

Incidental Fee Committee Open Hearing #1 Minutes
Thursday, November 19th, 2020 | 9:00 AM
Via Zoom (link in calendar invite, IFC Website, and Social Media)
Makana Waikiki in Chair

Minutes

1. Call to Order
 - i. Meeting was called to order by Makana Waikiki at 9:03 AM.
2. Approval of agenda
 - a. <https://forms.gle/SUkN4LyshEfFo52YA>
 - b. The agenda was approved.
3. Roll Call (name, position, pronouns)
 - a. IFC Members: Makana Waikiki, IFC Chair, Nick Denning, IFC Vice Chair, Juliana Cameron, IFC member, Quentin Kanta, IFC member, Carlos Fonseca, IFC member, Kayley Arpaia, IFC member, Elvis IFC member, Bianca, IFC member, Logan Jackson has an excused absence.
 - b. Advisors: Gary Dukes, IFC advisor, Darin Silbernagel, sitting in for Anna today as an IFC advisor. David McDonald has an excused absence today.
 - c. Area Heads: Randi Lydum, Athletics, David Janowiak, Creative Arts, Malissa Larson, Abby's House and Engage, Rip Horsey, Campus Recreation, Emmanuel, Wolf Ride, NJ Johnson, ASWOU President representing ASWOU, Tammy Gardner.
 - d. Other Representatives: Liz Marquez Gutierrez, IFC Senate President and IFC Proletarian.
 - e. IFC Secretary: Sharon Price

Old Business

4. None

New Business

5. Open Hearing

- a. Spreadsheet was shown for Winter 2021 Preliminary Allocations.

Number was changed for Campus Recreation to \$335,000 from \$415,006 as updated by Randi Lydum in Athletics due to changes in requests for 2 terms. Thank you to everyone who filled out the form.

Quentin asked what do the changes to athletic allocations reflect?

Randi explained that last Friday our conference took a vote on what teams were going to be participating in men's and women's basketball this season. Western Oregon was one of 6 teams who voted to opt out of traveling and playing competitive basketball this season. We felt that the risk of travel to 4 states and 2 countries at this point was not in our best interest. The State of Oregon, they are not allowing indoor competitive sports for non-Division I. They are still moving forward for outdoor women's soccer, baseball, softball, track and field and volleyball for winter and spring.

1. Student Testimony:

- Quentin Kanta: What do the changes to athletics reflect.
- Randi Lynum: WOU (one of 16) athletics chose to opt out of competitive athletic travel so they made changes. Men's and Women's basketball. Some were not changed.
- Steven Richmond: Commented that numbers are different from what was approved from last week. He also commented that any changes to things need to have a motion to be made in order to make this change.
- Makana: Athletics figures were changed as requested. Yes, she acknowledged that is true. She changed it back to the original and it would be changed later when the change of request will be reflected.
- Rionna Zeller: Junior at WOU advocate for campus recreation. She works out every day when she can and also works there. They take every single precaution with wearing masks everywhere and remind others to wear masks and clean everything. The hardest part in being the "faces of the gym" when students ask why can't they come in the morning and why can't they have more hours. She lets them know they don't have the money. She would like to advocate for students to be able to come work out in the mornings around their class schedules and to work out when money becomes available. They are one of the few places on campus still open where students can come. It's a place to work out and get rid of all the negative energy. She notes that it really helps her to

work out especially with all the craziness going on. She would like to advocate for campus recreation and for her job.

- Maya Hopwood: She would like to advocate for track and field. Disappointed in the season and being a senior being able to compete with friends. She would like to see her senior friends. She would like to advocate because they are being really careful and travel safely. They wear masks, social distance and clean everything thoroughly. She would like to travel safely and participate.
- Lauren Berry: She is advocating for athletics. She is a senior here at WOU and it's her last year to participate here on the field and track team here at WOU. Throughout her four years, it's been the best experience that she has ever had being on campus with staff and especially the athletic staff. It has really helped her through troubled times. She is advocating for athletics. They had to cancel early last here, her second year participating. She would like to see her senior year, especially since spring sports and outdoor sports have the best chance with social distancing and reducing the amount of play with COVID. Thank you to IFC for all the hard work you do. She would really like to have the money to do and be able to do all that.
- Steven Richmond: Wants to help advocate to help all students and to include all WOU virtual students that can benefit from having IFC funds that can be really important even though we may not know it. These funds are important to support with IFC funds to support jobs and to keep as many people on the payroll so we aren't just a skeleton staff and to support students.

- Eli Nafzinger: He is with track and field. Advocating for athletics.

Thank you IFC for what you do. He has been personally affected with COVID with the last season. He is a sophomore and unable to participate last year and really wants to enjoy having the opportunity to participate this year. They have been taking all the right precautions with wearing masks at practice and socially distancing on the track and with weights. The actual athletic enrollment has been going up showing they are important here and embracing that. Thank you IFC for all you do.

- Justin Crosswhite. He is an athlete on the track and field team. He agreed with Maya and Eli's summary of this. They are excited to have more opportunities moving into the spring which will be really really awesome. There has been a lot more energy on campus and a sort of normalcy and looking forward to more opportunities to compete. He is a 5th and beginning his graduate program. It's fun to go to meets and go to meets and to wear the "W" on his chest. The "W" really means a lot to him and all the athletes. Getting the money to be able to do that would be really really cool. He hopes funding will be made to continue. Thank you to IFC for all you do and all you make possible.
- Chandler Bishop: She is a fifth-year student on the softball team. Thank you to IFC, without you we wouldn't get to do a lot of what we do. The funding would just help them so much. She was a senior last year, and was in the middle of her game and the season got canceled. She has come back to finish. They are so excited to get their season back and going. They are taking all the safety precautions with everything. They are anxious to get their season going, and

everyone is working really hard with both the physical and the mental aspects. The extra funds will help with travel and will help them to continue and get their season going. She really appreciates IFC and couldn't make it without the funds. Thank you to IFC for making funds possible to do what they do, they couldn't do it without IFC.

- Antonia Scholerman: She is representing the Student Activities Board. She expressed her gratitude for all the hard work that you do and listening to student voices. As an employee of SAB, she really appreciates IFC funding for employment. Thank you IFC for funding different events and programs. One of their Primary goals is to keep students active and engaged in our community. They have been doing in-person and virtual events for students who are in town or at home so all students can still be engaged with our campus community. This is available to all students whether they are on campus, don't feel comfortable coming to campus or are taking online classes. Thank you for giving her the opportunity to speak to you and to talk about the Student Activities Board and giving students a platform to talk about our student fees. Thank you for IFC funds to help make these events happen.
- Sydney Carpenter: She is the news editor for the Western Owl. She is not here to advocate for funding or anything but is advocating for student autonomy over this fee since everything has happened with COVID. Admin is messing with y'all. She thinks it's important to have as many students at this meeting to show that students care and she wants to show her support for you all.

- Makana: That was the list and no one else was listed who wanted to speak. Does anyone have any questions on anything you wanted to know? This is the point where you ask anything you want to know. This is when you have a question about a number, you can ask. This is where we can have an open dialogue and conversation and on IFC as a whole. This is when we go into break out rooms, that she is awkward about but this is the point where you can ask anything you need or want to know. Why is that this way, an open conversation on preliminary questions.
 - NJ Johnson: Just wanted to be sure you got an email, as advertised as Chair, that you got an email with a statement to be read at this meeting. Did you get an email, Makana?
 - Makana: No, I did not get an email for this meeting. Makana asked if anyone has any other questions? No one responded.
 - Sydney Carpenter: Regarding decision and was what determined from the last meeting about fees being assessed. She wanted to know if they should talk privately?
 - Makana said they are working with the community about fees. They will talk later.
6. Break Out Room Sessions were called with 2 IFC members assigned to each room. There were approximately 36 people at the zoom meetings divided up.
7. Messages from the Floor:
- Quentin Kanta: Wanted to let everyone know of some of the obstacles that they faced over the summer and some of the decisions that were made for providing funding beyond what was requested contingent on being able to keep everyone

at full time or bring their hours up to full time. Ultimately that didn't

happen even though that was what the special incidental fee committee had requested. If anyone has any questions, please ask. This would be a great time to ask. This has been a huge concern that the IFC has had. IFC wants to be completely upfront and honest with students about the obstacles that we have faced and who is responsible for these obstacles. They would love to share with you and talk about it.

- Nick Denning wants to share with anyone who has questions.
- Makana asked for questions so they can share with students. She is happy to share one on one for anyone wanting to talk.
- Nick Denning: In his capacity as a student, where does the money come from that funds things and where does the money come from. Who is paying the fee? How much is the fee?
- Quentin Kanta: Because of COVID and everything that's going on this year and everything that 2020 has been and that has happened this year, typically what the ICF Committee would do is, it makes the decision for the entire next year during winter term. During that term, they will make the decision for the following year for fall, winter and spring term for the next fiscal year. This year, that didn't happen so we are taking it term by term. Breaking it down, the money for fall term in the fall time in IFC funded areas came from the online course fee. Over the summer, the Special Incidental Fee Committee felt that their efforts to charge and collect IFC fees and were being blocked by the Administration. The Oregon Statute, which is ORS 352 105 provides for an incidental fee which is the law that

allows us to do what we do as a committee. They felt like the Administration was violating that law so they decided to file an appeal with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, which is basically like a whole group of people in Salem who make decisions for universities in the state of Oregon. Those are the people who issue guidelines for what people are allowed to do and are not allowed to do. ICF was going to file an appeal and ask so who is breaking the law and who isn't. Then President Fuller said, "Hey if you don't do that, I will give you one million dollars from the online course fee, and that will mostly fund all the IFC funded areas for fall term. The Special Incidental Fee Committee took that offer because a win with the HECC was not guaranteed. So, we took that money and so that is where the money for fall term has come from. Everyone in an IFC funded area like campus recreation or student engagement and creative arts, all those areas, all those people who have jobs, have President Fuller to thank for the money he has offered to us or forced us to take the one million dollars and drop that appeal to the HECC. So, for winter term, we think it's incredibly important that we charge the incidental fee again, which is not because we are power hungry or like we want your money. Basically, it's because the way that Oregon state law is written, the incidental fee is the only fee that students at Oregon public universities pay that they have control over. All the other fees that you pay

like the building fees, your health and wellness fee, online course fees, all of those, we have no say over. As a committee, we've asked plenty of questions of Administrators about the online course fee, there is no accountability or transparency. We've gotten no response or any answers about how much money has been raised on that or where that money is going. So, we think it's important that we are charging and collect incidental fees because we don't think that the incidental fee committee should be pushed around because we don't think we should have to roll over and take this. We think that because we are students we have a level of legal obligation to represent and support students. We want to collect student voices and let students have a say over where their money is going. When administrators have asked us direct questions like "why do you feel you need to change an incidental fee winter term?" We can respond with, "well, not only is it important because it's the only fee that students have a say over, but also because we are the committee that is in charge of charging and collecting that fee. We can tell departments, "Hey, stop laying off people." He is sure that everyone knows, there have been a ton of layoffs all over campus, whether it's staff, faculty and like janitorial staff on campus. There has been a slew of layoffs and so as a committee we are trying to prevent that from happening again in the future. So basically, what our proposal is for winter term is we want to

charge \$150 or \$175 as an incidental fee which is significantly less than what is normally charged. They didn't want to break the bank for students and wanted to charge a reasonable amount that would still provide for these areas. This would provide us to pay salaries in these areas. With this \$150- \$175 amount, we would still need to pull funds from reserves. That is how committed we are to keeping costs low to students so the entire burden is not on students, nor should it be on students. It is both IFC and the Administration's job to provide programs, services and jobs to students. We are trying to protect accountability and transparency as much as we can. The allocations that were shown at the beginning of the meeting were made with the expectation that the Board of Trustees will allow us to change an incidental fee for winter term. Even if every single student voiced support for charging an incidental fee, and even if you said you wanted to pay even more for an incidental fee, this still would not guarantee that the Board of Trustees would respect our decision. Every single student at Western Oregon University could say that they wanted to pay an incidental fee so everyone could have jobs and we could have control over our fees, it could still be rejected by Administrators and Board of Trustees. They could still not honor our decision and still reject it. So that is the obstacle that we are facing. AS the IFC, it doesn't matter how much support we have, the Board of Trustees could still reject that decision. That brings everyone up to date. I am very passionate about this issue and it is very upsetting.

- Sydney Carpenter: The other things that students might not know is that Rex Fuller is made the offer, originally talking a million dollars for winter term and then went back on that offer and offered \$415,000 with the agreement that there would be no modifications to the fee that they had established in the spring. They offered the \$415,000 and that they didn't make any modifications to their two-tier fee system. They decided they didn't want to be dependent on Rex Fuller. They decided they wanted to move forward with their normal processes, but unfortunately Rex Fuller is probably going to withdraw his offer to fund it. The IFC hasn't been able to meet with the Board of Trustees because they haven't approved an emergency meeting. So, then you have this thing where you're not getting funding and can't meet with Rex Fuller or the Board of Trustees so then you have to wonder where money is going to come from. They have reserves, but you have to keep in mind there is spring term and this is for winter term. If by spring term they only have \$300,000 in their reserves and Rex Fuller might not offer them any more money come spring term, what are they going to do? That's why they are talking about appealing to HECC again. They're why we are at this point because these funded areas could really be in trouble, I guess is the best way to put it. That's why they are doing what they are doing and it's important to keep all these things in mind.
- Quentin Kanta: The \$415,000 Rex Fuller offered for winter term that was initially offered and would backfill us up to one million which basically means, so the example we gave in our committee was charging a \$20 incidental fee to students. That would not generate a lot of money and we would not be able to

fund all of the IFC areas or requests with that amount of incidental fees.

Then President Fuller offered to make up the difference to make balance to one million dollars. So, if we collect \$50,000 worth of ICF fees, then he would give us the balance. That offer was made to us, it was made to NJ Johnson, ASWOU President who is on this call. This offer was immediately walked back after committee members voice support of making the lowest possible incidental fee. The \$415,000 dollars he is offering now is a significant reduction from what he initially offered us. He completely walked back multiple promises that were made to us about a stimulus. Main issue IFC is concerned with is that over the summer the incidental fee committee made a decision and said, "hey, since everything is online now and we didn't choose to go online and we weren't privy to that decision, that was made without any student involvement or input. We feel that the incidental fee should be charged to both the in person and online classes. The way it was written before incidental fees could only be collected from students who were taking in-person classes. Due to the fact that only 5% of students at Western are now taking in person classes fall term. We have received very little incidental fees and that did come close to covering everything. So, our main concern is that we have been pushing for 4 months for the Board of Trustees to approve our motion to redefine a fee-paying student as any student attending and taking classes would be charged. In person classes are not going to be happening for the unforeseeable time and we feel we should be able to charge all students the incidental fee. I don't feel it would be safe for anyone to go back to classes. This will enable people to be able to keep their jobs and

work on campus. The main conflict with the Board of Trustees is that they are unwilling to approve that decision and are not even willing to talk about that decision. They are not even willing to meet with the IFC. Both the Board of Trustees and President Fuller, they have made the lowest attempts to meet with us to talk about this. So, we have not been able to meet and talk about this. So, for winter term, we are afraid they still are going to be willing to honor that decision that we've made to be able to charge students, taking both online and in person classes.

- Makana Waikiki: Thank you Quentin. That may have been a bit confusing because that's not something you usually hear at an IFC meeting. Simply put, they want to charge every student so everyone pays less, so instead of some paying more and some paying less. So as a community and as a student body, everyone would share the burden all together and help our programs and services at the level we need them to stay at and would benefit everybody.
- Gary Dukes: Wants to voice that representations have been made and beliefs that people have. He wants to voice that he didn't know that President Fuller had offered the million dollars that is the figure out there. He wants to fund the needs as stated in the letter he sent to IFC. He didn't know where the million dollars came from. He wants to voice that he feels there are mischaracterizations going on.
- NJ Johnson: "He made that offer to me in a meeting which I then brought to IFC."

- Quentin Kanta: Made the point that meetings are public and recorded and available to anyone and that you can go back anytime and see that everything that is being said is factual. He invites anyone to go back and watch them and fact check anything that he has been said. If you don't believe me, I invite you to go back and watch them and then you will see that every single thing he has said is supported and provided in meetings. I have typed in the chat. The offer was made in a meeting to NJ, then brought to me and immediately shared. It did happen and is a fact.
- Makana Waikiki: The Western Owl has produced an article about this. If you have any questions about our bylaws and the minutes are on the IFC webpage. Let us know if you want to see and have any questions.
- Sydney Carpenter: She has been documenting and tracking the IFC meetings and what has been happening with this and the Board of Trustees since October. She has attended every meeting and has it all documented. She has everything that has been said between Rex Fuller and the Board of Trustees and this committee. Please feel free to see these condensed in the articles so you can see what's been happening and what's been going on.
- Makana Waikiki: Thank you Sydney. Please see our transcripts. Great things written in the chat: "An informed student is an empowered student!" This is your fee and we represent you. So, knowing what you are fighting for is the best way to be an active member of our student body.
- Quentin Kanta: As a student, stepping back from his role as an IFC member, his personal opinion was that the million-dollar amount offered over the summer by

Rex Fuller was a blackmail offer. The IFC had a strong case to bring to HECC that what they were doing was unlawful regarding our ability to charge and collect incidental fees. He believes that the fall term amount was an effort to blackmail because it is unlawful. He believes the offer that was washed out is another effort to blackmail students. We need students to get upset because he believes that it is going to happen in future terms. We are reliant on you to voice your concerns to the administration if we don't stand up and fight for ourselves.

- Makana Waikiki: Each one of us can have our own interpretation of things. I can't step away from my role in IFC. Please don't be mad at us, but please see what you need to say anytime. You can email or call Makana anytime. Meeting ended early. Next open hearing will be happening tomorrow, Friday, November 20. Please come so we can get as much input as possible. You can also fill out the google form and they will be read on the IFC meeting on November 25 at 8:30 - 10:30 am to make our final allocations. We will be happy to have you all there.
- Quentin Kanta: He went to an open meeting last year, no disrespect to anyone but it was pretty boring. This term though, it has been a dramatic fall term. It's been a whirlwind of a term. He encouraged everyone to come to voice your opinions. If you thought this was a worthwhile use of your time, please encourage your friends and please come join us tomorrow.
- Makana Waikiki: Encouraged everyone to come and share your opinions. If you don't want to speak, that's totally fine. Please come and attend.

- Blanca Jimenez: Encouraged everyone from Western, your friends and coworkers. Encouraged everyone to get the word out to attend. We want to get more students to attend and voice your opinions. It's really important to us and it means a lot to have everyone attend today. Thank you for coming and taking time out of your schedule to attend today.
 - Makana Waikiki: Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting today. It means a lot to us.
8. Adjournment:
- i. Meeting was adjourned by Makana at 10:19 AM.