Welcome/Introductions

Charge to Committee
- Authority granted by UNC System Policy 1000.1.1
  - Committee 50% students, 50% faculty and staff, and co-chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Student Government Association President
  - Gather information
  - Seek student input
  - Make recommendations to the Chancellor and WCU Leadership

Shared process timeline and meeting schedule

Proposed changes to tuition and fees are gathered during the University Budget process
- Approximately 15 were submitted only a handful were moved forward

Shared instruction memo from the UNC System
- Tuition
  - NC Promise Institutions may request an increase in tuition and corresponding reimbursement from the state for NC residents of up to 3%, allowing tuition to remain at $500 per semester
  - Out-of-state tuition may be increased but must stay below the 75th percentile for our peer group
  - Graduate and Professional tuition does not have a set limit but should stay affordable and address market conditions
    - A program with a high starting salary upon graduation may request a higher increase than other graduate programs with a lower starting salary
- Mandatory Fees may not increase by more than 3%
  - UNC System mandatory fees
    - Athletics – NCAA Athletics Programs
    - Activity - Campus Activities, Campus Rec & Wellness, Intercultural Affairs, Greek Student Engagement and Development, Student Affairs, Performing Arts, SGA, and GSA
    - Health – Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services
    - Education and Technology – Equipment for classrooms, labs, and Information Technology funding
• Security – Police officers and a position in Counseling and Psychological Services
  ▪ Debt Service is a university mandatory fee and must be combined with other mandatory fees to stay below 3%
    o Special fees address specific academic programs, courses, study abroad etc.
      ▪ No special fees increase or establishment of new fees are allowed this year
      ▪ Application fees are fees paid to the university to apply
      ▪ Sustainability Fee does not count toward the 3% cap
      ▪ ASG is a UNC System mandatory fee
    o Several other surcharges at WCU including transportation, documents, etc.
    o Must show student involvement in the process
    o Proposed tuition and fees are due to the Board of Trustees on December 6th
    o Committee may recommend an adjustment to current usage of fees within the scope of those fees but all funds fall under the Chancellor’s authority
  ▪ Student Involvement
    ▪ Would like to increase involvement this year
    ▪ Online, anonymous, survey seems to be the most effective tool
    ▪ SGA social media sessions have been popular in the past
    ▪ Open sessions have had very poor attendance

• Financial Aid
  o Dashboard is based on 2018-2019 data
  o NC Promise went into effect Fall 2018
  o Cost of attendance decreased by 13%
  o Discontinued the practice of offering PLUS Loans upfront, must now be requested
  o Student debt decreased by 17.4%
  o Federal Perkins Loan Program ended
  o WCU student loan default rate is 6% compared to the national rate of 10.8%
  o 41.2% of WCU students are eligible for the Pell Grant
  o Average debt of graduating undergraduate students is $20,819 and $44,640 for graduate students
  o Received 21,753 FAFSA’s, packaged 13,281 students
  o NC State Grant amounts went down due to lower eligibility because of NC Promise
  o NC Assist is a new private loan program which is increasing in popularity