

Meeting Summary
Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee
Thursday, December 5, 2019

1. Welcome and Minutes

Committee members and attendees introduced themselves. Per the attached attendance list, all eight student members were present. The two faculty members were present along with one voting staff member, an alternate staff member, and a third, non-voting staff member. The Committee reviewed the minutes from November 21, 2019 and no amendments were proposed. The minutes were approved as posted on the website.

2. Presentations

- **Athletic (Presentation)** – Marvin Lewis updated the committee on the status of the Athletic Fee if a reduction was voted on and approved.

Questions:

Q. Talking about revenue, is that money running through endowments? Could that money be used for coaches?

A. No, we pay our coaches with our annual budget.

Q. What about sponsors?

A. Coaches are able to get their own sponsors but we collect all our money into one pot

Q. Are you tracking how many tickets are actually used?

A. Yes, about 7,000 for football, 700 for basketball and roughly about 10% of that is graduate students

Q. Are the 8,700 tickets on the North end or the South?

A. Both, North and South.

Q. Of those 8,700 tickets how many are free?

A. All are free but about 6,000 students choose to pay an extra fee to choose where they sit.

Q. If we get that million dollar endowment is that a line on the revenue ledger? What are the expenses associated with it?

A. It is a wash. That money would go toward track and field scholarships.

3. Consideration of Mandatory Fee Proposals for Fiscal Year 2021

Marc Muehlberg made a motion to recommend to the President that there be no increases in the following fees:

- Campus Recreation Center Operations
- Health Services
- Campus Center Facility
- Athletic
- Campus Recreation Center Debt Service
- Student Activity

- Student Center Operation
- Transportation
- Technology Fee

Lea Harris, seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Recommendation for Future MSFAC Procedure

Q. Is there anything we procedurally we need to do to keep meeting?

A. No, we can just review the policy and contribute to meeting while we set up the new policy.

After discussion the committee came to a unanimous decision to meet in January 2020 and going forward. In these meetings the Mandatory Student Fee Committee will aim to update policy and procedures; granting students enough time to dive into a full financial picture which would include a review of the 5 year business plans while allowing staff enough time to meet BOR deadlines.

5. Adjourned – The committee adjourned after completing its work.

**FISCAL 2020 COMMITTEE
TO CONSIDER FISCAL 2021 FEES
Thursday, December 5, 2019**

Member	Attendance
Students (8 members)	
Pooja Juvekar, Undergraduate Student Body President (UG)	Present
Divyesh Gutta, Joint VP of Finance (UG)	Present
Emmett Miskell (UG)	Present
Josh Eastwood, Undergraduate Representative (UG)	Present
Narayan Shirolkar, Graduate Student Body President (G)	Present
Lea Harris, Graduate Student Senator (G)	Present
Marc Muehlberg, Graduate Student Senator (G) (Co-Chair, MSFAC)	Present
Chandler Thornhill, Graduate Student Senator (G)	Present
Faculty and Staff (4 members)	
Jamie Fernandes, Exec Dir, Inst. Budget Planning & Administration (Co-Chair, MSFAC)	Present
Isabel "Yiny" Lynch, Budget Mgr. (Co-Member w. Jamie Fernandes & does not get an additional vote)	Present
Angela Hicks, Asst. Director – Financial Ops., College of Mechanical Engineering	Present
Jacqueline Garner – Lecturer, Sheller College of Business	Present
Chris Reaves – Director, Center for Academic Enrichment	Present
Lacey Hughes - Proxy - Academic Professional, CAE	Present
Support to Committee:	
Kevin McConnell, Institute Finance and Support	

Other Students and Staff in Attendance (Partial List):

Barbara Hanschke, Benjamin Holton, Teisha Young, Aaron Fowler, Leslie Felder, Kasey Helton, Perry Kchao, Edo Diabaka, Bob Junko, Marvin Lewis, Almeisha Dallas

Dissenting Opinion Against the Student Activity Fee Remaining Unchanged for FY21

Written by Josh Eastwood, Undergraduate SGA Representative, on behalf of the students who disagree with having the Student Activity Fee remain at the same amount for FY21 due to the inefficacy of MSFAC: Josh Eastwood, Divyesh Gutta

At the conclusion of voting for the Mandatory Student Fees Advisory Committee (MSFAC), no changes were made to adjust the Student Activity Fee (SAF) for several procedurally debilitating reasons. We, the signatories, disagree with this inaction and further the exhibited ineffectiveness of MSFAC to actively pursue the student body's needs regarding the SAF and additionally permit a substantial effort to properly assess the level at which the resulting fees evaluated by MSFAC should be adjusted. The SAF fee has remained unchanged for at least 6 fiscal years and is reaching a point of failure due to increasing costs for current student organizations and more student organizations being chartered and requesting funds. MSFAC, in its current procedures and policies, does not provide a suitable and reasonable direction for decisions by student members to have meaningful impact if it is regarding the SAF or adjusting fees the committee deems are at an unwarranted level.

We specifically find two faults with the resulting outcomes from MSFAC:

1. The SAF, which directly supports student organizations, requires an increase in order to avoid falling into a deficit. Each fiscal year, an intense policy review is completed to ensure that funds allocated to student organizations are fair and provide the most benefit to the student body with a sharp focus on ensuring sustainable allocation practices. This balance is becoming increasingly difficult as costs rise and more organizations are requesting funds. While solutions are being fielded to avoid a deficit and still support student organizations to the best of SGAs ability, the end results will negatively impact the student body. At the end of the current fiscal year, there is a projected deficit of over \$300,000. SGA has already received budget requests of \$700,000 over what is available for FY21 with additional requests expected once the fiscal year starts. If an increase to the SAF does not occur soon, harsh and drastic steps will be taken to avoid a long-term unserviceable deficit. We want to avoid these measures and provide the students at Georgia Tech the resources needed to build communities, continue traditions, and cultivate inquiry for passion beyond the classroom.
2. MSFAC's procedural deficiencies are the core reason no actions were taken toward any fee and should be addressed. At this time, there are several points that prohibited the proper evaluation of fees as well as allowed proposals to be made, however, they are all centered around the lack of time permitted for assessment and internal committee proposals. The time allotment allowed for a legitimate proposal calling for a change in fees adverse to what is being requested in presentations is nonexistent. Even with a delayed vote of the committee pushed into December, proposals were not able to get the information needed in time to allow for beneficial discussions to be had with departments in question and other committee members. This failure of procedure manifests as a stagnation of fee levels, ineffective evaluations of fee usage, and the direct inability to enact change outside of the expected amounts/presentations. This injunction renders the committee unable to complete our task as good stewards of setting the student fees.

Based on these two faults, we do not believe that SAF should remain the same, but rather increase, and that MSFAC's procedures should be holistically evaluated to empower productive outcomes.