Health & Recreation Fee Advisory Board-3rd Meeting Minutes (4-5, March 10, 2011)

UA Student Attendees: Jack Williams, Andrea Corral, Brenda Verdugo, Joey Yonan, Andrew Wall, Monica Meginnis, Michael Mojica, and Karen Johnston
UA Students Absent: Swapna Aravind, Mike Colletti, Jessica Kowalzcyk, Jennifer Reich
Ex-Officio Attendees: Kris Kreutz, Mark Zakrewski, Frank Farias, Cody Nichols, Jeff Ratje, Kriss Pope

1. The meeting was called to order by Jack Williams, Chairperson, at 4:01pm. Kris Kreutz, then asked if he would be able to add two items to the agenda. He stated that he would like to add, a discussion about the possibility of participating in another survey that had been proposed by the I.T. Fee Board, in part, regarding the Health & Recreation Fee. This survey would be distributed during spring break. He also added for discussion, a request to have a formal Board vote regarding the 2nd phase of the fee.

2. A. A proposed FY 12 Campus Recreation budget was passed out and reviewed by Mark Zakrewski, Interim Director. During this presentation, Mark indicated that the budget was subject to change depending on the outcome of the Arizona Board of Regents meeting on April 7. He also mentioned the change in the Campus Recreation request had been reduced from $146 to $141 per year. He explained that second phase of the fee is to support the increased staffing, maintenance and operational costs for the additional services, programs and equipment provided the recent expansion and facility renovations. With about $1.5 million in fitness equipment, the replacement and maintenance costs are fairly high. Mark brought up that the treadmills in the building are averaging about 800-900 miles a month while traditional recreation centers only see about 550 miles a month. A question was posed to Mark by Joey Yonan asking if the increased usage was expected. Mark stated that an increase was expected but not to the degree that it has been. Another question was posed by Brenda Verdugo asking why Campus Recreation did not apply to receive funding from the Student Services Fee. Mark explained that as part of the initial agreement for support for the Health & Recreation Fee, Campus Recreation would no longer request Student Services Fee dollars.

3. B. A proposed FY 12 Campus Health Service budget for the Health & Recreation Fee was distributed and reviewed by Kris Kreutz, Director of Administrative Services for the Campus Health Service. Kris explained that the new fee for the Campus Health Service was reduced from $160 to $159. He also explained how they no longer receive any state dollars and have returned a sizable portion of their state retained fees. The 1st phase of the Health & Recreation Fee also covered most of the demand-based staffing, except the two Psychologist positions and a portion of a Receptionist position currently funded through the Student Services Fee which would be expiring at the end of this fiscal year. The Campus Health Service will keep in place the fees for service like visits to physicians & psychologists. He also explained that the Campus Health Service does not want to charge the same price that outside programs charge for the same treatment and truly want the prices affordable for UA students. Lastly, he explained that retained fees have historically covered the cost and any increases in cost of employee related expenses (benefits). The Campus Health Service will have to manage any further increases in employee related expenses without relying on the advantage retained fees offered in this area. A question was posed by Joey Yonan regarding whether the fee for service will rise in the near future. Kris answered that fees have not been increased in the vast majority of cases in the past several years and it is not desirable to create barriers to receiving care. Furthermore, the fees for next year will remain virtually the same.
4. Jack Williams then opened the forum for any questions that anybody had regarding the fee. No questions were asked at that time.

5. Kris then brought up the added item referring to another survey to be distributed over spring break to the students. He passed out copies of the previous survey which was distributed in Spring 2010 in which 64% of students supported a fee of up to $320 and 71% were in favor of a 2-year phase in. He explained that should another survey be wanted, then it would not be as extensive as the previous one. Kris also stated that both the Campus Health Service and Department of Campus Recreation conduct surveys routinely for information about satisfaction and general utilization patterns and Mark Zakrzewski confirmed that point. He then asked if the board felt another survey was necessary. Karen Johnston asked how extensive the survey would be. Kris answered that it is desired to take no more than a few minutes, and would have fewer and probably more general questions. Furthermore, due to the timing of distribution (spring break), the number of responses they will receive is hard to predict. Monica Meginnis then asked how long the survey would be exactly. Kris explained that the survey would likely be between 3-5 questions per area – L.T., Campus Recreation and Campus Health, respectively – and would focus on questions about the use of the respective fee. Another question was posed by Andrea Corral as to why we would have another survey if the price of the fee will not increase. Kris answered that surveys are constantly being given by Campus Recreation and the Campus Health Service. Frank Farias, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Executive Director of UofA Bookstores, stated that we are being sensitive to the UITS department and helping them with their Student Board’s survey regarding their fee. Joey Yonan then asked if the new survey would gain any new information or just confirm the information gathered in the last survey. Kris Kreutz stated that it was unlikely that the survey would provide the level of detail found in the survey from January 2010, but the information would mostly be used to help determine if the second phase of the fee will be accepted by the students. Monica Meginnis then asked what would happen if there was a difference in information after this next survey. Kris answered that the information would likely be shared with the Board of Regents. Andrew Wall, Vice Chair, then asked if we should discuss the positive and negatives of possibly distributing another survey. The positives discussed were, possibly more information, possibly more support for the fee after the usage of the new recreation center, and would be fairly easy to distribute. The negatives discussed were simply the response rate being that the survey will be distributed during spring break and it will not be as detailed as the earlier survey. Following the discussion, Chair Person Jack Williams opened the floor for a vote on whether to pair with UITS and distribute another survey regarding the Health & Recreation Fee. The board voted unanimously (7-0) to not have another survey.

6. The next item regarding approval of the 2nd phase of the Health & Recreation fee was then brought up and information referring to student involvement during the fee proposal development process was distributed. The board was reassured that the fee is at or close to the bottom of Health & Recreation fees compared to peer and PAC-10 institutions. Kris Kreutz also made a point of reminding the Board members to consider the fact that this was a doubling (from $150/year to $300/year) of the current fee assessment, but this is slightly less than the $306/year figure that had been proposed to ABOR by President Shelton last March. A question was posed by Brenda Verdugo about how the sustainability aspect of the Rec is coming. Frank answered that it is going to take time to become fully self-sustaining, but that it is coming along
very well and that we need to become better business people and are aggressively trying to become self-reliant. After this brief discussion, Jack Williams asked, based upon information shared with the board, for a vote as to whether the full $300 fee per year would be endorsed by the board. The board voted unanimously (7-0) in approval of the fee.

7. The officer positions for next year’s board were then discussed. It was made evident that only Andrew Wall, Michael Mojica, and Andrea Corral will be returning to the board next year. Not having any other nominations or objections, Andrew Wall and Michael Mojica’s self nominations for Chair and Vice-chair, respectively, were approved for the 2011-2012 year. Regarding the open seats on the board in the coming year, nominations from different departments will be sought out and someone will either be appointed or the board will interview and vote for who will be brought on as Secretary to the board.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.