Welcome & Dinner

VP Lucas Stevens: Thank you everyone for being here today. I would like to begin by thanking you members of the fee board for your diligence in representing students and the student body’s interests in regards to student fees. Thanks for taking initiative when it comes to meeting with your fee administrators in those committee meetings. And thanks for dressing up today. You all look great. Thank you to Blue Light Media for being here to stream our event live. This is going to be recorded and live-streamed as well. We have several members joining us through Zoom and I will briefly explain how the meeting will run. We will use parliamentary procedure. If you have questions don’t hesitate to act and participate. Don’t let motions or seconds be intimidating at all. Your voice is important and we want you to be heard. With those participating though Zoom they will type in the chat if they have a comment and Sami will speak for them. If you look at our agenda we will hear from Daniel Lawrence on the ARC Fee presentation. Following that we will have a chance to ask clarifying questions to Daniel. I would preface that this is an informative meeting. None of our decisions here will be final. We will take a straw poll at the end and I will talk about the reasoning for that when it comes. I would encourage you to reach out to Daniel after if you have any questions that you aren’t able to ask or that you think of throughout the week. We will email his presentation out to all of you following the meeting. I think we are good to go. We will turn the time over to Daniel.

ARC Fee Presentation

Daniel Lawrence: Thank you, Lucas and thank you all for having me. It is my pleasure to represent campus recreation. I am the director of campus rec and I’ve been at Utah state for just over 5 years. I came to Utah State as the Associate Director for Programs and Assessment. I’ve been serving as your director for campus recreation for the last year and a half. I want to come to you today and speak about the ARC fee. It is a phenomenal place that was student initiated, organized and approved. Back in 2009 the Student Body President, Tyler Tolson with the assistance and support of many upper administrators including Dr. James Morales here, helped bring the ARC to fruition. It is my goal to continue to operate that center and provide an amazing facility for the students but also as a recruitment and retention tool for many years to come. First I want to talk to you about why campus recreation is important. Back in 1989 campus recreation became an official department at Utah State University. We went all the way until 2015 until we had a legitimate recreation facility for students to enjoy here. The importance of a recreation center and academics as a whole, there has been much research of the importance of students participating in recreational sports. Campus rec participants are more likely to report higher GPAs. Rec participants report higher levels of physical health and quality of life compared to non-participants. It also provides an
opportunity for students to develop relationships with different cultures and enhances a student’s sense of belonging. I want to hit on that. The Aggie Recreation Center is yours. We want students to utilize it for many years to come. I got here in January of 2015 and as we were building the center conversations were had about a bond. The bond is the mortgage payment. Just like the house you grew up in. It’s the monthly payment, but in this case it’s an annual payment. Along with that we took 2015 dollars to come up with the operation and maintenance of the Aggie Recreation Center. That’s how we came up with the price of the $75 student fee. To pay that bond and keep up with the operation and maintenance of the facility.

Once we got to 2015 when it comes to a new bond, an institution like Utah State waits until every subcontractor that has their hand in building facilities is fully paid until we lock in the bond. This process took until 2017 until we locked in the bonds of the ARC. So we had a year and half of increased costs. So when we officially locked in the bond, the annual payment went up. The original proposed budget basically lowered the operation and maintenance. Since the ARC has opened we have been operating on a $735,000 budget for operation and maintenance. This is our mission. Campus Recreation provides opportunities for personal growth through play, wellness, and adventure. Our vision is we are committed to play, wellness, adventure, community and development. And our commitment to inclusion is that “Campus Recreation is dedicated to inclusive programs services, and facilities through our commitment to education, outreach, and collaboration. We seek opportunities to create space where all people are welcome and gain a sense of belonging.” We are a very transparent and inclusive department. We want all students here to come visit the ARC. This is just four of the facilities here that we have in campus recreation. The fieldhouse, which is back open and also has a brand new floor that the state of Utah paid for. There is a brand new floor on the main floor. Go check that out. We have the HPER building, aggie legacy fields, and for those that don’t know the challenge course. This spring semester we will also be opening a new field where the old trailer park used to be. It’s going to be a new grass field. The facility is under construction for storage and restrooms but that should be open this upcoming spring semester when the winter thaw goes through. I want to talk about the ARC. We typically average 335,000 student visits per year. This is obviously pre-covid. This first part of the fiscal year we only saw 103,000 visit the center, so our visitations are low. Obviously we have the pandemic and people have various reasons for why they choose not to come. But we average over 330,000 visits normally. I was talking to Cooper over here and he talked about how you all discussed guest passes over the last year or two. We are averaging over 5500 guest passes per year. That’s students bringing their family members or their friend from another institution. Those are the services that you all approve to be able to continue to recruit and retain students. Here’s the dollars and cents. This is fiscal year 2019-2020. We had a grand total of $2,698,882. That was the student fees that came in off of the $75 per student. Again that goes to the bond and the operation and maintenance. The bond and operation and maintenance budget totaled $2,897,287 which led to a deficit of $198,405. And we had to tap into other funds in order to keep operating the ARC wholly. Again this goes back to locking the bond in 2017. Costs went up and utilities went up. We were funded $735,000 annually for operation and maintenance. So if you subtract that we technically only get $535,000 from the university when they transfer those funds over from the bond. And we still operate on a $735,000 budget. So that’s a $200,000 difference. We took our deficit and divided that by student enrollment of 36,000. The ARC is solely student fee funded. We don’t have state or E&G funds. We take that average of 36,000, an estimation of 17,000 in the fall, and 17,000 in the spring and 2,000 or so in the summer months. So that broke down to $5.51 per person. When I was talking to other senators and such about this we thought that just makes the operating budget whole. We still have continued utility increases and maintenance issues. And there are also things that I don’t have any control over. We decided to add an additional dollar to go up to $6.50 for an additional $35,000 for continual increase to take into account utilities. But we would continue to roll those funds over for future years so whenever
we have to replace the roof, or when heat or AC goes out I’m not here again asking for an increase down the road. We are projecting years ahead. This would make it so we don’t have to continue to ask for increases. We want to be transparent and do our due diligence. This is a portion of the Aggie Recreation Center budget. You have this in front of you as well. This is personnel expenses. We have student staff, we have custodial staff and so forth. This is the personnel services here that keeps the ARC open from 6 am to 11 pm each day. We do have a custodian here that works at night. There is someone in the ARC 24/7 seven days a week. The peach color that you see are costs I have no control over that continuously go up. With a facility we need to heat that facility. We need steam, we need electricity and chilled water. When its 95 degrees we need to keep that 105,000 square foot facility cooled for you all. Insurance continues to go up, telephones, IT and laundry services. Those are some of the expenses here and we have done everything we can to scrimp all the funds and pennies from other indexes that we can control to make sure that we are doing our due diligence with the $535,000 that we physically do get from the institution. We are prolonging the life of the fitness equipment and how long we check and rent out towels. We are doing everything we can to cut costs where you all won’t notice and to keep the budget down as much as we can. This is a snippet of the maturation of the ARC bond. This is a 30-year payment plan for the ARC. The last payment won’t come till 2044. That building won’t be paid off until 2044. If you look at the top line it showed December 2019 we made a $1.4 million dollar payment to the bond. Then in may we made another payment for $741,000 to accumulate just over 2.1 million dollars. The arc bond is over 2.1 million dollars each year. Then they added the $735,000 which we physically don’t have in hand. For a grand total of the 2019-2020 fiscal year $2,897,287.50. Then you look over to the revenue received. In the fall semester we received just over 1.2 million dollars. Spring we received just over 1.2 million dollars. In the summer we received $194,000. That year We had a negative balance of 1196. Day 4 of my job I got a call from Business and Finance and they said my ARC budget is in the hole negative $425,000. I had no clue about that. They asked how I was going to pay that off in the next 30 days. The second line shows the current year we are in. Fall semester we received 1.2 million dollars. The spring as of December 7 when I received these numbers we are only at $997,500 because students were still registering. That number has gone up. Currently today we are sitting at a negative $533,000. That number will also go up as we get enrollment but that was just a snapshot on December 7th. It gives you an idea that we are paying 2.1 million dollars per year. That fifth day on the job I had to come up with $425,000 and the students couldn’t see it or feel it. When the ARC opened in 2015 there was 1.5 million dollars put in a quasi-account to replace the aggie legacy fields. The fields have a warranty of 8 years. We are now in year 9. Meaning that when they installed that turf in 2012 at 2 and a quarter inch thick, students are now playing on ¾ of an inch. We are almost playing on the concrete underneath the field. I had to pull the $425,000 from that quasi-account to pay for that deficit. So now the quasi account is sitting just over 1.1 million dollars for the legacy fields. If we don’t do anything with our budget and correct that wrong I will have to pull more money from that quasi account that is supposed to replace the legacy fields. That will continue until those funds are all gone. I would have to take an institution internal loan out at a 4% interest rate to continue to operate. That is what I’m up against. We want to be good stewards of your funds. We are actually ready to roll. I am working with Dr. Morales and central administration. This is a quote to replace the legacy fields right now as early as this May. That’s a quote at $933,000. I have been working with Sami and a number of others as well. I have samples if you want to feel the samples of grass we can put in. This is a sample of what it’s going to take to replace the legacy fields. These funds even though they are separate are all intertwined together. And we want to do our best to try not to continue to ask for an increase. I will now open the floor for questions.

Senator Olivia Hoge: Based off of enrollment. Was that based off of previous years or this year with
Covid?

**Daniel Lawrence:** The 36,000 is a magic number that the institution projects. Whenever we budget and anticipate our campus recreation fee, we average that out to 36,000 students. I take the campus rec fee of $37 and I times that by 36,000. That is my projected annual budget for campus recreation. That is the projected number the university gives us.

**Senator Olivia Hoge:** If enrollment is down would you need to ask for another increase next year?

**Daniel Lawrence:** That is the double edged sword of being student funded. I would not come back to ask for an increase. My purpose is to right the wrong right now and then think of other creative solutions to make sure we aren’t doing this again down the road. If enrollment goes down, our budget goes down and that’s where we look at cutting programs, services, and things like that with your knowledge support and understanding. We would do everything we can to operate under the budget we have.

**VP Trevor Wilkey:** I am very supportive of increasing this fee. We are asking for that additional 99 cents to adjust for inflation. Is that going to be enough? And you won’t have to ask later down the road? Where did that projection come from of the additional 99 cents?

**Daniel Lawrence:** That was a conversation Sami, Dr. Morales and I had. We don’t want to gouge the students. That amount will keep us above making whole As we do have continued costs increase there are those years that we have other expenses and I’m projecting an average over the next fifteen years and adjusting for different budgets that we won’t have to continue to fund. We felt comfortable to cap it at $6.50. When we do have a good year we will be able to roll that over and it will be able to accumulate. So whenever we have to do a replacement those will be your million dollar plus purchases. We will have a cushion. If we do a roof replacement 15 years from now that would be your million plus purchases.

**VP Trevor Wilkey:** The quasi funds, does that need to be replaced?

**Daniel Lawerence:** No. To replace the field right now that price there that would be the same field the seahawks play on. We can fluctuate that number as needed. But no we are not looking to replace the money we used because this is under the 1.1 we have right now.

**VP Trevor Wilkey:** For later on down the road what do we do to replace them again at that point?

**Daniel Lawrence:** That would fall into our category of our overall budget operation and maintenance. I’m projecting 5-10 years down the road. I’m not operating just in 2021 right now. We want to make sure we are not doing this again.

**VP Lucas Stevens:** That 99 cent cushion. Is that a bit of a safety net for lower enrollment rates as well?

**Daniel Lawrence:** It might have to be for the next couple years. Hopefully this pandemic ends and we get back to our enrollment. I am hearing from the registrars office our numbers are still very positive. Students don’t like the online setting but they are still working through that. Enrollment is positive now, but hypothetically yes that 99 cents will help continue to keep us whole if we do have a decrease in enrollment.

**VP Lucas Stevens:** You talked about how the ARC is totally student-funded. Could you speak to the perks of that and what are the pros of this being for students?
**Daniel Lawrence:** It is for students and by students. You students have approved services to continue to enhance your experiences. Like the guest passes. Many of you have brought others in. We are talking about the ARC fee alone. There is another separate campus rec fee that goes into intramurals, fitness programs, outdoor programs, things like that. This is solely the ARC fee that provides you unlimited access to the center and provide you all the access to all of the equipment and services. The ARC fee goes to the bond payment and provides unlimited access to all fee-paying students.

**Hailey Darrow:** If this doesn’t get passed then you will have to reconsider different programs. Do you have any ideas of what programs would need to be cut?

**Daniel Lawrence:** If this doesn’t get passed, we still have that 1.1 million dollars in the quasi account. We will continue to pull from that until it is depleted. Then we will take the student loan from the university to keep the facility open. If we look into depleting programs we would look at staffing options. We need the student staff we have because of covid protocols. We would have to cut hours for the ARC. We have one of the centers that is open the longest. Especially during the pandemic. I have colleagues and friends who are closing their doors at 9 at night. We are staying open till 11 o’clock. We might also have to cut equipment and operation hours.

**Clark Rawson:** Is there a goal number that you want to get to with the 99 cent increase? Like a certain cap and maybe we could lower it back down? Or is it a continual thing?

**Daniel Lawrence:** Anticipated it would be a continual thing. For example our utility costs go up. We spend over 255,000 on utilities alone and I can’t control that. We lower the heat or raise the AC but who wants to come to a facility with that experience? The 99 cents will help provide the funds for off years when we have additional expenditures and also for more prolonged expenses when we have to replace the windows, roofs, etc. Each of those windows in the ARC is $7,000 for example. They accidentally happen but we have to pay for it. Unless we have a wonderful donor who pays off the bond I don’t think we would look at lowering that back down. Everything is increasing. Even the equipment we purchase. Our budgets are not going down. We are trying to get ahead of that and prolong the integrity of future services and needs.

**Clark Rawson:** We had 1.1 million in the other funds, do you have plans with that other funds for the quasi account?

**Daniel Lawrence:** It is interest-earning and the plan is to use that to replace the Legacy Field again down the road when we have to replace it again ten years down the road. I’m thinking how we could keep student fees down. Whatever is left that would just give us a jumpstart for saving for future major purchases for campus rec.

**Director Rachel Arner:** I had a question about the $55,000 dollars generated from guest passes. My assumption is it goes back into the ARC because it’s generated there.

**Daniel Lawrence:** It would be 5500 guest passes times five. It’s not $55,000. And it does go to help offset the costs. It goes right back to the Aggie Rec Center.

**Senator Austin Flitton:** What other avenues, or are there other avenues for finding funding? And have they been explored?

**Daniel Lawrence:** The challenge is it’s student fee funded. It has taken many years for the students to
approve guest passes. We could potentially offer camps or conferences in the Aggie Rec Center. Currently we do not. Especially in the summer we only average 4 to 600 students per day as opposed to the average of 3500 to 4500 during the academic year. For example in the summer when students go home we could utilize some of the court space to bring in self generated revenue. Youth basketball camps, volleyball camps, cheer camps. Those are avenues if we were able to get approval to do that. Everything we do we come to many students in this board who are students at large who would hear our proposal and then approve it or not. We don’t do that here because the students don’t want to do that.

Senator Austin Flitton: Are the guest passes what you bring in annually?

Daniel Lawrence: They are $5 per person and the 5500 is annually.

Senator Austin Flitton: Could we be more comparable with other gyms? Where it’s like $45 a month per say.

Daniel Lawrence: We can’t sell memberships to the community or alumni memberships because the student body voted on that in 2015. We don’t allow alumni memberships. I strongly discourage opening it up to alumni because we have tens of thousands of alumni in Cache Valley. We could look at like a one year after you graduate pass or something. When you go to the gyms like Planet Fitness they have guest passes as well. We are typically lower. Other passes are $7 to $10 per day. Offering a yearly guest pass would get into membership territory which the students don’t want to do right now.

Senator Maria Catalano: You said that conventional utilities are going to increase in the future. Will any of this $40,000 go into investments in more renewable options for the future?

Daniel Lawrence: We can. We can work with Blue Goes Green and other departments on campus. One thing the university has done that saves us is if you are ever looking at the center right now, on top of the soccer field there is a big circle of snow. It is a 1 million gallon cold water storage tank. What that is for is the university though proactively and thought we will put that in and provide chilled water to campus during the daytime hours when water is at the peak price. Then we will refill that tank at nighttime at off peak rates. That has paid for itself multiple times over and over again. The university is also looking into solar. At the challenge course we are looking at putting solar panels on the hill. We can look at solar panels on the roof of the recreation center. There will be an initial cost but long-term efficiency that would be good. When the ARC opened in 2015 we were actually awarded lead gold with sustainable efforts and efficiencies that went into the recreation center when building it and running it. We have things in place that have helped us earn that lead gold association.

VP Lucas Stevens: Seeing that we have no more questions we will move on.

Daniel Lawrence: Thank you for your time. My email is Daniel.lawrence@usu.edu. My office is in the second floor of the arc at 218. I am here most of the days during the week. If you would like to set up a zoom or come visit me to chat. I am happy to answer any further questions.

TECHNOLOGY FEE INFORMATION

VP Lucas Stevens: Moving on to the Information and Technology Fee decrease, I would like to give Cooper a chance to speak on this since he has been over the technology fee for the last two years.

Senator Cooper Karras: Just some information on the potential decrease. The reason for the decrease is
there is a decrease in the usage of the old main computer lab. Because that is prime real estate they made a decision to cut back the amount of computers. And with less computers in that lab space that relates to a lower usage of funds in that lab with associated costs of replacing those computers and staffing and cleaning and total expenses. After evaluating the number of computers that would be removed, that would equate to around $1.60 decrease. So instead of repurposing that $1.60 for a different use, we figured that potentially it would be better to decrease it at this time until we found an appropriate good use and a worthwhile cause to use in addition to student technology. We felt at this time that was the best option going forward. I’ve talked to Academic Senate and Students at Large extensively. Does anyone else have questions?

**VP Trevor Wilkey:** So basically, do we have any idea on what they’ve thought of possibly using that money towards?

**Senator Cooper Karras:** The biggest expenses for the technology fee are the actual lab spaces, and the hardware and costs associated with replacing them and running them. We also have the Adobe Contract and other programs student use on campus. We did some asking around about what students might be interested in adding, and at this time we didn’t feel there was appropriate support to add a new service. So until we hear enough feedback and a strong enough desire like maybe using more VR headsets. In the meantime, instead of holding on to that money we are decreasing it. If the next chair finds something that the students could benefit from the fee could raise back up. But since we don’t have a use we felt the best course at this time would be to give a saving to students.

**Hailey Darrow:** Would you be able to relocate the computers that are already there to other locations that get used often like the library?

**Senator Cooper Karras:** Potentially. But I believe the computers that were being used in Old Main were going to be sold. Currently there is funding allocated to replace the current computers in the library. So by the time those computers in the library or those other buildings, when those are out of date, the computers that would have been in old main will be out of date and replaced anyway.

**VP Lucas Stevens:** I would add to that that I’ve worked in the lab for two years. There is always an ebb and a flow of what computers are where. It is very likely that some of those computers were relocated and they’re always making sales. If you have questions I would reach out to Cooper and Gary Egbert, the fee administrator. This is really a sign of our Technology Fee and Gary being a good steward over student fees.

**VP Porter Casdorph:** To confirm, the time where it was noticed that these computers were not being used as much has it just been the past semester? Or has it been pre-covid?

**Senator Cooper Karras:** One of the motivations because the old main space is such prime real estate for lack of a better term. Old Main decided that it would be better purposed. That has been shown through the last decade. There has been decreased use in that space for the last ten years. The TSC is heavily used, and other spaces like the Engineering lab are. But the Old Main Lab is being less utilized for many years. We felt the space could be better utilized on campus.

**VP Lucas Stevens:** Thank you Cooper. If you have further questions I would encourage you to reach out to Cooper or Gary Egbert. I also want to plug the student fee website that we have for those joining us virtually. If you are a student watching and would like to give input feel free to reach out to the members.
of student fee board. The roster is listed on the student fee website. If you google USU Student Fees it will
come up. It is on the Student Affairs website. As we move into the discussion portion we will have first a
discussion on the ARC fee presentation. I would ask that you preface your comment after you introduce
yourself and voice your support or opposition of the fee and keep your comments concise.

DISCUSSION ON PRESENTATIONS

President Sami Ahmed: With the ARC fee I support the increase because for the last 5 or 6 years we have
been going at a subsidy. We are not covering the cost at a break even point. That was done in order to
keep a promise for students when the first bond payments were projected. The market increased 2 years
after and that adjustment was never made. The way I see it is it’s important to keep promises to students,
but we shouldn’t keep a faulty promise if it doesn’t make sense. This issue was brought to me over the
summer. I have worked closely with Daniel and it’s something I see as easy to defend and explain. And
having that building be a student-funded building I think it makes sense for the increase to cover that
cost. I don’t think we should keep a faulty promise if it’s not accurate.

Senator Austin Flitton: I am also in full support of the increase. I am also curious to see if they can find
other alternative sources for funding.

Senator Brock Hardcastle: I am also in support. I have met with Daniel the last two years in regards to the
ARC and the fees allocated to it. I know that Daniel is very proud of the work that he puts in and rightfully
so. He is an excellent steward of those funds. I want to recognize that you can trust the words he has said.
He has put a lot of effort into them.

Director Rachel Arner: I am a little hesitant to support the fee increase for the ARC because I worked
there for 3 and a half years. I have seen a lot and I have been there through a lot of transitions. I
personally believe that there are a lot of different places we can pull funding from that are wasted
through the ARC in the way that they run things sometimes.

VP Porter Casdorph: I am fully in support of the increase in the fee. I would like to implore the university
to seek new ways to obtain more students on campus and increase enrollment. Specifically, students from
out of state. There are a lot of students I know who would like to come via the Alumni Scholarship. I
myself came on in 2015 with that scholarship. It’s not as enticing now and I think there could be a large
number of students brought on that would help pay for all different student fees and this as well. That
way there wouldn’t be as much worry about how many students we have.

VP Jenn Ha: I am also a little hesitant with the fee. I think we have other alternatives that we should look
at first. Such as hosting camps and gaining money from that. I think students would be ok with hosting
those instead of having an increase. I think Daniel also mentioned we were one of the longest open
facilities and we don’t need to keep that title. We can cut back on those hours to allocate the funding
elsewhere so we don’t have to increase the fee as much.

President Sami Ahmed: I have a question for Director Arner. You mentioned the wasting of funds. Can
you elaborate on that? Where you’ve seen those deficiencies or faults.

Director Rachel Arner: I don’t want to throw a bunch of things out there. I would be happy to discuss with
anyone further after this. I think there are things that go unnoticed since I’ve worked in the department. I
think there are extra staff that aren’t needed and a lot of activities that go on that aren’t super necessary.
I also see spending on different merchandise that isn’t ever used. I think we can look into those things
before making a decision like this.

Senator Olivia Hoge: I want to say I fully support this. I do understand these hesitations, but I do think
that part of why the ARC is so successful is because it is constantly updated, and it is open later and has lots of things for students that is enticing. That’s why students appreciate it. I am in full support.

VP Trevor Wilkey: I also am in support of this very strongly. To go off of what Senator Hoge said, I think it’s important to understand ways that we can increase the budget. I think working together along with this increase we can get enough money to support for causes later on. With situations like this with the pandemic there has been hurt in the organization and it is completely funded by students. I need to remember that something like this can happen again. Looking at a 5-10 year radius it would be really good to continue to have this increase because it is a service that a lot of students use. If there can be a way that we look into, I mean spouse passes or increasing the pass for people to come in, there are options. I think this will be very successful for the long-term and I support it.

Senator Elizabeth Drake: I am inclined to say I am in support of this fee. As a student in exercise science I can see how recreation can change student lives and benefit them. I would hate to see that having a debt on this recreation center would change how students are able to access this. I think it will have a chain reaction effect on students and their lives. If there are alternate ways for us to raise funding I would say let’s move forward with them, but I think it’s more dangerous to be in debt on this bond. We should move forward and then hopefully reduce it in the future as we explore those other options.

Clark Rawson: I would say I am in support of the $5.50 but the additional 99 cents I don’t see a specific reason why we would need it. It says for maintenance but there is already $45,000 set apart for that. I think just having an account that increases each year encourages unneeded spending. If there needs to be a big purchase done I would rather have it go through a lot of people rather than one person deciding that whenever he wants.

VP Oscar Diaz: I want to say I am in support of this fee increase. We would be delaying a further increase in the future given the financial data that has been provided to us. It will end up here further in the future.

Hailey Darrow: I am having a split decision on this. I don’t think it’s fair to put the responsibility of keeping a promise they couldn’t keep on the students. If they are promising all of these hours and new improvements that should have been talked of at the beginning with the budget they already have. I understand that there is inflation and things like that, but it is more important to work with what they have instead of asking for more money when they can’t fulfill those promises. I understand the importance of the ARC, but like Jenn said, if it is choosing between putting this on the students or cutting back hours or inviting organizations to campus I would rather go down that route. Especially when they don’t know what enrollment is going to be. I feel like there is a lot of unknown that I would rather avoid.

Vice President James Morales: As a point of information regarding budgeting expenses for the future, big capital expenses like repairing a roof or something like that. Those decisions are not made by one individual in Campus recreation. That involves a whole lot of people and discussion with committees like the facilities department. Certain projects past a dollar amount cannot be carried out without all the various levels approving those projects. There are checks and balances on that. Daniel could not make that decision. I couldn’t make that decision alone. On top of that, the ARC established a group of students called the ARC Advisory Board that makes decisions on how the ARC is used. There is a strong student voice in that process as well. I wanted to add that so you understand the process.

Johnathan Ashdown: I am mostly in favor of this. I am a freshman and I have only heard positive support of the ARC. That’s the only one I ever hear about. Of all the fees you could possibly increase this would have the least pushback. I don’t think the average student would mind paying an extra $5 for the center they love. My reservation is the 99 cent increase. It’s good to increase to get us out of debt but that surplus would be better gained through camps or conferences and finding other places to cut.

Associate VP Eric Olsen: Camps have been mentioned a number of times. Athletics has a monopoly on
camps at our campus and so it would have to go to them and the revenue goes to individual coaches. If you ever participated in a camp in high school you realize it lasts for 2 to 4 days and in our current pre-covid camps that used the fieldhouse or the HPER they tie up that building from early in the morning till late at night. If the ARC started to host camps that would prevent student use. We have tried to protect the ARC only for student use. If you start to bring in some of these other areas that might not make significant revenue you will exclude your access to the facility.

**Senator Cooper Karras**: To second what Dr. Olsen was talking about, when the students voted to create the ARC the intention was it would be a facility for just the student body. If we invite others that would result in eliminating the reason the ARC was created in the first place to be exclusively for students. I do have some reservations about operating costs. That is something that if there was a problem with the ARC sometimes our hands are tied and we are going to have to front the money to cover things. All these other things like operating costs it is worthwhile to promote efficiency and accountability. But that might not result in a while lot of difference. About $48,927 of the operating expenses is not mandated expenses, so that’s maybe a dollar a student that we could potentially remove. But that would be if you removed all of those services. I think some concerns with efficiency are valid, but they might not equate to a huge change in actual student fee costs of operating the ARC.

**President Sami Ahmed**: I wanted to add also with some of the concerns that were brought up, we do have a week between now and next Wednesday. It would be worthwhile to question some of the expense waste. But going back to the 99 cents I don’t think our goal should be subsistence just to float. We should look at the ARC beyond just the finances as what it means for students. Having a nice facility is attractive and encourages students to participate. The 99 cents will cover emergencies. Like lights or air conditioning. That’s the cushion that we are giving them so they don’t come back and say hey this is happening. With large ticket items we don’t have to worry about Daniel making that call. The other thing to keep in mind is the Legacy Field is also an important aspect of Aggie Recreation. If we keep cutting into that we jeopardize the wellbeing of that field. The finances do seem scary and there is a tendency to look at the break even point but we should look at the other values. That’s where I’m coming from in supporting the full increase.

**VP Porter Casdorph**: I am in support of this fee increase, but I would love to explore the substitutions that may come into play as in the fieldhouse and what kind of improvements we are going to see and if that will take demand from the ARC. I would like to explore how when the renovations are done at the other buildings what level of increase of the demand of the ARC we will see.

**VP Cooper Karras**: I motion to exhaust the speakers list/

**President Sami Ahmed**: Seconded/Passed

**Director Rachel Arner**: I feel passionate about the ARC because I have spent so much time there. I’m not hesitant about improving the budget for student use. I want to make that clear. I think that making sure our facilities are functioning is a great idea. I guess I am hesitant in terms of I think there are a lot of things that weren’t mentioned at this meeting. We mentioned guest passes, but as of right now faculty can use the ARC but they have to pay $100 per semester or $300 per year. That’s not a lot of money coming in but it’s worth questioning where that money is going. It is important to recognize that the first thing to go is student staff for cutting budgets. That doesn’t make sense to me because the whole point is to benefit students. My hesitation is making sure that budget is going straight to the students and not that it’s being used for something weird. There are things on this list that maybe I am confused about. Like travel for example. I don’t know what that means. I think there are things that should be looked into before moving forward.

**VP Lucas Stevens**: Thank you that was a great discussion. I would encourage you to think critically and do research and come prepared for our next meeting. As well reach out to Daniel. I’m sure he’d be willing to meet with you or chat with you. We will also have this presentation for you to review. You can also contact Brock since he was over that fee meeting. As far as discussion on the technology fee decrease we
will move forward with that.

Senator Austin Flitton: I am in full support of the decrease. It is wise to re-evaluate it later on.

VP Lucas Stevens: We will now take a straw poll. I would just ask if you would be in support of the ARC fee increase first, and then we will take a straw poll for the IT fee decrease. Dr. Morales will take this information to the university’s executive council which is made up of the deans vice presidents, president and we will get their recommendations and input. We will start with the ARC fee increase.

Support: 15
Oppose: 0
Abstain: 6

VP Oscar Diaz: If we could get a revenue report from the ARC as well that would be helpful.

VP Lucas Stevens: Let’s move on to the IT fee decrease.

Support: Unanimous.

VP Lucas Stevens: I would now entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting

Moved: Senator Olivia Hoge/Senator Brock Hardcastle: Seconded/Passed,

IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Zimmerman, James Morales, Whitney Pugh, Sophia May

Officers: VP Lucas Stevens, President Sami Ahmed, Senator Alex Braeger, VP Jenn Ha, Director Rachel Arner, Senator Cooper Karras, VP Porter Casdorph, VP Trevor Wilkey, Senator Ryker Marble, Senator Maria Catalano, Senator Elizabeth Drake, Senator Olivia Hoge, Senator Noah Braeger, VP Oscar Diaz, Senator Brock Hardcastle, Senator Austin Flitton

Jonathan Ashdown, Niyonta Chowdhury-Magana, Hailey Darrow, Braden Morrill, Andrea Cumming, Clark Rawson, Chad Withers