Racquet

News

SUFAC striving for low student fees

Fee Allocation Committee asking organizations to increase at zero percent

By Tram Tran
Staff Reporter

Students and faculty members of the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee continue to strive toward keeping student fees down. SUFAC is composed of faculty, five members from Student Senate and three at large students. According to Student Association Advisor Alex Brown, during SUFAC’s most recent and upcoming meetings, they have been working through the midst of the budgeting process for the 2014-2015 academic year.

SUFAC has been asking that student-run organizations be mindful of their costs while still keeping their members happy. Luckily for students, there has been an increase in spending but not in student fees.

Within the process, SUFAC can ask that organizations who are requesting a change regarding budget to come in and explain their plea to the appropriate appointed committee. The reviewing process can take up to a month and a half.

Last year, SUFAC started with a $1,076,000 budget for contingency requests, had a total of $70,000 in requests and ended up apportioning $25,000 with money from the reserve accounts. This year, another $17,000 has been set aside for capital fund requests, money set aside for unexpected expenses involving groups such as orchestra, UW-La Crosse Athletics and even the Recreational Eagle Center for equipment pertaining to intramural sports.

And with the issue of money becoming seemingly more apparent as the years go on, controversies can stir. SUFAC student member Derek Nelson said that committees have been known to get “very political.” In this case, SUFAC asks for a conservative and fraternal view set aside when it comes to decision making. There has been some tweaking in the policy and SUFAC chairs will be reviewing the bylaw.

“If the chance to have the [many] committees looking at [the different appeals], we get more eyeballs and people engaged,” Brown said.

Because working with the recent two-year tuition freeze has been a challenge, SUFAC has been asking that student-run organizations be mindful with their costs while still keeping their members happy. Luckily for students, there has been an increase in spending but not in student fees.

One of the main goals of SUFAC has been to keep student dollars down, and in order for that to happen, the committee has asked that organizations “increase at zero percent,” said Nelson. Yet, he does anticipate that with the student population rising, increases are always possible.

“Nevertheless, Brown said that a couple of these organizations are still looking for a budget increase he would love if the groups could create their own revenue from outside support. He does, though, understand that getting sponsors from the outside can sometimes be a challenge.

Once a group’s budget has been submitted and accepted, the money for the increase is to be funded from other parts of the budget. These segregated fees could be allocable.

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The Chili Challenge aids non-profit

By Jeremy Shur
Staff Reporter

Ramen noodles, Toppers Pizza and crepes from the Bistro Note make up a substantial portion of the average UW-La Crosse student’s diet. WMTC-TV, UW-La’s student-run television station, is holding an event at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Eagles Nest, which will allow the general public to eat an unlimited amount of chili as part of the 2nd Annual Cougar Region Chili Challenge. The Chili Challenge, which costs $5 to participate in and is available to all ages, will benefit the Cougars Region Humane Society.

“The event is the product of a group of UW-La students in CST 376, Remote Video Operations, led by UW-L professor Patricia Turner. Students worked throughout the semester, not only learning the ins and outs of specific sectors of the broadcasting industry, but in conjunction with La Crosse television station KGLO to produce a telethon which also supports the Cougars Region Humane Society. “I think it is really nice that we are able to align our schoolwork with helping a non-profit,” said Greg Nickel, a student in CST 376. “This is the first time I have been able to do this, and it has motivated me a lot.”

This event makes a pointed effort to involve and impact the local community. The Cougar Region Humane Society, the beneficiary of all proceeds from this event, is based out of Onalaska. The non-profit organization "actively promotes the humane treatment of animals and positive animal-human relationships." Additionally, said Nickel, the Chili Challenge is conducted by WMTC-TV, it also receives contributions from other student organizations on campus. Ten challenge representatives, of different campus and community organizations, will compete in an eating contest.

While this event boasts the very unique opportunity to indulge in unlimited chili while contributing to a definitively good cause, it doesn’t stop there. A $2 rally will be held with a grand prize of a Samsung Tablet, with benefits that also benefit the Cougars Region Humane Society.

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The Chili Challenge aims to aid the Cougars Region Humane Society.

David Schindler presents series on Life Sciences

By Brittany Maule
Staff Reporter

Last Thursday and Friday, Nov. 7 and 8, UW-La Crosse hosted internationally recognized aquatic biologist David Schindler, as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series in the Life Sciences. Not only did Schindler speak to the La Crosse community, but he also participated in a student lunch on both days. Thursday, UW-L students in Professor Peter McCauley’s class had the joy of having Schindler on a more personal level by asking him questions about his life and work.

Schindler, now retired, was most recently a professor of ecology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton in Canada. He was also the founding director of the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) in northeastern Ontario, a group that performs pollutant and nutrient experiments on the effects of water chemistry at ELA. He has won many awards, recognitions and accomplishments, Schindler has authored over 320 published articles.

Before each of his talks, Schindler was able to engage with UW-L students over lunch. Chris Tymen, a 5th year senior majoring in Aquatic Biology, said he had the opportunity to have a speaking experience that he could meet someone he had learned so much about in all his classes.

“The fact that it was really exciting to meet someone who I had learned so much from. It was insane to see how much he contributed to what I’m learning,” said Tymen.

Schindler’s talk, “Letting in the Light: Providing Environmental Science to Direct Public Policy” on Thursday night in the Skogen Auditorium in Centennial at 5:30 p.m., was a discussion of science and public policy. He spoke about the dilemma in which politicians expect science to conform to policy, instead of policy conforming to science. This talk was featured as a public lecture, and had a full house with multiple side rooms full of people. In contrast, his talk on Friday at 3:30 p.m. titled “The Dilemma of Controlling Cultural Eutrophication” was geared towards a more scientific audience and addressed the flawed logic Schindler believes is present in controlling nutrient-laden freshwater lakes.

Schindler addressed the research he has done that proves that phosphorus is the main pollutant that continues to cause the algal blooms happening in lakes.

The Blues Department was on the committee that chose Schindler for this year’s speaker. Straus felt that it is a wonderful thing that students have the ability to see such a name here on campus. He described having speakers on campus as “inspirational” for students, and “it’s always fun to let a little bit of wonder happen when they see these distinguished individuals come to speak,” said Straus.