

Summary of Town Hall Meeting Held on Thursday, November 13:

The Dean discussed three main issues at the meeting.

1. He discussed how the \$119,000 of Tuition Enhancement dollars was being spent. Dean Hedden is not authorizing expenditures without adequate student input. There are committees for Music, Dance, Art, and Design, and they have met and made recommendations to the Dean.
2. The Dean discussed the new faculty position in Fine Arts for the new opera professor.
3. The bulk of the meeting was used to discuss the \$15 differential tuition technology fee for all Fine Arts students. There were several faculty members and around 20 students from Art & Design present along with Beisecker and Hedden.

The following are some key issues discussed at the meeting:

**After looking into possible ways for improvement, the Dean has made it clear that there will be no increase in money in the near future beyond the \$119,000 the school is currently receiving. After some research by the committee and the Dean, they discovered that some other schools in the university implement a fee based on how many classes the students are enrolled in. They then used the number of credit hours the Fine Arts students are enrolled in this fall to find out how much money this would generate for the school. If there was a \$15 fee per credit hour for undergraduate art students, then the School of Fine Arts would generate an additional \$364,000 a year. It would take roughly \$100,000 to create a state-of-the-art computer lab of Mac and PC computers.

**In order to attract faculty to teach video, multimedia, motion graphics and other new forms of media, the school must have updated, state-of-the-art equipment.

**According to the Dean, the Provost has given us an "okay" to proceed with this. We must have a proposal to the Provost by January to see immediate results from this fee and have it in place by Fall 04. After the Provost, the proposal will go to the Kansas Board of Regents in the spring for their approval. This leaves only a few weeks for the school of Art & Design to show adequate proof that the students of the school are ready and willing to have this fee in place.

**Students will have a large say in how the money from this fee is spent. The committees that were created this semester to act upon student input will continue after the semester is over.

*By "technology fee" we mean anything that enhances student learning. This would include looms for textiles, printing presses, matte cutters, desks, potter's wheels, more hours for the computer lab to be open, and anything else that people are willing to talk to us about. We are not

only willing to cater to everyone's needs, but we want to do so. We really want to know what is going on in the department of Art and Design and how to make things easier for everyone, because we know that none of us here really has the time to deal with old equipment.

**The money from this fee will be divided equally among the different areas of study based on how many credit hours students have enrolled in for that department. In addition, about 20% might be taken off the top of the money pot for each department for schoolwide improvements that would benefit all students, regardless of their department.

**The students in Art & Design are setting up another meeting this week to get support from others in the school of Art & Design. The Dean has told us that the school of Music and Dance students have already agreed to this tuition increase for the School of Fine Arts. Now it's our turn.

**The meeting is at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19, in Room 421 of the A&D building. We will try to keep the time frame down so people with an 11:30 class can make it on time. Please help us by informing your students about what is going on, and allow them the chance to come to this meeting. In just a few short weeks we can put into effect a large change in the School of Fine Arts.

**Please tell your students even if this e-mail did not reach you in time to give them the opportunity to come to the meeting. If they are informed, then they will know to look for chances to help with this movement. Also, let them know that their voices can be heard by contacting Dean Hedden at hedden@ku.edu or Provost David Shulenburg at dshulenburg@ku.edu and voice your opinion in an e-mail to them, or they can voice their opinion to one of us.

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