Student Services Fees Committee
Administrative Units Committee

Initial Recommendations
for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Funding

Published March 2nd, 2010
Student Services Fees Committee  
2010 Initial Recommendations

Unit:  Boynton Health Service (MSA Express funding request)  
Fiscal Year:  2010-2011  
Amount Requested:  $50,374  
Initial Recommendation:  $50,374  
Vote:  Unanimous in favor.

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 2nd 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.

Suggestion for 2011-2012 Student Services Fee Committee:

- Review $10 Mental Health Co Pay
Student Services Fees Committee
2010 Initial Recommendations

Unit: Department of Recreational Sports
Vote: N/A, this unit is in an off-year

Rationale:

Overall, the committee is impressed with the Department of Recreational Sports. The committee appreciates the enthusiasm and commitment to excellence shown by the presenters. We appreciate the Department’s focus on comparing the direction of the U of M facilities with that of other universities. The committee believes the current facilities have problems with over crowding and the students would benefit from additional space. 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.

Concerning the plan to expand the Rec center, the committee believes it is a good plan. There is a huge need for expanded space and additional locations to service more students. The expansion will help recruitment efforts on campus, as incoming freshman will be attracted to the brand new facilities. Society has an increased concern for living a healthy lifestyle and so should the University.

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 assure 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 on 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.
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**Unit:** Learning Abroad Center

**Fiscal Year: 2010-2011**

**Amount Requested:** $114,882  
**Initial Recommendation:** $114,882  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

**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 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  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

**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 Initial Recommendations

Unit: Minnesota Daily
Fiscal Year: 2010-2011
Amount Requested: $556,412
Initial Recommendation $550,000
Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Rationale:

The committee feels that $550,000 is a justifiable amount for several reasons. The positive, is that the Daily has made proper spending cuts, they are representing the University at major conferences, the Daily has invested their money very wisely for their reserve fund, and they are only asking for a very similar amount to what they asked for last year, even with the very harsh financial situation for major newsprints.

However, there are a few reasons that the committee did not decide to fully fund the Daily. First, we do not feel the need for the Daily to be sending additional members to conferences in addition to those already sent, a forecasted budget for FY11 indicated a request for $550,000, and we feel that the Daily’s reserve account is more than large enough. The Daily can begin tapping into that account if they find sending additional members to conferences is necessary.
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**Unit:** Radio K  
**Fiscal Year:** 2010-2011  
**Amount Requested:** $223,847  
**Initial Recommendation:** $223,847  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor  

**Fiscal Year:** 2011-2012  
**Amount Requested:** $228,323  
**Initial Recommendation:** $228,323  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor  

**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 podcasts 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 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 employers from these volunteers.  

The committee has a few requests of Radio K for the future. We have no 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.
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**Unit:** Student Conflict Resolution Center  

**Fiscal Year:** 2010-2011  

**Amount Requested:** $245,000  

**Initial Recommendation:** $245,000  

**Vote:** Unanimous in Favor

**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  

**Vote:** Unanimous in Favor

**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 Initial 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) would 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.

Finally, 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.
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**Unit:** Summer Cultural Programs  
**Fiscal Year:** 2010-2011  
**Amount Requested:** $75,000  
**Amount Approved:** $0  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**Fiscal Year:** 2011-2012  
**Amount Requested:** $77,500  
**Amount Approved:** $0  
**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**Rationale:**

Summer Cultural Programs requested the amounts of $75,000 and $77,500 for the respective 2011 and 2012 fiscal years. After thoughtful deliberation, the committee has decided to deny the funds for the upcoming fiscal years. While programming has stood to be a tradition during the summer student session, the Student Fees Committee struggled to find the overall student impact. The committee appreciates what the Summer Cultural programming brings to the University setting, however questions the student involvement, engagement, and interest in the program.

The summer months create a unique setting at the University in which fewer students are on campus during the day, in which to participate and benefit from the summer cultural events. The committee feels that over the life span of the program, greater efforts could have been made to evaluate student interest and find greater ways to facilitate student engagement (i.e. evening concerts, greater variety in music genres of student interest, etc.). Evaluation has not been shown that supports overwhelming participation among the student body in programming. This is the main concern and priority of the committee. It was not shown that programming is being utilized primarily by those who fund it: fee-paying students during summer months.

Another area of critique was that Summer Cultural programs is budgeting for reserves of $31,000 by the end of summer 2012. While it was addressed that a healthy amount of funds are needed to cover unexpected costs this amount seems unusually high and suggests missed opportunity for innovation and advancement.

**Recommendations:**

The committee sees great value in cultural and entertainment programming. Areas for evaluation and improvement were discussed at the unit’s presentation of programming. Issues of discussion and concern for the committee were the accessibility during programming as well as content,
which has suggested weak student participation and interest. Many students, even while taking courses during the summer months, have commitments such as work and internships during the daytime hours. If programming is funded through student fees, efforts should be evaluated to more adequately address the ability and presence of student participation. Particularly, the alternatives of fewer concerts, in the form of several more publicized concerts in the evening throughout the summer would offer greater access for student involvement and impact.

The student fees committee suggests that Summer Cultural Programming evaluate programming alternatives and submit refunding options in the future. Adjustments could be made by program staff to make changes in programming to more appropriately accommodate the University summer setting and student preferences. While many styles of music are offered during noon time concerts, alternative genres and scheduling are areas to look into for future program modification. Utilizing reserves and re-submitting programming request with modified programming the areas discussed is recommended to Summer Cultural Programs.

Additionally, if there is a larger community wide audience for current program offerings, the committee suggests that alternative sources of funding be evaluated to continue traditional programming.
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**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 very passionate about their work and their willingness to help students, as well as provide practical guidance and advice for students who are unacquainted with the legal system.

Our Committee liked the fact that USLS’s 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 would 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 would 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\(^1\). 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.

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\(^1\) 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