

Measure 63

Referendum Title: Amendment to Measure 30: Strengthening Access to Learning Support Services

Ballot Type: Increase to Existing Fee

Ballot Author: Learning Support Services

Contact: Holly Cordova

Question: Shall the undergraduate students of UCSC Provide funding for Learning Support Services, including tutoring and Modified Supplemental Instruction by increasing Measure 30 by \$5.36 per student per quarter, resulting in a total fee of \$12.00 per student, per quarter?

Summary Points

- Adds an additional fee of \$5.36 to the current fee of \$6.64 to create a new fee of \$12.00, per quarter (“Fee”).
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates enrolled in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters.
- Fee increase will generate approximately \$242,615¹. 33% of this amount, \$80,063, will go toward the Return-to-Aid component that will help students who receive financial aid pay for this fee.
- Fee increase begins fall quarter 2015 and will be assessed with no end date.
- The revenue generated from this fee will go to fund Learning Support Services, which includes tutoring and Modified Supplemental Instruction (MSI). Core Writing tutoring would not be supported by this fee since that function is managed outside of Learning Support Services.
- Students were consulted regarding this fee through the following mechanisms: a survey was sent to 2,580 students who currently use MSI and tutoring sessions, of which 443 responded; a survey was sent to 190 student LSS staff members, of which 67 responded; a meeting was held consisting of approximately 100 LSS tutors and MSI Learning Assistants.
- The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) does not take a position on this proposal. The committee fully supports the mission of Learning Support Services and supports providing all students with the academic assistance they need to succeed at UCSC. However, the committee has some concerns regarding the proposed fee increase, including the use of student funding for a resource that should be funded by the University.
- The fee is sponsored for undergraduates on the ballot by Resolution of the Student Union Assembly

Ballot Statement

Background Information:

Learning Support Services (LSS) provides three primary programs to help students excel academically: Modified Supplemental Instruction (MSI), tutoring (subject and writing), and drop-in writing and math assistance.

MSI provides peer-guided interactive group learning sessions that are attached to approximately 45 selected lower and upper division undergraduate courses which have proven to be challenging for many students. Examples of subject areas include math, chemistry, biology, physics, computer science and engineering, economics, psychology and sociology, among other disciplines. MSI sessions are

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

offered weekly. Data indicates that students who attend MSI sessions pass courses at a higher rate than students who do not attend MSI sessions.

Tutoring is available to all students and covers a variety of courses not supported with MSI, including writing. Tutoring sessions are held weekly for one hour. Each session is limited to 4-6 students, with one-on-one tutoring available for writing sessions and students with Disability Resource Center accommodations.

Drop-in tutoring assistance is available for writing and math for several hours each week.

Measure 30 was passed in Spring 2007 specifically to provide funding to LSS for subject tutoring and Modified Supplemental Instruction (excluding freshman core writing tutoring). Of the 4,296 undergraduate students that voted, 61.6% voted in favor of the measure. The \$6.64 quarterly fee began in Fall 2007 with 33% of the funds dedicated to financial aid for needy students. In 2013-14, the total revenue for LSS programs was \$214,900.

Currently, Learning Support Services is funded primarily by Student Services Fees, Student Programs Fees (Measure 7) and the Learning Support Services Fee (Measure 30). Of the total \$820,000 budget for LSS in 2013-14, approximately 26% of the funding came from Measure 30 funds. However, due to increased student utilization of MSI and tutoring, LSS has been required to ration its services to avoid a budget shortfall by the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. Some of the rationing included fewer MSI positions available, insufficient MSI support to meet student demand in large lower division required courses, and limiting the number of courses with tutoring services.

How the fee will be used:

The fee will be used by Learning Support Services to fund tutoring and supplemental instruction programs and services that currently provide academic assistance to over 5,850 undergraduate students (37% of the UCSC population). On average each quarter LSS supports 174 courses with tutoring and 45 courses with Modified Supplemental Instruction. The majority of the funds will be spent on the salaries of UCSC students hired by LSS and employed as MSI Learning Assistants, tutors, and/or LSS Student Office Assistants. Currently, LSS employs over 350 students each year. This increased funding will add approximately 150 student jobs. As of spring 2013, Learning Support Services has had insufficient funding to meet students' expressed needs for tutoring and Modified Supplemental Instruction support. The Measure 30 Amendment will enable Learning Support Services to more effectively fulfill student requests for much needed academic assistance.

Why the fund is needed:

Due to a shortfall in funding, Learning Support Services is currently unable to offer tutoring in addition to MSI for courses that are MSI supported. Furthermore, Learning Support Services is unable to place enough MSI Learning Assistants in large classes, over 250 students, to offer enough MSI sessions to fulfill students' demand for access to MSI support. Beginning in spring quarter 2013, and for the first time since spring 2007 when Measure 30 was passed, Learning Support Services was not financially able to meet the UCSC undergraduate student demand for tutoring and MSI academic support. This amendment to the Measure 30 fee will ensure that MSI and tutoring are available to an increasing number of UCSC undergraduates who will benefit from access to academic support. An increased number of UCSC students will have access to Modified Supplemental Instruction, and tutoring will be available for all classes upon request and the LSS ability to find a qualified student tutor (with the exception of College Core).

Additionally, tutoring and supplemental instruction promote diversity in the University by generating equal educational access to success, as well as more equitable academic outcomes for students coming to UCSC with varied previous educational opportunities.