know if it is possible. \$390 per student and then multiply by 3 and 40% fall and 30% winter and 30% spring. Might likely collect more. Check with the business office and if that is acceptable from a legislative stand point. Look at all the rules.
 - g. Ever: We are working with a system that is only decreasing as the years go on. I like to explore options that benefit the students but still keep areas to run. How do you all feel about raising the fee more or continue to discuss the structure?
 - h. Dennis: I put images that Kodee supplied and mine in a spreadsheet. There are 3 tabs with different fees . How high of a fee is too high. [Dennis shares spreadsheet](#)
 - i. Jill: Was there a certain percentage?
 - i. Tina: Approval if you increase the total budget more than 5% of previous year.

- ii. Dennis: Would this be a problem next year if we have more income in future years?
- iii. Tina: Future IFC might run into a problem. If enrollment dramatically increases and goes beyond the 5%. Enrollment drives it. Tina shares rules.
https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_352.105
- j. Ever: Camarie: If we raise it to \$400 are we competing with other Universities?
 - i. Camarie: Full time student on Monmouth campus WOU \$372, OIT \$398, OSU \$481, SOU \$409, EOU \$334, PSU \$323, UO \$366.
 - 1. Ever: So \$400 is not completely absurd?
 - 2. Alexis: But that is more than 5% increase.
 - 3. Ever: Yes, but we are making up for the year previous to us. This justified the raise. When is the decision due?
 - 4. Camarie: I have to post it by March 31. Goal is March 10th. When IFC makes the final decision then it needs to go to the ASWOU Senate.
 - 5. Tina: March 13-17 prep week. Needs to be read and then voted on by ASWOU Senate but they do not meet during finals week. Connor said that they could hold a special hearing.
 - 6. Camarie: Final decision by March 10.
- k. Ever: I would like to get a general feeling on how IFC members feel about the fee and if you want to change it.
 - 1. Chelsea: Senate read and confirm in one meeting.
 - 2. Dennis: Give it to the Senate and then go to the meeting and go over IFC checklist and then approve it.
 - 3. Ever: Is that in our by laws?
 - a. Dennis: Yes.
- l. Ever: General consensus on feedback and changes in preliminary decision?
 - i. Monét: Do not have any more to add.
 - ii. Jill: I think we need to look at higher fee and see what that does. Not sure that preliminary is what it should be. Willing to still have conversations.

- iii. Alexis: Looking at the budgets and having different cut percentages and price it costs to print newspaper/Western Howl, and as a student online and kinda on campus, I have never held one in my hands. I do not see many of the newspaper boxes. If we choose different cuts, revisit student media. When I talked to friends, they use Campus Rec. to release stress and revisit that.
 - 1. Ever: To clarify, you say take from Student Media and give to others?
 - 2. Alexis: Yes.
 - 3. Ever: We cannot say print less newspapers. Have questions about athletes' meal plans.
- iv. Dennis: Overall leading to raising the fee and 10% - 20% cuts. Interested in the ratio system. Fee different in the 3 terms. Maybe raise the fee a little more.
- v. Tina: Athletics meal plan and housing. That is pre season. Western has a quarter system and athletes come a month early before their fall sports start. Athletics covers housing and food for 6 weeks.
 - 1. Ever: Not a meal plan throughout the year?
 - a. Tina: No
- m. Ever: We are open to adjusting the fee. Maybe a progressed fee, and revisiting some areas cuts and redistribution?
- n. Alexis: Lot of us have moved off paper and on technology, making a further transition. Not deleting the Western Howl.
 - i. Ever: They have an online format already. Your idea of printing less is valid. Most papers go to off campus local businesses. There are excess papers.
- ii. Ever: Any other comments? What can we do as a game plan before we meet?
 - 1. Dennis: On Monday we will try to upload all the paper forms and Rip have you forwarding the ones from HWC or do I need to pick those up?
 - a. Rip: They are underneath the ASWOU door.
 - b. Ever: Dennis, you are saying that more student feedback will be provided?
 - i. Dennis: Yes, there from paper forms.

2. Jill: You asked what is priority moving forward, right? Maybe prorated by term.
 - a. Ever: Camarie, who is the person we need to contact about this?
 - i. Camarie: Higher fall fee can be done per confirmation from the business office. Not as simple, but can be done.
3. Paula: The forms that were filled out during tabling sessions have been added to the IFC Google drive. Question for Rip: I do not see the forms under the door?
 - a. Rip: I will send you an email and it could be in ASWOU main office and not your door.
 - b. Paula: I checked there too and did not see them but I will check with students.
4. Ever to do list:
 - a. Make appointment with Katie and take Dennis, and see about adding a donation button for all the areas on IFC website..
 - b. Advice all IFC members to look over IFC by-laws.
 - c. Good to know about business office approving staggered fee.
5. Dennis: By-laws on website and Google Drive
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1EYmrMnfXqc7FsORBgQaATECPY2k3IQDg>
6. Ever: Area Heads do the lower cuts have a significant impact compared to the projected cuts you made before?
 - a. Tammy: Are you saying if cut less will that make an impact?
 - i. Ever: Will a 3% difference make a significant impact?
 - b. Tammy: It depends on which area but I think all areas would agree an increase helps.

6. Messages from the Floor

- Tina: Make sure that the IFC knows that there was a complaint made about IFC to the ASWOU judicial board. Had meeting today to review the complaint about our process. Not giving proper notice to students about Open Hearing. Schedule for IFC listed on website with Open Hearing week. The Open Hearings were the week after the identified week website. As a result we technically did not give 2 weeks notice. Not an attack on you. They have a right to review this. In your bylaws you speak of 2 week notice.
- Ever: Jboard, because we did not give proper notice, sanctioned us to give more opportunities to give feedback. They said that if we send out an

email that gives students another opportunity to give feedback, that that would be sufficient to make up for the missed communication of the 2 week notice. It is ok. We are ok.

- i. Tina: It really is ok. They could have sanctioned us to start over.
- Ever: Keep track of by-laws and we will be back next week.

- Adjournment
 - i. Ever moves to adjourn the meeting
 1. Jill seconds
 2. No dissent
 3. Meeting adjourned at 6:07PM