Overview of Student Activity Fee Review

Meetings as of 12/31/2008: 25 (over 60 hours)

Issues Considered:

- Inflationary erosion of SAF and impact on program quality and quantity
- Financial burden on students versus SAF benefits such as enhancing student experience, retaining and attracting top students, helping to address University District issues, and providing low cost or free developmental, educational, and social programming
- Significant unmet needs with multiple SAF funded programs including Alternative Breaks, OUAB (Ohio Union Activities Board), Student Governments, Student Organization Resource Center (SOURCE), and Explore Columbus
- Expansion of Alternative Breaks to include service learning opportunities throughout Ohio and reduction of the necessity of turning away up to 50% of qualified applicants
- Large campus events not included in the SAF portfolio (many without stable funding)
  - Considered 30 programs for SAF Funding
  - Selected 14 programs for funding and designation as Signature Events
- Payment for student organizations programming
- Staffing support for Fee supported programs and services
- Operating funds for SAF support services, i.e., graphics, video production, and the SOURCE
- Capital equipment purchases needed for increased use of SAF supported programs
- Support of students through student governments and CSA

Outcomes

- SAF increase
  - Recommended SAF increase of $10 per quarter (total quarterly fee: $25)
  - No increase of the SAF for at least 4 years; proposed increase accounts for past and future inflation as well as some program expansion to meet student demands
  - Recommendations outlined below are only possible with fee increase
  - Without SAF increase, substantial erosion of programming and support for student activities on campus due in large part to inflation
- Pre-payment of programming expenses for Student Organizations to reduce financial burden on students
- Simple, comprehensible budget allocation structure of SAF
- Security for continued success of student oriented programming on campus
- Recommendation to extend the fee to cover fixed costs
  - Graphics and Video Production operations
  - Staffing
- Recommendation to extend SAF portfolio to include and support selected Signature Events
- Recommendation to increase funding for:
  - OUAB
  - Explore Columbus
  - SOURCE
  - Alternative Breaks
  - Student Governments