Introduction:
The Student Services Fee is now in its third year of serving students and has been run the past two years by a student board. There still remain many considerations the board must address. It must address these while understanding it will set precedent with each of its decisions. However, the consideration at the front is, and must always be, the impact of its decisions on students.

Directives – Past, Current and Future:
In its first year the fee supported a wide variety of renovations, programs, and 3-year staff positions with $1.48 million in revenues. This insured the fee made a strong first impression all students could feel. In the second year the fee revenues doubled to $2.96 million. This gave last year’s board the ability to increase its support in depth and in breadth. This year the board must also consider how student monies ought to be allocated. In doing this work it strives for three goals.

• The board strives to create the greatest impact – in the past it set two directives: impacting all students through its recommendations and responding to student identified needs through the annual survey. These directives will not change. Yet, as the board continues to support programs and staff positions, it will see an increase in the number of applications. Because of this the current board may consider ways of further testing the applications.

• The board also strives for integrity – for creating a process that applicants, board members, and lay persons can understand and respect. At the pinnacle of this effort is transparency. We are not there yet, but we are well on our way to achieving it at one hundred percent. Over the summer and throughout the semester we have been working on a website which allows greater access to information, streamlines the applications processes, and provides the board tools which allow it to publish information quicker and more accurately. The board will continue searching out ways keep the campus community involved in where student money is going.

Another feature of this integrity is found in the board’s proposed Governing Documents. The board commits to responsible spending by adopting this statement, “The Board may not allocate money to departments for programs that have not been applied for.” In short, the board cannot allocate money on a whim. To further safeguard this, the board has created a strict set of guidelines for a recipient wishing for more money from the fee in mid-year.
One more important safeguard is the requirement of progress reports. Each current recipient is required to submit two progress reports per fiscal year, one in December and one in June. These reports allow the board to review to-date results from the programs. From these reports the board can then require corrections in current spending or recommend discontinuation of funding if a program warrants it. The board may also require progress reports at anytime of the year if it would like current information.

- The board strives for excellence – student monies are not taken lightly or for granted. The board understands this and is creating a process to guarantee the fee is allocated both fairly and wisely. It has created an involved application process that asks applicants to clearly define their target student group and how their program benefits those students, to demonstrate need, to defend their proposals in view of student identified priorities, to provide the board with an exact budget of proposed spending, and to effectively measure the impact of their project.

Also, the board is made up of eleven student members, graduate students and undergraduates, GPSC members, ASUA members, and members from the student body at large. It has, as non-voting advisors, the presidents of ASUA and GPSC, a member of the university’s Budget Office, the Student Affairs Director of Finance & Administration, a faculty representative, and a Student Affairs Assistant Vice President. This diversity gives the board the ability to understand the effects of its decisions and meet the needs of students from a variety of levels.

Closing Thoughts:
As the board moves forward it carries with it these three goals – impact, integrity, and excellence. It will continue to ask itself, “What is the best decision for students?” It is my hope that the members shall achieve these goals and that they shall give their best for their peers. We have made a respectable start and our work here tonight shows that.

Prepared and Submitted by Matthew Totlis: Chair