

Fee Name: Increase University Library Hours of Operation

Measure #: Measure 42

Ballot Information

Shall the undergraduate and graduate students of UCSC provide funding for the University Library (McHenry and Science and Engineering) to increase their hours of operation by 4 hours a day during weekdays, be open on Saturdays, and be open an additional 6 hours per day during finals week, by establishing a new, temporary fee of \$6.50 per student, per quarter, beginning Fall 2010 and ending Summer 2013? If further cuts are assigned, the funding from this fee would be used to directly defray the impact to possible Library Hour reductions.

Summary Points

- New undergraduate and graduate compulsory fee of \$6.50 per student per quarter.
- Fee begins Fall Quarter 2010 and is a temporary 3-year fee with an ending date of Summer 2013.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates and graduates enrolled in the fall, winter, spring and summer quarters.
- Fee will generate approximately \$316,857 annually. Of this 33%, or \$104,569, will go toward the Return-to-Aid component that will help students who receive financial aid pay for this fee. The remaining \$212,306 will be applied to adding hours and services requested by UCSC students.
- Fee is sponsored for undergraduates by College Student Governments
- Fee is sponsored by graduates by the Graduate Student Association

*Based on the estimated 2009-2010 three-quarter average enrollment of 16,250 undergraduate and graduate students.

Ballot Statement

The fee will be used by the University Library to support staff and student wages to increase hours of operation as follows:

- Open an additional four hours per day, Sunday – Thursday
- Open an additional five hours on Friday
- Open eight hours on Saturday
- Open an additional six hours per day during finals week.
- Extend summer hours an additional four hours each day Monday – Friday, and open five hours each Saturday and Sunday.

Currently, the Library hours **for Fall/Winter/Spring** are:

- Sunday – Thursday 10:00 am – 10:00 pm
- Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Saturday CLOSED

and the **current** Library hours for **Summer** are:

- Monday – Friday 12:00 – 8:00 pm
(Science/Engineering 9:00 am – 5:00 pm)
- Saturday/Sunday CLOSED

If the fee is passed and there are no further budget reductions, then the new expanded Fall/Winter/Spring hours would be:

- Sunday – Thursday 8:00 am – 12:00 midnight
- Friday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
- Saturday 11:00 am – 7:00 pm

and the **new expanded Summer** hours would be:

- Monday-Friday 10:00 am – 10:00 pm
- Saturday/Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 pm

If the fee is passed and the Library is assigned further budget reductions, then the fee will be used to minimally guarantee additional library hours during finals week, and the balance to directly defray the impact of possible further cuts to hours.

If the fee is not passed, and the Library is assigned additional future budget reductions, then the potential exists for future additional erosion of hours.

Why is the fee needed? The fee is needed to increase access to Library services as hours of operation have been reduced due to budgetary reductions, which has impacted the student's ability to access a quiet, uninterrupted space for study. Greater access to the Library is a key component to the students' academic success, as well as the student's lifestyle requires more flexible operating hours.

Who will benefit? The entire student body at UC Santa Cruz and the campus community as a whole.

Student Consultation Method:

In the Spring 2009, the Library surveyed 297 undergraduate users. When asked what would have made their Library experience better, 42% of respondents noted longer operating hours. The student consultation process continued with a student directed survey of 176 randomly sampled undergraduates in Fall of 2009 that gauged student interest in the extension of library hours. This was conducted by a group of student supporters of the library. 60% of the students surveyed supported a fee increase ranging from \$5.00 - \$7.00 per quarter. In January 2010, 1,572 students responded to a follow-up survey that was distributed by the same student group. Over half of the respondents (51.7%) indicated that their educational experience had been negatively impacted by cuts to library hours. 38% of the respondents supported a library hours referendum, while 43% needed more information. 58% indicated they were more likely to support a referendum with a 3-year sunset clause. When asked which service hour additions they preferred, their clear first choice was extended finals hours, then Saturdays and weekday evenings, with weekday mornings a strong last place.