

Measure 61

Referendum Title: CruzCare Access for All – Injury and Illness Health Center Fee

Ballot Type: New Fee

Ballot Author: Student Health Services

Contact: Mary Knudtson

Question: Shall the undergraduate students of UCSC provide funding for on-campus medical and mental health care for all undergraduate students by implementing a compulsory fee of \$110.00 per student per quarter, starting Fall 2015?

Summary Points

- New permanent fee of \$110 per student, per quarter.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates enrolled in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer quarters.
- Fee will annually generate approximately \$4,979,040¹. 33% of this amount will go toward the Return-to-Aid component that will help students who receive financial aid pay for this fee.
- Fee begins fall quarter 2015 and is a permanent fee with no end date.
- The fee level of \$110 per student per quarter may change every other year, not to exceed an increase of 5%. Every other year the independent Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) overseeing this fee may recommend changes in the amount and allocation of fee revenues to meet the evolving health needs of UCSC students.
- This fee referendum will ensure that all undergraduate students pay a reasonable fee to access basic health care on campus.
- Students were consulted regarding this fee through an opinion poll during the 2014 Campus Elections.
- The Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) is consulted annually regarding the benefit package in UC SHIP and consultation would be added for benefits and fees associated with CruzCare Access for All.
- The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) unanimously supports this measure. We believe that providing basic healthcare needs for all students is an important service for our students' physical, emotional, and academic wellbeing. This measure reflects only a \$20-30 quarterly increase in 2015-16 for students already on USHIP or CruzCare, while having a very positive and considerable impact on the student body as a whole.
- The fee is sponsored for undergraduates on the ballot by a Resolution of the Student Union Assembly and Resolution of the following College Governments: College Nine, College Ten, Cowell, Crown, Kresge, Merrill, Stevenson

Ballot Statement

The University requires all students to have health insurance coverage while enrolled. Students are automatically enrolled in and charged for the University of California Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP), unless they complete a waiver demonstrating sufficient health coverage from another source. UC SHIP for undergraduate students currently costs \$805 per quarter.

CruzCare is currently a voluntary fee that students can pay to access on-campus health care. All students who are enrolled in UC SHIP already have access to these services, which are built into the cost of UC SHIP. Other students who choose to purchase CruzCare because they are not enrolled in UC SHIP pay \$90 per quarter (2014-15 rate). The CruzCare fee covers the following services:

¹ Based on the 2013-2014 three quarter undergraduate enrollment average of 15,088.

- Unlimited health center visits for care of illness or injury - for the most common needs of our students
- Unlimited in-house health center laboratory tests
- Unlimited in-house health center X-ray exams

CruzCare does not cover:

- Off campus care, including laboratory tests sent to the off campus reference laboratory
- Medications, supplies, and immunizations
- Special or elective procedures and tests
- Prescriptions and Over-the-Counter medications
- Routine clearances and health maintenance visits
- Off campus referrals for specialist care

If this fee is approved, then all undergraduate students would be required to pay the CruzCare Access for All fee and be able to use on-campus health services. The cost of UC SHIP would be approximately \$90 per quarter less than it otherwise would have been since the cost of CruzCare would no longer be built into that fee.

The Student Health Center budget is primarily composed of funding from the Student Services Fee, the Student Programs Fee (Measure 7), revenue from services provided, and UC SHIP and CruzCare access fees. In 2013-14 total funding were approximately \$9.2 million. If this fee is adopted, estimated 2015-16 funding would be about \$11 million. The increase in funding is less than the amount generated by the new fee because existing CruzCare fee revenues would be absorbed into the new fee.

The fee is subject to a biannual adjustment within the limits described below.

- An independent Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) will work with campus health officials to ensure that the fees are of an amount and allocation needed to meet students' changing health care needs in the areas of same day care, basic medical care, mental health care, laboratory and pharmacy services, and preventive health;
- The SHAC is composed of the current UCSC UC SHIP student representatives, often appointed by the Student Committee on Committees, volunteer students and Student Health Services student employees.
- In February of every other year, the SHAC may recommend any change in the fee rate to the Student Health Services Executive Director, not to exceed 5% every other year based on an evaluation of health care cost inflation and services provided.
- The final recommendation will be submitted to the Chancellor for approval.

If the fee increases up to the maximum of 5% allowed, the original \$110 quarterly fee will grow to \$140.00 in 10 years.

What services would be expanded?

- Hire more staff to serve the extra students – 2 full time clinicians, 1 nurse, 1 medical assistant and part time pharmacist and phlebotomist
- Provide more medical appointments
- Increase service and reduce wait times at the Pharmacy

- Provide improvements in Information Systems & Technology including online scheduling for some medical appointments
- Provide improved phone scheduling of medical appointments

Why is this fee needed? BARRIERS TO CARE

- At UC Santa Cruz, approximately 5,000 students have private insurance and many have medical providers 25 miles or more from campus.
- Students who enroll in MediCal (a state-run program for eligible low income participants) must access care in the county in which they enrolled, making their coverage ineffective when dealing with an illness or injury in Santa Cruz County, so students either go home for care or must pay for health care out of pocket.
- Students who enroll in Covered California (the newly created insurance exchange created under the federal Affordable Care Act) outside of Santa Cruz County have limited access to providers because there are not enough available providers who accept Covered California plans.
- Private insurance, MediCal and Covered California plans create unique barriers for our UCSC students who are faced with illnesses or injuries while in Santa Cruz and therefore, students have trouble accessing care, especially when ill or injured
- Many of these students often have to pay high out of pocket charges for visits and procedures they cannot afford, and therefore they avoid needed health care visits.

Approximately 10,000 UCSC undergraduate students can access our Student Health Services because they are covered by UC SHIP or pay the CruzCare fee. But approximately 5,000 cannot because they have plans that do not include on-campus health services. If they wish to seek medical care on-campus they must pay for services out-of-pocket. These students:

- tend to face more serious health challenges as they put off seeing a doctor;
- are often sick longer, are out of classes longer, and grades are impacted;
- expose others to illnesses such as flu, mononucleosis, pertussis, strep throat;
- sometimes end up at the Emergency Room incurring costly medical bills they can't afford;
- are not directly linked to other Student Health Services like CAPS, SHOP, Nutrition Services and other on campus support services;

For students who do not have UC SHIP or CruzCare, one visit to the Student Health Center can potentially cost over \$300 which is the cost of the CruzCare Access for All Injury and Illness Health Fee for 1 year, which would provide unlimited visits

How does this fee affect students who already have health insurance?

The core of this referendum is about addressing health disparities and providing access to health care for all undergraduate students. By passing this referendum, all undergraduate students will have equal access to timely and convenient on-campus health care. In addition, our health care providers have expertise in college health, are student centered and are committed to students' academic success.

Find out more about this referendum and the Student Health Services at: www.healthcenter.ucsc.edu