

**Measure #: Measure 67**

**Referendum Title: Campus Student Government Fee Increase – Increase to Measure 8**

**Ballot Type: Amendment to an Existing Fee**

**Ballot Author: Student Union Assembly**

**Contact: Tamra Owens**

**Question:** Shall the undergraduates of UCSC provide funding for campus-wide events, concerts, a food pantry, student initiated services/programs, rallies, conferences, educational forums, stipends, student advocacy and lobbying efforts, and educational programs that will train students in direct action organizing, empowerment, and representation by permanently increasing the existing Campus Student Government Fee of \$7.00 per student per quarter to \$20.00 per student per quarter, beginning Fall 2017?

**SUMMARY OF POINTS:**

- Increase existing undergraduate compulsory fee from \$7.00 per quarter to \$20 per quarter (“Fee”).
- Fee increase begins Fall Quarter 2017 with no end date.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates enrolled in the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters. A reduced fee will be charged in summer quarter based on the level of services available and consultation with the Student Fee Advisory Committee.
- Fee increase will generate approximately \$613,977<sup>1</sup> in 2017-2018. 33% of this amount, or approximately \$202,612, will go toward the Return-to-Aid component to help students who receive financial aid pay for the fee.
- Institutes a 33% Return-to-Aid component to the entire Campus Student Government Fee; Return-to-Aid to be added to the original Measure 8 \$7.00 fee.
- Students were consulted regarding this fee through a focus group with the Student Union Assembly and a student survey conducted in fall 2016.
- SFAC Opinion Statement: While the Student Fee Advisory Committee is enthusiastic about the food pantry and Legacy Project, it could not reach consensus on salary allocations and stipends for officers, interns, and representatives.
- The fee is sponsored for undergraduates on the ballot by Resolution of the Student Union Assembly.

**BALLOT STATEMENT:**

*Background Information:*

The Student Union Assembly (SUA) is UCSC's campuswide undergraduate student government, run by students for students. The SUA is a coalition made up of six elected officers, three representatives from each college, and one representative from African/Black Student Alliance (A/BSA), Asian Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA), PRISM (The Identity, Sexuality, and Gender Coalition), Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (MEChA), Student Alliance of North American Indians (SANAI), and 5 other identity/ethnic organizations.

In Spring 1993, UCSC students voted to increase the Campus Student Government Fee of \$1.30 per quarter to \$2.00 per student per quarter. In Spring 2003, UCSC students voted to further increase the Campus Student Government Fee to \$7.00 per student per quarter; this fee became known as Measure 8. There is no return-to-aid component currently applied to Measure 8. If this fee increase passes, a 33% Return-to-Aid would be applied to the entire fee amount of \$20.00.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the 2015-2016 fall, winter, spring undergraduate student enrollment average of 15,743

### *Why is the Fee Needed?*

The operations of the Student Union Assembly are solely supported by Measure 8/Campus Student Government Fee. The Campus Student Government Fee has not been changed since 2003 and as it currently stands, and is among the lowest fee for student governments among the UC campuses. The current budget barely covers the cost of conferences, programming, stipends, intern pay, the salaries of the SUA Advisor, and long-term projects. The Student Union Assembly has gone through major budget cuts since Spring 2015 to accommodate for rising costs of travel, conferences, programming, and wages but the cuts are not sustainable.

### *How will the fee be used?*

The fee increase will provide resources to fund the food pantry, pay our interns minimum wage without cutting their hours, increase the Advisor's benefits/wage by 3% every year, provide all expense paid conferences to make conferences more accessible to all students, outreach to the undergraduate student body and to hold events, which will promote discussion, debate, and awareness of undergraduate issues from a variety of perspectives. This measure may allow funding for activities such as:

- Campus-wide events
- Concerts
- Stipends for all Assembly representatives including those of the ethnic/identity organizations
- Provide more funding for sponsoring organizations and events
- Provide funds to initiate/offer services to students