Working Group Report on Category-II Student Success Fees

CSU Board of Trustees
Item 6 Committee on Finance
November 13, 2014

Chancellor Timothy P. White
Working Group Charge

- Review and present findings on the following:
  - Process and history of enaction and approval
  - Process of informing the chancellor and trustees
  - Accountability and outcome reporting processes
  - Impact on student success and affordability
  - Variation across the 23-campus CSU system
Public Comment

• Three campus open forums held in late September
  • CSU Northridge
  • Sonoma State
  • CSU Los Angeles
• Online feedback received through October 14, 2014
• Designated email address for comments, resolutions, and recommendations
Findings

• *Process and history of enaction and approval*
  
  • Studied category-II mandatory fees history and processes at 12 campuses currently with student success fees
    
    o 10 out of the 12 used alternative consultation
    
    o 1 campus used student referendum
    
    o 1 campus used student referendum *only if* students participated in an informational session
Findings

• *Process of informing the chancellor and Board of Trustees*

  • Current model chancellor informed after the fact

  • Annual report to the board on all systemwide campus-based mandatory fees
Findings

- **Accountability and outcome reporting processes**
  - Varies by campus
  - Improvement on clarity, transparency, and accountability
    - Revenues generated
    - Revenues invested
    - Impact on student success
  - Greater student involvement in allocation decisions
Findings

• *Impact on student success and affordability*
  • 5 broad themes *opposing* fees
    ○ Present financial burdens that negatively impacted students
    ○ Are another form of tuition
    ○ Lack transparency and student input
    ○ Should be paid for by the State
    ○ Hinder progress to degree
Findings

• *Impact on student success and affordability*
  
  • Numerous testimonies from students, faculty, and staff **supporting** fees
    
      o Enhance the total student experience
      o Promote a quality education
      o Provide additional faculty, staff, and classes
      o Increase technology and classroom equipment
      o Increase critical student services
Findings

• *Variation across the 23-campus CSU system*

• Currently:
  
  o 12 of the 23 campuses have student success fees
  
  o Fees range from $162-$830/year (*at full implementation*)
  
  o Student success fees average 4% of total tuition and campus-based mandatory fees (ranges from 2-9%)
Findings

• **Variation across the 23-campus CSU system**

• Financial Aid:
  
  o 57% of all undergraduates receive full tuition and category-I fee waivers
    
    o On average typically receive an *additional* yearly total over $3,000
  
  o All mandatory fees are included in calculation of student’s total cost of attendance

  o All category II-V fees are expected to be paid out of financial aid package or out of pocket
Working Group Recommendations

• Existing success fee plans remain unchanged

• No sunsetting provision

• Rigorous consultation process followed by a binding (50% + 1) student vote
Next Steps for Working Group

• Public meeting to finalize recommendations for January board meeting

• Consult with Legislature before February 1, 2015