Student Services Fees Committee
Administrative Units Committee

Final Recommendations
for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Funding

Published April 7, 2010

Please direct questions to:
Kenny Kapphahn, Committee Chair
Erich Martin, Fees Advisor
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

**Unit:** Boynton Health Service (MSA Express funding request)

**Fiscal Year:** 2010-2011

**Amount Requested:** $50,374

**Initial Recommendation:** $50,374

**Final Recommendation:** $50,374

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor, no abstentions

**Rationale:**

For fiscal year 2010-2011, Boynton Health Service requested $50,374 for the operation of the MSA Express. Last year’s Student Services Fee Committee requested that the service should be reviewed following the initial FY2009-2010 funding. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the $50,374 second year funding request. The Committee believes this is a good service to students, especially with all the recent crime around the areas directly bordering campus and that the reality is that students will drink. This service fits with the mission of keeping students safe. More outreach to let students know this service is available is encouraged. The budget seemed justified and appropriate for the operations. The Committee discussed the planned expansion to the Uptown area. More outreach to Graduate Students is needed. Some members questioned if the expansion was a good use of service time and resources. Suggestion to offer specific published times for service to Uptown when not as busy with local area. One Committee member suggested folding the MSA Express funding into the overall Boynton Health Service request in order to streamline the process. Other member liked having it as a separate request, given that it is a new service.

During the final recommendation discussions the Committee discussed the Uptown service again and would like Boynton to evaluate the value of the service to this area.

**Suggestion for 2011-2012 Student Services Fee Committee:**

- Review $10 Mental Health Co Pay
Overall, the committee is impressed with the Department of Recreational Sports. The committee appreciates the enthusiasm and commitment to excellence shown by the presenters. The committee likes the continued attempt to generate revenue from ways such as an alumni campaign. The committee also likes the commitment to hiring student workers.

On the tour and in the presentation, emphasis was placed on Rec Sports programs such as summer programs for children and sharing the Rec Center with other departments. Although programs that reach out to faculty and the community are great for the university, the committee wants to ensure that student fees are going towards student programming. Therefore, for future presentations, the fees committee would like to see the amount of fees money that is allocated toward non-student programming.

The fees committee likes the commitment of Rec Sports to generating external revenue. For future presentations, the committee would like a detailed list of all ways Rec sports is both trying to lower costs and increase revenue. This includes creating a restaurant open to the outside, having a more energy efficient facility, raising costs on certain features etc. We would also like an update on the alumni outreach program discussed during presentations.

Ed. note: The committee was also given a brief update on the planned expansion of the Rec. Center. Two different views were expressed in regards to the value of the expansion.

Perspective 1: Favoring expansion

A majority of the committee agrees with the Department of Recreation Sports’ plan for expanding the facilities on campus. We feel it is important for students to have access to facilities that increase their health and well-being and encourage and promote healthy lifestyles. This is especially important as trends are showing a rise in obesity rates in the United States. By promoting exercise, physical activity, and healthy team competition (through the intramural programs), the University of Minnesota is creating more responsible citizens who will be more health conscious.

We acknowledge the minority’s concern that the cost and burden should not be put on students, especially those who don’t use the facilities. However, we see the Rec Center and related facilities as more than just a place to go work out. They are a vital recruiting tool that will help differentiate the University of Minnesota from other campuses based on criteria other than academics, and help to continue to bring in the best and brightest students to the University of Minnesota. They are also a vital tool that will help encourage and promote more healthy lifestyles for the students both during school and after they graduate.
Perspective 2: Concerns about expansion

While the dedication to a healthy lifestyle for all students on campus is a noble goal, the planned expansion would cause the student services fees to increase in the future to pay for costs associated with the expansion. These would include new employees, upkeep, and other expenses needed to make the new facilities function properly. With tuition and cities living costs already increasing, it’s important that the University of Minnesota remain as affordable as possible to attract new students and enable them to complete their education at a Big Ten school.

Ed. Note: At this time, construction costs for the Rec. Center expansion are not being funded through the Student Services Fees mechanism. Questions about the expansion should be addressed to the Department.
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

**Unit:** Learning Abroad Center

**Fiscal Year:** 2010-2011

**Amount Requested:** $114,882

**Initial Recommendation:** $114,882

**Final Recommendation:** $114,882

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor, no abstentions

**Rationale:**

The Committee recognizes that the University of Minnesota has an ongoing goal to help students live, work, and contribute to the world they live in. The Learning Abroad Center helps students in this by providing guidance, resources, and ongoing support for the intensive process of studying in other countries. The following points are ones the committee found especially relevant in approving the amount requested in Student Services Fees:

- The world is becoming more globalized and students need experience working with people in other countries.
- There are options besides credit programs like volunteer and intern programs.
- The referrals to the Peace Corps and other programs show a dedication to the students.
- The steps in the study abroad process are well thought out and orchestrated.
- Allowing returning students share experienced with prospective study abroad students is both an efficient method of advertising and a good way to solidify the experience. The addition of a post-graduate position was deemed necessary by the Committee.
- The first step meetings eliminate costly office hours.
- The thoughtfulness behind freezing the funds request for FY2011-2012 was appreciated by the Committee.
- The extra services (ie: 24 hour emergency contact number for overseas students) are not overly expensive or time consuming.

**Fiscal Year:** 2011-2012

**Amount Requested:** $114,882

**Initial Recommendation:** $114,882

**Final Recommendation:** $114,882

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor, no abstentions

**Rationale:**

The 2% increase for inflation being accounted for, there were no major deviations from the 2010-2011 fiscal year rationale.
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

**Unit:** Minnesota Daily  
**Fiscal Year:** 2010-2011  
**Amount Requested:** $556,412  
**Initial Recommendation:** $550,000  
**Final Recommendation:** $460,000  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor, no abstentions

**Majority Rationale:**

The committee appreciated many of the decisions the Minnesota Daily has made in regards to its operating budget, while expressing strong concerns about the amount of money set aside in operating reserves. On the positive side, the Daily has made proper spending cuts, represented the University at major conferences, and invested their money wisely. The unit requested a similar amount to what they asked for last year, even with the very harsh financial situation for major newsprints. Concerns about the levels of operating reserves are detailed below.

**Reserves:**

The Committee generally did not agree with the Daily’s justification for their reserve amount. The Daily, primarily through historical accounting practices and recommendations from their financial advisors, set their reserve target at an amount equivalent to 6-months of total revenue (this amount is equivalent to 1 million; the Daily’s current operating reserves are approximately $600,000). However, the committee believes the Daily provided inadequate justification for this target. The committee was unable to obtain a clear break-down of potential funding needs for the reserve or a description of the circumstances under which the reserve would be used.

In developing a funding recommendation, the committee’s goal was to create a model for determining an appropriate level of reserves, and then make a funding recommendation to account for the difference between the appropriate level of reserves and the actual level of reserves. The model used by the committee is detailed in the next section, but the committee acknowledges that different models could be used to calculate the proper level of reserves. If the Daily disagrees with the level of reserves calculated by this year’s committee, the committee recommends the Daily develop a different model to justify the amount they would like to hold in reserves. Such a model should be based on the following elements:

- Research and opinions from experts in industry and academia
- An analysis of risk factors that could negatively impact revenue streams and ultimately cause the Daily to tap into their reserves
- Disclosure about the process to use reserves to show consistency from year to year
- Clear input from members of the Board of Directors
The most important aspect for the Daily when designing their own model will be to show a well thought out process for deriving the amount they feel is necessary in the reserve account. The committee did ask the Daily for additional justification and evidence for its reserve levels, but did not find information to support the current levels of reserves. The lack of such justification was what led the Committee to scrutinize the reserve amount and ultimately led to the model that was created.

Model for determining reserves and funding level:

After obtaining additional information from members of the Minnesota Daily, a final amount for the reserve was determined based on the following model. The model designed by the committee is based on the distinction between fixed and variable revenue. The Committee feels that the reserve amount should be based on revenue likely to fluctuate from year to year.

- **Variable revenue**: this is the revenue that is directly exposed to risks in the business and overall market. This revenue is estimated for the upcoming year, and due to the unpredictable nature or some events and circumstances, can vary throughout the year.
  - The Committee believes the following accounts qualify as variable revenue:
    - Advertising
    - Miscellaneous

- **Fixed revenue**: this is the revenue that is unlikely to vary from year to year. Although this amount is not guaranteed, it is stable during the year, unlike variable revenue. It is also not susceptible to market risk and overall changes or events in the market.
  - The Committee believes the following accounts qualify as fixed revenue:
    - Faculty subscriptions
    - University trade

- **Mixed revenue**: this includes accounts that are not entirely variable or fixed revenue.
  - Student fees.

The committee considers student fees to be mixed revenue because while the student fee amount is set for the year, the Committee recognizes the variability that can be associated with this funding process. For example, funding awards from year to year can vary based on changes in the priorities of the fees committee or the quality of fees request submitted by the Daily. Given that these factors cannot easily be predicted and outcomes can change, the committee considers student fees partly fixed and partly variable.

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1 The Daily’s reserves are divided into operating reserves and capital reserves. The model presented here is only for the operating reserve account. While the Committee feels that the Daily has probably underestimated the amount in their capital expenditure account, the Committee feels the amount developed here is more easily justifiable based on the availability of historical records and estimates of cost for purchases in the future as well as easier estimates of when equipment will become obsolete and need to be replaced.

2 A change in business, or large reduction in revenue, that may need to result in a greater portion of revenue being provided by Student Fees, would take effect the following year and should be included in the request.
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

The committee considers the student fees to be 17.5% variable revenue and 82.5% fixed revenue. This amount is a compromise between the majority’s view that student fees were 10% variable, and the Daily’s view that student fees should be considered 25% variable. The average of the two views was taken to derive 17.5% as variable revenue.

Applying these concepts to the 2010-2011 projected budget, we arrive at variable revenue of **$982,300.00** (see below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 Projected Budget</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>875,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Fee’s</td>
<td>556,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent non-variable</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>458,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent variable</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Subscription</td>
<td>108,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Trade</td>
<td>274,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$1,823,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fixed Revenue:</td>
<td>$841,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Variable Revenue:</td>
<td>$982,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total revenue variable</td>
<td>53.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total revenue fixed</td>
<td>46.13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We then applied the 6-month³ time period to the total variable revenue to calculate the amount that should be in the operation reserve account, **$491,150.00** (see below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimate of 6-month reserve only taking into account the variable revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Variable Revenue (12-months):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 / 12 months = 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>982,300 x 0.5 =</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because the actual levels of operating reserves are currently higher than the amount suggested by this model, the committee decided to reduce the funding award. The committee believes that for next year, the Daily can tap into its reserves to meet the difference between its request and the actual funding. In doing so, reserves will be reduced to the appropriate level.

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³ 6-months of operating revenue was the benchmark used in the Daily’s original goal for reserves. Based on the committee’s limited information about other appropriate benchmarks, this target was carried through in this model.
After subtracting out the capital expenditure reserve ($100,000), we calculated that the operating reserve should be decreased by $96,126.41. Therefore, this amount was reduced from the Daily’s original request of $556,000 to arrive at $459,873.59, or rounding up, $460,000.00 (see below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Reserve:</td>
<td>$ 587,276.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditure Reserve:</td>
<td>$ 100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Reserve:</td>
<td>$ 687,276.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CapEx Reserve:</td>
<td>$ 100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Reserve:</td>
<td>$ 587,276.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ (96,126.41)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount Operating Reserve Should be at (See above for calculation and rationale) $ 491,150

Amount of Student Fee's Allocation

| Amount Requested | $ 556,000   |
| Less:            |
| Oper. Reserve Decrease | $ (96,126.41) |

Amount Admin Committee is Recommending: $ 460,000.00
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

Unit: Radio K

Fiscal Year: 2010-2011
Amount Requested: $223,847
Initial Recommendation: $223,847
Final Recommendation: $223,847
Vote: Adopted, with one vote in opposition and no abstentions

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012
Amount Requested: $228,323
Initial Recommendation: $228,323
Final Recommendation: $228,323
Vote: Adopted, with one vote in opposition and no abstentions

Majority Rationale:

The fees committee approved Radio K’s request for both fiscal years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, which includes a 2% increase from each previous year. We feel that college radio is a great asset for the University as a whole. Radio K operates with responsible spending, focus on community, and great marketing efforts; therefore we offered full funding. The committee also offers recommendations for Radio K and requests for information included in future fees presentation.

Radio K is staying on top of the curve of where radio is heading. For example, they produce all of their programmed radio shows as pod casts on their website. They allow students to use their own creativity and expertise to create any variety show of their liking. They have a progressive outreach program and are continuously enhancing marketing efforts. Radio K has received a national spotlight. They work to help the community and work with other groups on campus. The committee believes that having a student run radio station reflects well on the University. The committee understands and appreciates the work Radio K did to get a dedicated frequency. Radio K reaches out to those outside of the University with frequencies reaching Minneapolis and St Paul.

The committee thinks Radio K does a great job with their budget, especially considering their need to have zero reserves. They work hard on their fundraising drive to be more self-sufficient. The fees committee likes their set up of using volunteers when able to avoid salary costs, then to recruit employees from these volunteers.

The committee has a few requests of Radio K for the future. We have few statistics on listenership and therefore question how the music and programming selections reflect the interests of the University students. Therefore the committee requests a survey from Radio K about percentage of listenership from the community. It is important for future fees requests for the fees committee to know what portion of the University listens to Radio K. Additionally, we
would like RadioK to conduct a survey of students on what types of music and programming students would like to listen to in order to increase listenership on campus.

The committee would like to see Radio K used as a better way to promote student bands or singers. This could include a percentage of music played should be student music. Radio K should offer recording studio use free of charge for all university students or require a small recording fee for students to generate revenue.

Additionally, the fees committee requests the following items be included in next year’s fees request:

- **A breakdown of hourly salaries for student positions** – in current fees request total amount spent on salaries is listed, however the fees committee would like to see the per hour salaries for employees
- **List of all current radio programs/shows** – This was listed in the power point slide, but not in the official fees request. This will provide a great reference for committee.
- **Breakdown of training expenses** – How much is conferences? How much is travel expenses? How much is onsite training at the University?
- **Conference expenses** - Who is being sent to conferences, which positions? Do you send current leaders who will turnover their position soon or upcoming leaders who can use their training to better the radio in their future positions? What is the turnover rate of student workers? What is the specific impact of conferences and what is learned?
- **Campus listenership** – What percentage of students listen to Radio K based on survey results? What changes do students want to see? What do students want to hear on their college radio?
- **Breakdown of other unrestricted revenue** - How much is from each of the following areas: underwriting, membership, Minnesota Arts and Cultural Fund from new tax, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, etc.

**Minority Rationale:**

Radio K had done a good job of advertising and reaching out to the student population. While tracking radio listenership is difficult, they have kept up with new methods of measuring use by students. This is great, but the service of the radio station doesn’t seem to be something most students at the University of Minnesota need or care much about. According to the last data collected during the 2008-2009 school year, only 9,562 students [assuming the number on page 15 of the report given to the committee was reporting student listenership, not overall community listenership] listened to Radio K. This does not seem like a service that serves the majority of the student body, either directly or by being there in case it’s needed.
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

Unit: Student Conflict Resolution Center
Fiscal Year: 2010-2011
Amount Requested: $245,000
Initial Recommendation: $245,000
Final Recommendation: $245,000
Vote: Unanimous in favor, no abstentions

Rationale:

The committee feels that the Student Conflict Resolution Center provides a valuable function to the student body. It was noted that:

- The unit’s move to Appleby Hall in 2009 resulted in some one-time moving and repair costs.
- The unit’s payroll costs have increased due to the university wide budgeting of a 2% wage increase, and the creation of three civil service positions.
- The unit has lost some of its funding from the Office of Student Affairs.
- The unit’s increased printing costs, current and projected, are in line with the committee’s desire to see them pursue a strong outreach effort to increase their visibility on campus.

In an effort to draw down its reserves, by $20,181.19, the unit is not requesting the full amount necessary to balance out its increased operating costs. The committee voted to approve the full amount.

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012
Amount Requested: $260,000
Initial Recommendation: $258,515
Final Recommendation: $258,515
Vote: Unanimous in favor, no abstentions

Rationale:

The unit continues to draw down its reserves, by $11,216.88. The increase in the request compared to FY10-11 corresponds to a 2% increase in wages and a decrease in funds obtained by drawing down the reserves.

In the request for FY11-12, the line item: “Telephone Long Distance” increased by $1500 from the year before. Inquires with a representative of the Student Conflict Resolution Center revealed that this large increase was the result of a typo. The actual increase in that line item should have been from $150 in FY10-11 to $165 in FY11-12, a total increase of $15. The recommendation reflects this by subtracting $1485 from the amount requested.
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

**Unit:** Student Unions and Activities (SUA)

**Vote:** N/A, this unit is in an off-year

**Rationale:**

Overall, our Committee feels that SUA plays a vital role by getting students involved on campus. There is a strong correlation between having a positive college experience and a student’s involvement on campus, whether it be attending campus-wide events (such as concerts), getting involved in student organizations, or playing on an intramural team, to name a few. SUA’s continued focus on bettering the student experience as well as evolving to the needs and wants of students will be important to the longevity of the organization.

**Recommendations**

Because of the size of SUA, the Committee would like to see a better breakdown of the budget. Particularly, because of the amount of student fees received ($9,667,280 in 2010 and $9,763,111) we want to see where the money is going. For the larger dollar amounts (for example, line items in revenue/expense that are greater than 10% of total revenue/expenses) we like to see footnotes to the financials, with, if applicable, a breakdown of the totals on the master budget. This will allow the Committee to trace back to the total and make the overall use of fee’s money more transparent. We would also like to see a better explanation of the role that the student board plays in the decisions making process, particularly with budget decisions.

In the future the Committee will expect a lengthier and more detailed budget proposal, even in the off years. Again, because of the size of SUA and the amount of student fees that are awarded, it is important that our Committee understand exactly how the allocated funds are being used and the impact that SUA has on campus to the student body.

Finally, since the Student Unions and Activities (SUA) is in charge of administering the office space for the Coffman Union Building, the Committee feels it is very important for SUA to be more transparent in the selection process for how and why groups are chosen to receive space within the building. While it is true that many student organizations can go off campus and rent space, there is an inherent value with the space in Coffman that cannot be created, duplicated, or even measured.

Since the Coffman Union is a centrally located, well-known building on campus, student groups that receive space within the building also receive the benefits that come with such an optimal location. Therefore, in the future, the Committee would like to see the exact process for how groups are chosen to receive space. Also, the Committee would like to see the process for appealing or challenging a decision by SUA for allotment, and, justification for denial and acceptance of all groups that apply. By providing the Committee and student body with this information, it will ensure that SUA is using an open, fair, and unbiased processes when making room selections for student groups and that funding for SUA by students is justified and continued in the future.
Ed. Note. After the conclusion of the committee’s final meeting, one alternate on the committee asked to include a minority statement. It is included below:

Minority Opinion

The SUA needs to recognize that the distribution of office space and grants to student groups needs to be done in a viewpoint neutral process. The current process that allows the SUA BOG to close meetings to the public needs to be eliminated, the rules that grandfather in existing groups needs to be removed. The fact that no group has lost their space once obtained shows that the BOG allocation process is little more than a veneer to disguise the favoritism shown to certain groups. The BOG constitution preaches openness, but allows closed meetings. The BOG should eliminate the closed meeting clause and embrace openness at all times, especially when distributing office space and grants to student groups. If the BOG has not changed this process, I would recommend next year’s SSFC eliminate all funding for office space.

I would also recommend that the BOG look into removing the Campus Club from the 4th floor of the Student Union and look to replace it with a restaurant and bar that serves only students and their guests. It is ridiculous that a whole floor of the Student Union is forbidden to students. Let the administration and faculty set up their private clubs somewhere else.
Unit: Summer Cultural Programs
Fiscal Year: 2010-2011
Amount Requested: $75,000***
Initial Recommendation: $0
Final Recommendation: $56,000
Vote: Unanimous in favor, no abstentions*

Fiscal Year: 2011-2012
Amount Requested: $77,500***
Initial Recommendation: $0
Final Recommendation: $0
Vote: Unanimous in favor, no abstentions*

* An alternate on the committee (non-voting) asked to write a minority opinion.

*** Ed. Note. Funding for Summer Cultural Programs comes only from summer student services fees. Students who are not enrolled during summer term do not pay this portion of the fee. Additionally, note that fiscal 2010-2011 refers to the unit’s funding for summer 2011, and fiscal year 2011-2012 refers to the unit’s funding for summer 2012.

Calculation of Funding Level:

The funding level for 2010-2011 was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request for Fiscal Year 2011</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Reserve for Fiscal Year 2011</td>
<td>($26,511)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Reserve for Fiscal Year 2011</td>
<td>48,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve (10% of Request for FY 2011)</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exact Allotment for Fiscal Year 2011</td>
<td>55,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Recommendation for FISCAL YEAR 2011</td>
<td><strong>$56,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Recommendation for FISCAL YEAR 2012</td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This calculation takes the unit’s request for fiscal 2011, subtracts the unit’s projected reserve for fiscal year 2011, and adds back in a reserve allowance for 10% of the original request.
Majority Rationale:

Summer Cultural Programs requested the amounts of $75,000 and $77,500 for the respective 2011 and 2012 fiscal years. At this time, the committee recommends one year of additional funding so that the effectiveness of the unit’s summer 2010 initiatives can be assessed. A further explanation of the committee’s reasoning is included below.

The committee had initially denied this funding request, raising concerns about the level of student involvement, engagement, and interest in the program. Of all the discussion of this unit, this was most concerned: the need to clearly demonstrate the student benefit of the proposed programming. Students are expected to be the primary beneficiary of programming funded by student services fees. While the Committee recognizes the difficulties expressed by members of the program in measuring the exact number of students, the Committee cannot justify using student money to fund a program that students do not use.

It was also noted that several years ago, the unit did conduct a survey to gauge student interest, but this survey has not run in several years. A few members commented that the absence of the quantitative data about student interest provided by this survey may be one of the reasons this year’s committee was unwilling to grant the funding awarded by previous committees.

After receiving the committee’s initial recommendation, the unit met with the committee to provide additional information. They discussed upcoming initiatives they believe will improve programming and evaluation efforts. For example:

- Applying for an exception to the policy on amplified noise, which currently limits summer concerts to the afternoon hour. Concerts in the evening may allow the service to reach additional students, e.g., students enrolled in night courses.
- New efforts to determine student benefit.
- Efforts to make music selection more responsiveness to student interests.

Based on the unit’s efforts, as well as the anecdotal evidence⁴ that has been presented by members of SCP, the committee agrees to fund the program for the fiscal year 2011. The Committee has granted the program $56,000, which includes the initial request minus the projected reserve at the end of 2010, with a 10% new reserve level.

The absence of funding for fiscal year 2012 will require the unit to submit an off-year request for funding. Next year’s committee will therefore to determine if SCP receives funding beyond fiscal year 2011. Future committees are strongly encouraged to review the recommendations below to determine if additional funding is warranted. For more information about the process of submitting an off-year request, please refer to the fees handbook.

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⁴ Defined for the purposes of this rationale as: based on casual observations or indications rather than rigorous or scientific analysis. Ex., the committee reviewed evidence including testimonials and event photographs.
Recommendations:

Going forward in the future, it will be expected that the SCP present to the Committee clear evidence in the two following areas:

1. The program is known by students, especially those who are taking summer classes and paying fees during the summer.
   - This does not need to necessarily come in the form of statistics. Rather, the Committee would like to see changes made to the SCP, such as starting to market the program in April rather than wait until June, to spread the word of the program and capture student interest. The necessity for this justification comes from the fact that the Committee received little student feedback, either positive or negative, after the initial announcement had been made to cut funding for the program. Members of SCP said the reason was because the program was unknown by the student body. Therefore, it will be up to SCP to make some organizational changes to ensure that students know about the program.

2. The program is attended by summer session students
   - The committee would like to see evidence that students are attending the events. While the Committee recognizes the difficulties presented by members of SCP in measuring the exact number of summer students in attendance, it will ultimately be up to SCP to develop a method for tracking the number of student that attend each event and justifying the significance of the number to the Committee in the future. It will also be up to SCP to fully explain the methods used for data collection to ensure and justify the reliability and honesty of the findings. The Committee will not set a specific number of students required at each event or a ratio of students to non-students that they would like to see, but rather would like to see SCP make an effort to more properly measure student involvement and impact at each event.

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5 And to ensure that continued market efforts are made during the summer session to target the non-traditional students or those who were not on campus during the spring semester.
6 The Committee recognizes the fact that, as with all types of survey data, there is a risk of receiving data that may not accurately reflect true student opinions. Therefore, the committee wishes to see, along with any survey results, some description of the survey methods used. This will allow the committee to see if the data collected is defensible.
7 The Committee is uncomfortable setting an arbitrary number as the minimum required level of student participation. Setting an arbitrary attendance requirement is not something the committee has done for other units. Additionally, an arbitrary target might lead to a focus on pushing data to a certain number, rather than a focus on the committee’s true concern, the level of student involvement.
Minority Opinion

I recommend $0 for SCP. Students should not be saddled for the costs of cultural events that are largely for the amusement of administrators in Morril Hall. Students should not pay an additional fee for a service they rarely use or enjoy.
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Final Recommendations

Unit: University Student Legal Services (USLS)
Vote: N/A

Rationale:

It was the consensus of the Fees committee that University Student Legal Services (herein referred to as “USLS”) plays a vital role on campus at the University of Minnesota. Their impact on students and their ability to assist students in legal affairs plays an increasingly important role, especially given the litigiousness of this country’s society. The members that we met all seemed passionate about their work, and were willing to help students, as well as provide practical guidance and advice for students who are unacquainted with the legal system.

The Committee liked the fact that USLS had a very active 14 person student board that met 1 to 2 times a month during the school year. Student involvement in any campus organization is very important and vital to keeping a connection with student issues and affairs.

Recommendations

If anything, our committee saw a potential for growth. We encourage USLS to continue to market its services to students on campus and raise awareness, as we feel there is still a large portion of the student population who are unaware of the services available. We recommend looking into working with or expanding collaboration with:

- The International Student and Scholar Services office (190 Humphrey Center), to assist international students and scholars in legal matters
- Student Conflict Resolution (254 Appleby Hall), possibly doing joint presentations

Also, we would recommend looking into setting up a separate entity or “spin-off” of the office that deals strictly with housing affair issues, or aggressively marketing this portion of the office around times that students are looking for housing or signing leases. We feel this is one of the big assets for USLS, and the ability to stay on top of renter concerns and issues could help avoid landlords’ taking advantage of students. Also, influence within the community could, overtime, help to create a better renting environment as landlords become aware that a separate office has been set-up to deal with and mitigate dishonest and deceitful landlords.

The issue of co-pays was raised during the discussion. Members of the committee had differing views on whether USLS should move towards a greater “fee-for-service” model in providing legal advice. Some members thought USLS could supplement their fees income with additional co-pays. Other members disagreed and felt that USLS provided a broad enough benefit to justify low user fees. In general, for next year’s funding request, the committee will likely be interested in reviewing the issue.

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8 Or having dedicated walk-in hours in the last week of August and subsequent semesters (fall and Spring) to review leases and answer questions about renter’s rights.