

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
May 22, 2024 at 4:04pm
Reitz Union Room 2102

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

Attendance:

Damian Rodriguez (Chair) – Present
Roman Quattrocchi (Vice-Chair) – Absent
Aditi Sarkar – Absent
Metolo Foyet – Absent
Douglas Erisson – Present
Rafeh Khan – Present
Katherine Gonzalez – Present
Catherine Valdes – Absent
Anthony Boullosa – Present

Quorum is established with 5 members present.

Presentation by Student Body President John Brinkman. (4:05):

- Administrative Account:
 - \$25,000 Admin Agency Programs
 - Senate line
 - Staff Salaries
- Operating Account:
 - No change
- Group Accent/SGP:
 - \$30,000 to the signature events line.
- Student Life:
 - No change

Open-ended Discussion (4:07):

- Chairman Rodriguez: Changes to be discussed by Dr. Tyger.

Pro/Con (4:08):

- Chairman Rodriguez: Budget is clear-cut. No issues with changes such as staffing.
- No con.

- No pro.
- No con.
- No pro.
- No con.
- No pro.
- No con.

Student Body President John Brinkman waives final privilege.

Khan moves to approve FY 25 Budget for 6 million by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Quattrocchi and Sarkar enter the room

Introduction by Dr. James Tyger. (4:11).

- No more department of Student Activities and Involvement.
- Student Organizations will be paired with the Office of Community and Belonging.
- Increase of \$47,731.00 from SBP's budget.
- Gator Days to be eliminated (4:18).
- Summer Gator Nights to be eliminated.
- Operational expenses. (4:21).
- Shift \$4,050 from events, Student engagement admin.
- Bulk of the shift is from community engagement and belonging.

Chairman Rodriguez moves to hold open discussion. (4:22).

Quattrocchi asks what Community Engagement is replacing.

Dr. Tyger clarifies that Student Activities will cease to exist. Campus Events are going into Campus Engagement.

Chairman Rodriguez opens pro-con. (4:25).

- No pro.
- No con.
- No pro.
- No con.
- No pro.
- No con.
- No pro.

- No con.

For final privilege, Dr. Tyger believes this is a great opportunity in a space where that can be tough. It was a multi-month process to get to a place that reallocates to where it is needed. Will see next summer if he was correct.

Quattrocchi moves to approve the FY 25 budget for Student Engagement in the amount of \$3 million by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Quattrocchi moves to add a proviso stating: *“This Appropriations Budget replaces the Student Activities and Involvement, Sorority and Fraternity Life, and Student Government budgets to reflect amended Student Engagement and Student Government budget lines that were included in SSB 2023-1115 Funding for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Activity and Service Fee Budget.”* Motion passes.

Chairman Rodriguez calls for a recess until called back by the chair at 4:29 PM.

Chairman Rodriguez calls the meeting called back to order at 4:38 PM.

Attendance:

Damian Rodriguez (Chair) – Present

Roman Quattrocchi (Vice-Chair) – Present

Aditi Sarkar – Present

Metolo Foyet – Present

Douglas Erisson – Present

Rafeh Khan – Present

Katherine Gonzalez – Present

Catherine Valdes – Present

Anthony Boullosa – Present

Others:

Jasper Moorer – member of the public

Quorum is established with 9 members present.

Chairman Rodriguez suggests a 0% increase due to impact on tuition. Invites input from Dr. Tyger.

Dr. Tyger states that the minimum wage increases in Florida to \$15/hr has had a significant impact. College affordability is a big priority in the state government. No appetite for increasing

the cost of attendance from the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors. This will not change this year. Fee increases are unlikely. Hard choices will have to be made.

Senator Quattrocchi asks if it is out of our range for us to convince the state to raise tuition.

Dr. Tyger explains that tuition is set by the state. The fees are what the students can decide. If tuition is increased without Bright Futures being increased, it will have a collateral impact across state institutions. Budget cuts to finance other programs might be an alternative. Students want different things, and not all students use the same services. Cutting funds from ACCENT and SGP is not enough. Laying people off is also an alternative.

Khan asks what the process for approval is.

Dr. Tyger says it was passed in the Student Government and the Vice-President for Student Life, but it was ultimately rejected past that stage.

Chairman Rodriguez asks what the administrative strain of increasing by a certain percentage is.

Dr. Tyger explains that not all committees increase fees. Strategize ways that we can do things. Where are the priorities? I would probably put in a 0% for Student Engagement. I feel confident that this is not the year for the fee increase... It is a fee increase.

Chairman Rodriguez asks if there are any more questions.

Foyet asks if a fee increase in the middle is possible. Like 2%.

Dr. Tyger says yes.

Senator Boullosa asks a clarifying question on increases.

Dr. Tyger explains that any increase is unlikely. Even if it is a .1% increase. Many pros for the university.

Chairman Rodriguez states that tuition and fees have been clarified as steep for out of state students. Would like to proceed with a 0% increase.

Quattrocchi moves for the percentage increase for the call for increase to be 0% by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Chairman Rodriguez talks about the funding for the Chinese Students and Scholars Association. Issue is we approved them for around \$2,000, which is not consistent with the code maximum (\$300). We will amend the total to \$300 and strike the breakdowns and totals, then amend the programs total to three hundred, and then the reasoning.

Quattrocchi moves to strike all event totals by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Quattrocchi moves to amend amount approved to \$300 by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Chairman Rodriguez announces new totals for organizations.

Sarkar moves to amend the total amount approved for SAKES to be \$1779.91, the total amount approved for the Bangladeshi Student Association (BSA) to be \$137.053, the total amount approved for Filipino Student Association (FSA) to be \$1,112.45, the total amount approved for the First-Year Leadership Program (FYLP) to be \$106.795, the total amount approved for the Brazilian Student Association (BSA) to be \$479.434, the total amount approved for Humans vs. Zombies to be \$1,779.91, and the total amount approved for Gainesville Hillel to be \$3,222.52 by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Chairman Rodriguez holds a discussion on Line 23 on Operational Budget Requests.

Khan moves to amend the programs total down to \$3,450 and amend the food total up to \$3,950 by unanimous consent. Motion passes.

Chairman Rodriguez adjourns the meeting at 6:01 PM.