

UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 20, 2022

Attendees: Phil Phillips, Connie Horton, Greg Ramirez, Hung Le, Lee Kats, Maretno Agus Harjoto, Michael Feltner, Nicolle Taylor, Jim Gash, Jay Brewster, Marc Goodman, Donna Nofziger Plank, Danny DeWalt

Absent: Lauren Cosentino, Gary Hanson

I. UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CALL TO ORDER

Chief Operating Officer Phil Phillips called the University Management Committee meeting to order. The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Chief Financial Officer, Greg Ramirez, opened in prayer.

II. MEETING MINUTES

Upon the motion duly made and seconded, the University Management Committee minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting were approved.

III. AMPHITHEATER SPEAKERS

Vice President and Chief of Staff Danny DeWalt informed the Committee of the need for an upgraded and redesigned sound system for the amphitheater. Present challenges with the audio system include sound trespassing into Payson library and the surrounding classroom and office spaces, as well as unevenly distributed audio throughout the amphitheater. Due to the amphitheater's frequent usage and the robust catalog of events hosted in this central location, many departments would benefit from this upgrade.

Associate Vice President of Planning, Operations and Construction Ben Veenendaal described the construction details, installation timelines, and costs associated with a newly engineered sound system. The all-in cost (not including a contingency) is estimated at \$350,000; that estimate may change as more information is gained. The Committee shared support of the initiative and emphasized the importance that the enhanced sound system would improve the sound trespassing challenges. Upon the motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the installation of an upgraded sound system in the amphitheater.

IV. WELLNESS FEE DISCUSSION

Vice President of Student Affairs Connie Horton raised the need for a wellness fee. Horton shared facts and figures relating to student mental health, both nationally, and specific to Pepperdine. The staggering statistics indicated a steep rise in students experiencing hopelessness, loneliness, and thoughts of suicide since the start of the pandemic. Furthermore, staff retention and the depletion of health-related resources have proven difficult in recent times. Horton proposed a solution to assist in this University-wide issue through a wellness fee that would broaden the health-related

resources offered to students. Vice President of Student Affairs Connie Horton shared benchmarking data on wellness fees at other private universities throughout the country, noting the cost and included benefits. The Pepperdine wellness fee would reduce or eliminate barrier fees for health visits and fitness activities, as well as expand providers both on-ground and via telehealth platforms.

The Committee was overwhelmingly supportive of this initiative, and discussion ensued regarding having a separate wellness fee or including the cost into the flat-rate tuition. Upon the motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the wellness fee in concept, noting another vote will be conducted at a later date to approve the amount and full implementation.

V. HOUSING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chief Business Officer Nicolle Taylor presented proposed changes to the Housing Committee. Taylor articulated the current challenges of the on-campus residences allocation process, citing the lack of clarity in the application process, long waiting periods, and overall lack of transparency with applicants. In order to mitigate these difficulties, Taylor recommended automating the application through an online portal that would: 1) allow applicants to view where they stand in the process, and 2) provide descriptive educational documents on topics such as the purpose of HOAs, contingency loans, and the role of the Housing Committee.

Taylor described shifts in the composition of the Housing Committee including explaining the current committee, and the new membership breakdown which is intended to include appropriate parties while protecting confidential information. The new Housing Committee would consist of representation from the President's office, Provost's office, Chief Operating Officer, Real Estate Operations, a rotating seat for an additional administrator, with guidance from the General Counsel. To ensure the on-campus community is reflective of the mission and vision for Pepperdine, the proposed Housing Committee would enable HOA presidents and board members, faculty, and staff to provide community insight and application recommendations.

The Committee discussed the need to create transparency and avenues of input for individuals not in an administrative position. Upon the motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the enhancements to the housing process and procedures while emphasizing that communication and transparency are key.

VI. BOOSTER DISCUSSION

Chief Operating Officer Phil Phillips and Chief Business Officer Nicolle Taylor opened a discussion regarding requiring COVID-19 booster shots for the Pepperdine community. Phillips explained the varying definitions of being "fully vaccinated" vs. "up to date", and shared relevant information relating to workplace vaccine mandates. The Committee expressed varying perspectives, noting rapidly changing information, operational

considerations, increased mandates from regulating bodies, and public perception of vaccines as reasons for their stances on the topic. The Committee recognized that COVID-19 boosters are less effective at curtailing transmission in comparison to the initial COVID-19 vaccinations required by the University. The Committee agreed the University should continue providing the Pepperdine community with additional booster clinics and sharing accurate information to help individuals make a personal decision.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Unless otherwise notified, the next meeting will be held on February 17, 2022.