Faculty Senate Budget Transparency Committee

Minutes for October 22, 2019 meeting

Members present: Gloria Delany-Barmann, Ilon Lauer, Khaleb Zbeeb (via CODEC), Betsy Perabo

Members not present: Duke Oursler

1) We discussed doing a closer examination of **student fees**, which including paying a substantial amount of money to support the athletic programs. Ilon mentioned that at ExCo they had discussed the problem of “slicing and dicing who’s paying fees for what,” with the attitude that “I don’t need to pay for that if I don’t use it.” This could cause problems for supporting facilties such as the computer lab and the library; one person suggested that fees should be seen like taxes, where it is your prerogative to take advantage of it or not

The BOT has (perhaps?) eliminated fees for online students altogether, leading to a big hit to student services.

Ilon brought in an article from the Huffington Post/Chronicle highlighting the high subsidies for the **athletics budget**: could this be updated? We discussed concerns that some teams are not very competitive – if they are not good, are we wasting money? We also discussed the advantages of having larger teams to organizations like the marching band and cheerleaders.

If online students were paying $50/credit hour, where did that money go? May have gone to Utech – does this mean Utech will now get les money?

2) Khaled raised some concerns about the **marketing budget** and money spent on recruiting in the QC; he thinks the information on this should be more transparent. Ilon will follow up with Khaled on this. There are confidentiality issues with this – marketing does not want other schools to be aware of how much money we spent on particular things as this hurts our competitive advantage. Some money comes from the foundation office (which markets we’re going for, how much we’re spending on ad campaigns, etc.) rather than appropriated funds (which covers baseline expenses such as offices, computer, etc.)

**3) Study Abroad and global outreach office**

Gloria raised concerns that if we are promoting internationalization, need dedicated staff; the office has been decimated, to the point that it impacts our students’ ability to have their Fulbright applications reviewed. We may want to consider: What percentage of study abroad programs have student fees? How do other universities fund their study abroad programs? Gloria will follow up on this issue.

**4) Advising and counseling:** Angela Boniface reported at the BOT that non-instructional dollars spent per student were low. We should get that information from her.