

**FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 23, 2007**

Members Present

Whitney Diver
Joel Metzger
Maureen Buckley
J.C. Abajian
Tristan Kelley
Katie McCormick
Danielle Lusebrink
Tim Wandling

Associated Students President
Associated Students Senator, Social Sciences
Academic Senate Student Affairs Committee Liaison
Student-at-Large
Associated Students V.P. of Finance
Staff Representative
Student-at-Large
Faculty Chair, Academic Senate

Members Absent

Staff Present

Katie Pierce, Co-Chair

Committee Staff, AVP for Academic Resources

Guest Present:

Ryan Hammes

Outdoor Recreation & Sports Club Coordinator

Meeting Agenda

- I. Minutes of October 9, 2007
- II. Proposal for Low-Ropes Course – Ryan Hammes
- III. Review Patrick Lenz memo regarding Fee Moratorium

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

Meeting Packet:

Agenda
Minutes of October 9, 2007 meeting
P.Lenz Memo of October 12, 2007

At the Meeting:

Hardcopy of Powerpoint format: SSU Adventure Programs Low Ropes Course Proposal

Katie Pierce convened the meeting at 3:50. A quorum was present. Guest Ryan Hammes was present as the meeting convened so Pierce moved directly to Item II on the agenda

- I. Minutes of October 9, 2007 - Minutes were predistributed electronically and presented in hardcopy, Review was deferred until the next meeting.

- II. Proposal for Low-Ropes Course at SSU – At the meeting of October 9 the committee learned via letter from Mr. Hammes, that as planning for installation of the Low-Ropes Course moved forward with campus Capital Planning and Design it became clear that unanticipated costs would significantly increase the cost of the project Mr. Hammes recapped the proposal he presented last year and provided a powerpoint-style presentation explaining the format and benefits of the course. He explained that many on-campus groups would benefit including students in the new Outdoor Leadership major track (ENSP), Freshman Year Experience classes, student orientation programs, Kinesiology classes, as well as clubs and organizations. If so used, many hundreds of students would use the course annually. He envisions the course as a resource for team building, personal growth and group experience, but doesn't see it as a money-maker or business-style operation. He indicated that he thought it would be a good idea to open the course to off-campus groups (after making sure on-campus groups had plenty of access) but he didn't anticipate a great demand. In response to the FAC's questions he offered the following:
 - There are no low-ropes courses in our region, but high-ropes courses are available in Occidental, Geyserville, and Fort Miley in the Golden Gate Recreation Area.

- He has not researched other sources of funding for the ropes course.
- There will be a need for a modest level of continuing funding either from fees to use the course or IRA funding to cover staff training, staffing for use of the course, safety inspections and up-keep. These functions will be integrated “in-house” at the Recreation Center.
- The course will be constructed to last for many years with intermittent maintenance of cables and ropes. He noted, though, that construction is planned in an area that may, in ten years or so, be required for expansion of the Recreation Center building.

In further discussion with Mr. Hammes a FAC member suggested that Eric Dickson from the Associated Students might be able to negotiate with Capital Planning for a reduction in their administrative fees. It was noted that the first hurdle for the ropes course is approval from the Campus Planning Committee which meets twice per year, Fall & Spring. If the project is to be approved, Mr. Hammes hopes it will be soon so that he has a chance to get on the Fall agenda and move forward with the construction this year so that the course can be operational in 08/09. He left the meeting and the Committee continued deliberations.

Members of the FAC were impressed that the course would reach so many students. Two members related their positive experiences as participants in ropes programs. Members commented that a ropes course seems appropriate for SSUs rural setting and traditional emphasis on outdoor activity.

The committee was concerned though, wondering if Mr. Hammes (and Rec.Center leadership) is really interested in and committed to creating the ropes course. Also, if the Recreation Center is expanded the course would have to be relocated. Where would it go, or would it simply be destroyed? Should it be constructed elsewhere originally?

As meeting time grew short Ms. Pierce suggested the Committee focus discussion by considering the following: To recommend reserving the additional \$18,100 funding required, requesting Mr. Hammes to get the item on the Fall agenda of the Campus Planning Committee and include discussion of appropriate location, or relocation, of the course, with final commitment of funding pending the outcome of those discussions.

Tristan Kelly expressed strong reservations about funding the project, noting the significant cost increase (that could have been known earlier in the planning, had more research been done before the original proposal), on-going costs and long-term concerns about the location. Whitney Diver provided a counterpoint, with her opinion that in creative and ambitious projects it is natural for lofty ideals to be tempered with realities faced in the implementation process. That should not be reason enough not to take some risks and proceed toward goals.

After lengthy discussion the Committee voted in favor of Ms. Pierce’s suggestion with the stipulation that the question of a permanent location be satisfactorily resolved. Ms. Pierce was asked to meet with Mr. Hammes and inform him about the decision as well as the lingering concerns.

Items I and III of the agenda were deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Pierce, Chair
Assoc. Vice President for Academic Resources