

2016 Campus Elections – Proposed Referenda – FINAL

Measure #: 66

Referendum Title: Support Student Governed Spaces (SGS)

Ballot Type: New Fee

Ballot Author: Student Union Governance Board

Contact: Sauli Colio

Question: Shall the undergraduate students of UCSC vote to provide funding to maintain the Student Union, Student Media Center and Redwood Building open and operating for all students, by establishing a new fee of \$10.00 per student per quarter beginning Fall 2017?

Summary Points:

- Establishes a new compulsory fee to replace a portion of the existing Student Life Facilities Fee, which currently expires in Fall 2017.
- Fee will be assessed with no end date starting in Fall 2017.
- Assigns the oversight and governance of the fee to the Student Union Governance Board, which is comprised of student voting members.
- Fee will generate approximately \$488,310¹ in 2017-2018.
- The fee includes a Return-to-Aid component in which 33% of all fees collected will automatically go to financial aid to help those students who are on financial aid cover the expense of the fee. This will be approximately \$158,701 in 2017-2018.
- The fee will be assessed to all undergraduate students enrolled in 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
- Student Consultation: This fee was initiated by students and authored through collective discussion and a vote by the Student Union Governance Board (SUGB), representing college student governments and registered student organizations.
- The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) is in support of this proposal as the facilities are fundamental to student life.
- The fee is sponsored for undergraduates on the ballot by resolution of the Student Union Assembly.

Ballot Statement:

Background Information:

The Student Life Facilities Fee was passed by UCSC undergraduate and graduate students in 1985 for the purpose of building and supporting a variety of student life facilities such as the student center (currently known as the Student Union), swimming pool, jogging track, East Field House, East Fields, and tennis courts. The Regents approved the fee on July 19, 1985 in two parts, to construct physical education facilities and the student center. Revenue from the fee is used for debt payments on funds borrowed for the construction of these facilities nearly thirty years ago, as well as costs to operate and maintain the facilities and a reserve fund for major repairs and upgrades. The \$30 per student, per quarter fee began to be collected in Winter 1988 as a thirty year fee; the fee is scheduled to end in Fall 2017, shortly after the final payment on the construction debt is completed.

Currently, the \$30 Student Life Facilities Fee is used as follows: approximately \$9.50 for debt service, \$13.30 for facility operations and maintenance, and \$7.20 for reserves for major repairs and upgrades on the associated facilities.

The Student Life Facilities Fee is scheduled to end in Fall 2017, shortly after the final payment on the construction debt is completed. Without this fee, the Student Governed Spaces (SGS, which are the Student

¹ Based on the 2014-2015 fall, winter, spring undergraduate student average enrollment of 16,277

Union, Redwood Buildings, and Student Media Center) will not have funds to operate the facilities and offer space, services, and programs for all students.

There is a separate referendum on the ballot which is proposing to renew and amend the current Student Life Facilities fee for OPERS facilities specifically. If both fee measures pass, all undergraduate students would pay \$40.00 per student, per quarter for Student Governed Spaces and OPERS facilities.

The SGS is governed by students for students, including its budget and the design of all services, furnishing, access, hours, operations, and improvements. The SGS creates spaces that support students, including:

- A central hub across from the Baytree Bookstore where all students can meet, take breaks, study, and have access to computers and printing.
- Office and meeting space for the Student Union Assembly (SUA), registered student organizations, Student Media, and Student Organization Advising and Resources (SOAR).²
- Jobs and job experience for students who manage the buildings.
- Space for services such as the student Bike Co-op.
- Venues for meetings and events, e.g. Redwood Lounge.

How the fee will be used:

The SUGB asks the undergraduate student body to vote for a new fee of \$10.00, effective Fall 2017, in order to support the ongoing operations of the SGS. This new amount of \$10.00 per student, per quarter was estimated by the SUGB as the lowest fee possible for responsibly sustaining safe, well-maintained facilities and programs in the SGS for all students. If adopted, the new Support Student Governed Spaces fee would be allocated as follows:

- \$6.70 will be used towards facility operations, improvements, and maintenance of the Student Union, Redwood Building and Student Media Center, and related programming expenses as well for a reserve fund for future major facility repairs, maintenance and improvements.
- \$3.30 will go towards Return-to-Aid.

The funds raised by this fee will be used to maintain the buildings, services, and programs currently offered by the SGS, including paying for:

- Required facility costs, including: utilities, custodial, trash, elevator service, building maintenance, grounds.
- Services available to all students, including: computers, printer, copier, games, event and meeting spaces
- Student-run programs to promote the use of the facilities
- Staff to maintain the facilities
- Annual maintenance and major building repairs and improvements
- Return-to-Aid: funds to financial aid to help those students who are on financial aid cover the expense of the fee

The funds raised by this fee will be governed by the Student Union Governance Board. The SUGB will continue to consist of representatives from the college student governments and registered student organizations. Non-voting members will continue to consist of representatives of the SUA, tenants, and administrative staff, according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the SUGB. The SUGB will decide expenses and adjustments to the budget in order to ensure safe operations and to continue to create useful spaces for all undergraduate students. The SUGB will make decisions and recommendations subject to approval through normal campus review processes.

² Student groups with offices or production space in the SGS currently include: A/BSA, Alay, APISA, Banana Slug News, Chinquapin, City on a Hill Press, Engaging Education, EyeCandy Film Journal, Film Production Coalition, Fish Rap Live!, FSA, Gaia Magazine, Leviathan Jewish Journal, Matchbox Magazine, MEChA, On The Spot, Rainbow TV, Red Wheelbarrow, SANAI, Scientific Slugs, SCTV, SUA, TWANAS.

Endorsed by:

SUA

Engaging Education

Black Men's Alliance

Stevenson College

Merrill College

Oakes College

College 8

APISA

SANAI

ABSA

FSA

MEChA

City Hill on a Press

Student Media Council

Fish Wrap Live

Scientific Slug

TWANAS

GAIA

Matchbox Mag

Leviathan Jewish Journal

Film Production Coalition

Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc.