SAFAC MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sonila Abdulla, Donald Hall, Jim Heflin, Jennifer Holland, Megan Mefford, Kari Murphy, Fernando Negron, Holly Thomas, Jeff Wozencraft

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Daoang, Karen Hardin, Aubree Helvey, Tobias Kuhn, Zeak Naifeh

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Fernando Negron.
II. The minutes from the April 2, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.
III. Discussion of Proposals
   a. Athletics – Director of Athletics Jim Jackson came to talk about the increase in the Athletics’ request. The increase is due to a request for a designated allocation for graduate assistants, an increase in fees for officials, increases in costs for food and travel. The committee expressed concern about the size of the budget, which if fully funded would leave only $50,000 to allocate to all of the other departments across campus. It is impossible to continue to fully fund athletics out of Student Activity Fees without significant increases each year. The committee also expressed some concern about paying for the Director’s travel and budget – they felt that should be a university responsibility. They request that this funding come from other university sources, not student fees. If money remains at the end of the year, the committee respectfully requests that money not be rolled over into the AD account. The committee would like to continue to have oversight over how their funds are spent. They also think the Director of the Pep Band salary should come from another resource.
   b. Computing and Technology – Katia Mayfield came to talk about the Computing and Technology request. She indicated that travel opportunities are available to all students. The committee recommended funding at $5,000.
   c. Military Science – Representatives from ROTC came to talk about the Military Science request. The departmental activities are open to all interested students. The committee recommended funding at $7,000 but asks that the department better promote activities to all students.
   d. Recruitment and Orientation – The committee had previously requested additional information about this account, so that funding could be recommended based on orientation and Aggie Ambassadors’ activities. The committee still does not wish to fund recruitment functions. The committee recommendation, based on information provided by Zoe DuRant, is $7,500.
   e. Theatre Arts – The committee recommended funding of $22,000.
f. Theatre Fees – The committee recommended funding of $4,350.

IV. Review Allocation Recommendation
The committee had great concern about the budget request of over one million dollars, especially when compared to the $830,000 budget that was allocated last year. The committee again expressed concern about the size of the Athletic Department budget, especially because students are bearing the cost of running our athletic program. Each year, the Athletic request increases, due to scholarships, travel, LSC requirements, etc. These costs are then passed on to students, which is detrimental to other departments who rely on Student Activity Fees. The committee was not able to reach the $830,000 funding level – their total recommendations equal $892,534.

V. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.