USF Board of Trustees
December 2, 2004

Issue:
Need for additional funding from the Activity and Service Fee.

Proposed action:
Approve increase of A&S Fees to increase funding for several student programs and services.

Background information:
A&S fees are collected and distributed by Student Government to promote Student Life and Wellness on campus. Each student pays $7.10 per credit hour and a flat rate of $7.00 per semester into the A&S account. The budget for 2004 was approximately 8 million dollars. There has been no increase in A&S fees since 1992.

A&S fees are used to fund six Student Affairs entities, all student organizations and the entire operation of student Government along with its agencies. It also funds Academic College Councils.

In the fall of 2004, a committee comprised of four faculty and staff members and four students met to recommend a fee increase proposal to enhance funding for student organizations, increase funding for travel expenses for students to present research, increase allocations to the Marshall Center project. The committee unanimously agreed that the current credit hour fee of $7.10 should be increase to $7.89. The supporting documentation describes the recommendations of that committee’s deliberations.

Workgroup Review: Fiscal Workgroup/Executive Committee, November 23, 2004
Supporting documentation: A&S Increase Proposal, letter to President Genshaft, Student Government Resolution #4, Minutes of the A&S Fee Committee's deliberations and recommendation.

Prepared by: Elizabeth O. Kaplon for Vice President Kofi Glover
(813) 974-7435
ACTIVITY AND SERVICE (A&S) Fee Increase Proposal

Bijal Chhadva, Student Body President
Andrew Aubery, Student Body Vice President

USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ACTIVITY AND SERVICE (A&S) FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL

Bijal Chhadva, Student Body President
Andrew Aubery, Student Body Vice President

What are A&S fees?

A&S fees are monies collected and distributed by Student Government to promote Student Life and Wellness on campus. Each student pays $7.10 per credit hour and a flat rate of $7.00 per semester that goes into this A&S account. In 2004, the budget was approximately 8 million dollars.

What are A&S fees used for?

A&S fees are used to fund the following Student Affairs entities:
1. Campus Activities Board
2. Campus Recreation
3. Marshall Center
4. Student Disability Services
5. University Lecture Series
6. Veterans Services

In addition, these fees are used to fund the Academic College Councils, all student organizations that are open to all USF students – approximately 180 different groups, and the entire operation of Student Government along with its agencies (WBUL Radio, Student Resource Agency, SAFE Team, Homecoming and SG Computer Services).

The reasons we would like to increase the A&S fees by an additional $0.79 per credit hour are:

1. There has been no increase in the A&S fee per credit hour since 1992. There has been a $7.00 flat fee assessed in 2000. However, the number of students has grown immensely and the need for more and better programs and services has increased in order to keep up with other state institutions in Florida.

2. We want to increase funding for student organizations. The total request of all the student organizations totaled $712,289 in 2004. However, only $281,838 has been allocated. Also, several student organizations ask for money throughout the academic year. We would like to increase student organizations’ budgets so that they can put on more events, market
themselves more, do more things for the students and provide a complete college experience to the students involved.

3. We want to increase funding for travel expenses for students to present research findings at different conferences throughout the United States. This is in line with the University of South Florida’s mission – to be among the top 50 public research institutions.

4. We would like to allocate more money towards the enhancement of the Marshall Center so that the project can be realized. Presently, we now allocate $250,000 towards the project. We would like to increase this to about half a million dollars each year so that the project is completed quicker and our Marshall Center is one of the best student unions in the state.

5. We would like to allocate more money towards Campus Activities Board and Homecoming so that they can bring in more high profile performers on a regular basis. Bringing top class performers will encourage more students to come out to the events, enhance their college experience, and will bring more name recognition to our University.

6. Student Resource Agency, Safe Park (a part of SAFE team), SG Computer Services, WBUL, and a new agency called SG Marketing will require additional funds to maintain their current services and to expand services to enhance student life.

7. Andrew Honker, the Director of Campus Recreation will be retiring this week. His salary came from E&G funds since he was a professor. His replacement however will be paid with A&S funds.

An increase of **$0.79 per credit hour** would bring in approximately the following amount of dollars next year:

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<tr>
<th>SCH</th>
<th>Increase per credit hour</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>600,000</td>
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<td>800,000</td>
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Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact us:

Bijal Chhadva, Student Body President 974 2328 or president@sg.usf.edu
Andrew Aubery, Student Body VP 974-9991 or vp@sg.usf.edu
October 26, 2004

Dr. Judy Genshaft
President
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida 33620

Dear President Genshaft:

The Activity & Service Fee Committee has completed its work and is pleased to forward its recommendation to you for appropriate action. The committee met to review the request submitted by the Student Body President to increase the Activity & Service (A&S) Fee by $.79 per credit hour. Student Government raised the following justifications for the fee increase:

- There had been no A&S fee increase since July 1999 when a $7.00 flat fee was implemented. The last credit hour fee increase was in July 1992.
- Student Government wants to increase funding to student organizations.
- Student Government wants to increase funding for travel expenses of students attending conferences to present research findings.
- Student Government wants to allocate more money towards the Marshall Center Expansion and Enhancement project.
- Student Government wants to allocate more money to Homecoming and Campus Activities Board so that they can bring in high profile performers on a regular basis.
- Student Government wants to expand the services provided by Student Resource Agency, Safe Park, SG Computer Services, WBUL, and SG Marketing.
- Additional funding is needed to support Campus Recreation since the Director, who was paid with E&G funds, has retired and his position will no longer be funded with E&G funds; therefore, A&S will be required to fund the salary of his replacement.

The committee members who voted agreed unanimously that the current credit hour fee of $7.10 should be increased to $7.89. The recommendation was forwarded to all committee members for their comments, concerns, and feedback. The feedback that was received indicated unanimous support. The rational for the committee’s recommendation was not based solely on the reasons highlighted by Student Government since the committee felt that Student Government’s desire to allocate additional moneys to student organizations,
academic travel grants, Homecoming, CAB, Student Government agencies, and the Marshall Center was not strong enough justification for raising the A&S fee alone. However, the committee felt that these reasons coupled with other budget and operational realities warranted the increase. Other justifications for the increase considered by the committee were:

- The impact of inflation would dictate that, after a period of time, the fee would need to be raised if the level of services and support provided by the A&S fee were to remain high. It was noted that over the past 5 years the cost of tuition, housing, meal plans and other college expenses had risen so it seems justifiable that there would also be a need to increase A&S fees.
- The increase in the residential population on the campus over the past 5 years would seem to dictate that there is a greater need for Student Government and the University to provide expanded and new services and programs for the students.
- It was noted that the expectations of today’s students are higher than the students of the past which again dictates a greater need for Student Government and the University to provide expanded and new services.
- Auxiliary Operations funded by A&S fees have been recently impacted by a 5% assessment to help pay for faculty increases and this assessment, which will continue in the future, will result in a need for additional A&S funding to offset the charges.
- The possibility of a minimum wage increase as a result of a constitutional amendment will impact the A&S budget significantly since Campus Recreation, Marshall Center, Student Government, and CAB employ over 500 students working at or close to the current minimum wage.
- Additional funding will be needed by Campus Recreation to pay for a position that was previously funded with E&G money. Campus Recreation, the Marshall Center and some other A&S funded entities are being asked to become more independent of university support. The shifting of funding from E&G to A&S has and will continue to impact the A&S budget.

The committee fully supports the proposal to increase the current Activity & Service Fee. The committee realizes that this increase could have some negative impacts. The increase could raise the cost of a student’s education and may adversely impact enrollment. However, the committee feels that this increase is minimal relative to the total cost of tuition to have any appreciable impact on enrollment. The committee also feels that this minimal fee increase will have a positive affect on the quality of life for the USF student. The committee is also recommending that Student Government work with the Division of Student Affairs to consider altering their philosophy on future A&S fee increases. The committee believes that increasing the fee in small increments on an annual basis would
have less of an impact on students and would be a more effective budgetary practice than significantly increasing the fee every 4 – 6 years. Most of the other state universities endorse small annual increases in lieu of infrequent large increases and we believe that USF should adopt the same practice.

Because there is a limit on the amount that local fees can be set in relation to tuition, the committee feels that the University needs to be extremely cautious in regards to future increased assessments on A&S supported auxiliary operations. Increased assessments on these auxiliary entities ultimately results in the need for additional A&S funding.

Respectfully,

Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong, Chair

Enclosures:
1. Student Government Proposal
2. Meeting Minutes
3. 2003-2004 A&S Budget
4. A&S Fee Analysis – SUS
5. Senate Resolution

CC: Dr. Kofi Glover, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs
Resolution #4
45th Term
Fall 2004

Whereas, the University of South Florida has not had an increase in the A & S fee per credit hour since 1992.

Whereas, the University of South Florida Student Government has been increasing the amount of funds allocated to Student Organizations, Student Government Branches, Agencies and Entities every Budgetary Term.

Whereas, the amount of funds requested exceeds significantly the amount of funds available.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Student Government Senate of the University of South Florida supports the Activity and Service Fee Increase Proposal.

Date Introduced: 10/19/04    Date Passed/Failed: 10/19/04

Vote: 29 For 12 Against 2 Abstain    Acclimation

Stavros Papandreou, Senate President

10/20/2004
Date

Bijal Chhadva, Student Body President

Author: Stavros Papandreou, College of Medicine
Sponsor: Stavros Papandreou, College of Medicine
Members in Attendance:

Dr. Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong, Chair
Joe Synovec, Staff, Marshall Center
Renee Seay, Staff, Campus Recreation/USPS Senate
Syed Hussain, Student

Members Not in Attendance:

Luz Arcila, Staff, Student Affairs
Kevin Archer, Faculty, Arts & Sciences
Stacy Sam-chee, Student
Amy Eckert, Student
Taniesha Phillips, Student

Visiting Guests:

Bijal Chhadva, Student Body President

The meeting began at 8:05 pm, Monday, October 18, 2004, in Room 3432 of the Business Administration Building. Although the full committee was not in attendance, it was decided that quorum would be waived because of the tight deadline placed on the committee.

Introduction:

Dr. Brempong, Chair, informed the committee of the charter of the committee. The Chair advised the committee that they were on a very tight timeline and that October 26th had been set as the deadline for the committee to render a report to President Genshaft.

Dr. Brempong then introduced Bijal Chhadva to the committee and invited the Student Body President to address the committee and brief them on the proposal to increase A&S fees.

Presentation:

Bijal began his presentation by giving an overview of what Activity & Service Fees were, how they are allocated, how they are assessed, and what organizations are supported by the funds. He advised the committee that Student Government was
requesting a $.79 per credit hour fee increase which would raise the A&S credit hour fee from $7.10 to $7.89. Bijal stated that the credit hour fee at UCF was $8.09 and FAU’s A&S fee was $10.00. Bijal provided the committee with a written proposal detailing the rational for the fee increase (enclosure 1). He also provided the committee with a copy of the 2003-2004 A&S budget (enclosure 2). He then highlighted the key reasons for the fee increase request:

- There had been no A&S fee increase since July 1999 when a $7.00 flat fee was implemented. The last credit hour fee increase was in July 1992.
- Student Government wants the increase so that additional funding can be provided to student organizations.
- Student Government wants to increase funding for travel expenses of students attending conferences to present research findings.
- Student Government wants to allocate more money towards the Marshall Center Expansion and Enhancement project.
- Student Government wants to allocate more money to Homecoming and Campus Activities Board so that they can bring in high profile performers on a regular basis.
- Additional funding is needed to support expanding and new services provided by Student Government such as Student Resource Agency, Safe Park, SG Computer Services, WBUL, and SG Marketing.
- Additional funding is needed to increase funding to Campus Recreation since the Director, who was paid with E&G funds, is retiring and his position will no longer be support with E&G funds; therefore, A&S funds will be required to fund the salary of his replacement.

Questions:

Bijal was asked if UCF and FAU also assessed a flat fee along with a credit hour fee; he did not know.

The Chair asked Bijal why A&S fees were being used to fund travel for students to present research findings since this is an academic purpose and outside the scope of the A&S fees. Joe Synovec provided the committee with information on the history of the Conference and Presentation Grant which started in 2000. He stated that the funding was initially implemented to address concerns raised by the Graduate Student Council and that the program has grown and become so popular that it not only serves a direct need of supporting students when academic funds are not available but an indirect need of marketing and promoting student government among the graduate student population.

A question was raised why additional funds were required for funding the Marshall Center expansion project since a separate fee was already in place for this
purpose. Bijal stated that additional funding by student government would ensure that the project was completed faster and that the building was large enough to meet the needs of USF. Joe Synovec then provided the committee with a background on the project and some concerns recently raised by the Board of Governors. The concerns are being addressed; however, the resolution of these issues has unfortunately delayed the project and the BOG concerns could possibly impact the funding strategy for the project which would require downsizing phase 1 of the project.

Renee Seay asked Bijal how the $.79 fee was determined. Bijal said that there is a statutory limit on how high local fees can be in relation to tuition costs. Because athletics is seeking an increase of $.42 per credit hour the maximum increase that can be sought for A&S fees is $.79 to stay under the maximum cap.

Joe asked Bijal if the Student Senate was in agreement with the increase. Bijal said that the Senate President was aware of the proposal. Joe suggested that it might be advisable to have the Senate discuss this issue at the meeting on Tuesday night, October 19th, and get a consensus of their support. Joe stated that if the Senate concurs with the fee proposal it would be much easier for the committee to support the increase plus it would provide affirmation to the Student Body President that the increase would be better supported by the student body as a whole. Bijal agreed that this would be a good idea and stated he would bring the fee up at the Senate meeting and either get a Senate resolution passed or have the Senate President email the Committee Chair to forward the Senate’s concurrence or non-concurrence with the fee proposal.

Discussion:

After Bijal finished his presentation and all questions were raised, he departed and the committee began deliberation.

Dr. Brempong stated that wanting to allocate additional moneys to student organizations, academic travel grants, Homecoming, CAB and the Marshall Center might not be strong enough justification for raising the A&S fee but there were probably some very strong reasons for an increase. Some of the reasons suggested by the Chair and other members of the committee were:

- The impact of inflation would dictate that, after a period of time, the fee would need to be raised if the level of services and support provided by the A&S fee were to remain high. It was noted that over the past 5 years the cost of tuition, housing, meal plans and other college expenses had risen so it seems justifiable that there would also be a need to increase A&S fees.
- The increase in the residential population on the campus over the past 5 years would seem to dictate that there is a greater need for Student
Government and the University to provide expanded and new services and programs for the students. The Chair noted that the number of students that he sees on the campus at 7:00 pm when he leaves work has drastically increased over the years.

- It was noted that the expectations of today’s students are higher than the students of the past which again dictates a greater need for Student Government and the University to provide expanded and new services.
- It was raised by Renee Seay and Joe Synovec that there are several organizations funded by A&S fees that are auxiliary operations and the University recently added an additional assessment (5%) on auxiliary operations to help pay for faculty pay increases. These assessments would ultimately result in a need for additional A&S funding to offset the charges.
- The possibility of a minimum wage increase as a result of a constitutional amendment will impact the A&S budget significantly since Campus Recreation, Marshall Center, Student Government, and CAB employ over 500 students working at or close to the current minimum wage.
- The rationale presented by Bijal regarding the additional funding needed by Campus Recreation to pay for a position that was previously funded with E&G money is a strong justification for increased A&S fees. Campus Recreation, the Marshall Center and some other A&S funded entities are being asked to become more independent of university support. The shifting of funding from E&G to A&S has and will continue to impact the A&S budget.

The Chair queried the committee to get a sensing of their support for the fee.

- Syed Hussain, the sole student member at the meeting, stated that he felt that the increase was reasonable considering that it had been 5 years since the last increase and that the services provided by the fee, as proposed by Bijal, warranted support.
- Renee said that she supported the fee increase because A&S fees were being asked to support more and more of operations that had previously supported by E&G. She also stated that Campus Recreation will become more and more dependent on A&S funding to include future expansion of the recreation center so she felt the increase is needed.
- Joe expressed concern that there might not be a need for the fee this year because of the size of Student Government’s unallocated reserve; however, he felt that the funding of the Campus Director’s position, the new assessment placed on auxiliary operations, and increases in the travel grant would significantly reduce the reserve so, if not this year, an
increase would certainly be needed next year. Everyone agreed that the reserve was high and that Student Government could possibly avoid a fee increase this year; however, all agreed that it would be advisable to be proactive and approve the fee this year taking into consideration the demands being placed on the A&S fee.

A discussion was then held on what should be the committee’s next step. Joe suggested that the committee should not make any final decisions until feedback from the Student Senate is received. All agreed. Everyone also agreed that it was important to get feedback from the committee members who were unable to attend this evening’s meeting.

The chairs suggested that the final report from the committee might include the following:

- Support for the fee increase.
- Recommendation that Student Government raise the fee in smaller increments every year instead of large increases every 4-5 years. This approach is taken by most of the state universities and it makes the increase more palatable.
- Recommendation that the University be extremely cautious about how much they continue to tax the students in the future with additional assessments to provide needed student services.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Joseph P. Synovec
Recorder