



Office of the Dean
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OK
D. Schmidly
1/19/11

MEMORANDUM

To: President David Schmidly
From: Mark Peceny, Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Katie Richardson, GPSA President
Jaymie Roybal, ASUNM President
Date: 1/18/2012
Re: SFRB Policy Changes

The leadership of ASUNM and GPSA proposed a comprehensive set of reforms to the policies and procedures of the Student Fee Review Board (SFRB) in the Fall of 2011. The reforms include a shift in board membership, establishing supermajority rules for setting fee levels, implementing an averaging of member recommendations and eliminating the distinction between recurring and non-recurring status.

The UNM Policy Office received a number of comments concerning these changes during the open comment period for policy review. In order to answer the concerns raised by the community, Dean Peceny, and Presidents Richardson and Roybal proposed additional procedures that compliment the proposed policy in the January 9th memo, which is attached. These include establishing the Strategic Budget Leadership Team (SBLT) as the President's designee and ensuring that organizations who have previously enjoyed recurring status will not be decreased below a certain amount. Additionally, the SFRB will deliver initial recommendations to the SBLT by February 15th, 2012.

Please accept this memorandum as a request to grant an exception to the current policy on a one year trial basis. We ask that the policy, as proposed in the Fall semester of 2011 be implemented this year only, along with the procedural changes suggested in the attached memo from January 9th. We also ask that next year's leadership not be bound by the results of this trial period. Thank you for considering this request.



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MEMORANDUM

To: President David Schmidly
From: Mark Peceny, Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Katie Richardson, GPSA President
Jaymie Roybal, ASUNM President
Date: 1/9/2012
Re: SFRB Policy Changes
Cc: Executive Cabinet; Tuition and Fee Team

Last semester, the leadership of ASUNM and GPSA proposed a comprehensive set of reforms to the policies and procedures of the Student Fee Review Board. Most who have commented on the proposed changes have accepted the combination of a shift in membership of the SFRB to five undergraduate and two graduate representatives with the adoption of supermajority rules for the setting of overall levels of student fees. Many have raised concerns, however, about the proposed elimination of the distinction between recurring and non-recurring recipients of student fees. Uncertainty about the impact of the proposed averaging process adds to the concerns of those who have been classified as recurring recipients of student fees.

Last month the tuition and fee team suggested a potential solution to this impasse, a shift in the president's designee as the recipient of the recommendations of the SFRB to the Strategic Budget Leadership Team. In addition, the SFRB would present its preliminary recommendations to the SBLT earlier in the budget year, by February 15, which would allow SFRB members to enter into comprehensive negotiations with the SBLT about how student fees fit into the larger budget picture of the university.

While these recommendations assuaged the concerns of some participants, many still worried about the impact of the removal of the line between recurring and non-recurring recipients. We now propose two additional safeguards designed to address any remaining concerns. First, we suggest that the SBLT establish parameters for the maximum change it will accept for organizations now classified as recurring recipients of student fees. Under no circumstances would previously recurring organizations experience a reduction in fee support that exceeded the SBLT maximal change. The president would receive the fee recommendation directly from his designee, the SBLT. Second, we propose that this process be tried this year as a one-year trial period.

A tremendous amount of creative thought and energy went into the drafting of the proposed changes. The proposed amendments would allow the SFRB portions of the plan to be implemented in their entirety to give a fair trial of this innovative process. The designation of the SFRB as the recipient of the recommendations, the February 15 reporting date, and the establishment of a comfort zone for recurring recipients of student fees by the SBLT will provide the safeguards recurring recipients of student fees understandably desire. Most importantly, the proposed changes ensure the participation of student leaders in comprehensive conversations about the entirety of the UNM budget. If the proposed changes do not work as intended they can easily be set aside at the end of the one-year trial period. Indeed, to give the university's new leadership team maximum flexibility, we propose that the proposed policies and procedures expire at the end of this academic year unless they receive a positive endorsement by the new leaders of ASUNM, GPSA, the SFRB, and the new President.

We ask that you accept this proposal in the very near future so that it can be implemented this semester. Thank you for considering this request.