

Campus Elections 2020

Measure #: 74

Referendum Title: Sustainability Office Fee

Ballot Type: Amendment to an existing fee

Ballot Author: Sustainability Office

Question: Shall the undergraduate students of UC Santa Cruz extend the current 2020 sunset date, and nominally increase funding for the Sustainability Office by increasing the Sustainability Office Fee by \$0.25 from \$2.75 to \$3.00 per quarter, increasing annually by \$0.14 through FY 2029-30, to provide undergraduate students paid on-campus job opportunities to support advancement of the Campus Sustainability Plan, support professional development opportunities, and fund the Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat, which serves approximately 100 students annually?

Summary points

- Modification of an existing undergraduate compulsory fee which terminates in Summer Quarter 2020 without a vote of renewal.
- Fee would increase from \$2.75 per student per quarter (\$10.08/year) to \$3.00 per student per quarter in FY 2020-21 (\$10.98/year) with an annual increase of \$0.14 up to \$4.26 through FY 2029-30 (\$15.59/year).
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduate students 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.
- In FY 2020-21, the fee will generate approximately \$155,000; in FY 2024-25, the fee will generate approximately \$184,000; in FY 2029-30, the fee will generate approximately \$220,000.
- Proposed fee increase begins Fall Quarter 2020.
- Proposed fee term is 10 years and will terminate after Summer Quarter 2030 if the fee is not renewed.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates enrolled in the fall, winter, spring, and summer quarters.
- Fee will be used in the following ways:
 - Undergraduate student hourly pay and sustainability-related employment; -on-campus undergraduate student employment opportunities in the Sustainability Office as well as in other campus partner departments;
 - Undergraduate student professional development opportunities, like the annual Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat;
 - Professional staff support for the above activities, which ranges from 15 – 30% of the net revenue to the Office.
- This fee includes a 33% Return-to-Aid component, in which 33% of the fee will automatically go to Financial Aid. The Return-to-Aid amount will be approximately \$51,000 in FY 2020-21; in FY 2024-25, approximately \$60,000; in FY 2029-30, approximately \$72,000.
- The Student Fee Advisory Committee opinion statement: *“The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) supports the extension and subsequent increases because it will allow*

for the Sustainability Office to continue operations and increase student leadership in sustainability achievements in and outside of the UC Santa Cruz campus. We acknowledge that if this fee is not passed the services will go away.”

- Fee is sponsored for placement on the ballot for *undergraduate students* by resolution of the Student Union Assembly.

Ballot Statement

How the fee will be used / how has the fee been used?

Since 2010, the [Sustainability Office](#) has received funding from Measure 45 to:

- Provide undergraduate students paid on-campus jobs to support advancement of the [Campus Sustainability Plan](#). Since 2010, the Sustainability Office has provided meaningful **sustainability-related employment to more than 250 paid student staff**;
- Fund professional development opportunities for undergraduate students. Since 2010, the Sustainability Office has **offered professional development experiences and/or professional conference attendance to 25 students**;
- Fund the Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat, which serves approximately 100 students annually. Since 2010, the Sustainability Office **has engaged more than 950 students in the annual Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat**.
- Fund professional staff support for the above activities, which ranges from 15 – 30% of the net fee revenue to the Office.

The fee, if passed, will continue to fund these initiatives.

What is the Sustainability Office?

The Sustainability Office strives to foster a culture of diverse, equitable and inclusive sustainability at UCSC. We actively engage students, staff, faculty and community members to improve UCSC's environmental performance, seeking to model the way that large institutions can work collaboratively to solve some of the world's biggest environmental and social justice challenges.

Sustainability Office goals:

1. **Institutionalize sustainability.** Work proactively to integrate sustainability into the core responsibilities and daily activities of faculty, students, and staff.
2. **Improve environmental performance through the [Campus Sustainability Plan](#).**
3. **Create centralized communication and promote successes.** Create a central space for coordination of campus sustainability activities, educational initiatives, noteworthy campus achievements, reporting and national rankings.
4. **Promote a culture of inclusive sustainability.** Work to advance different cultural definitions of how to care for environmental spaces and human communities, and promote multicultural inclusion in sustainability initiatives across campus.
5. **Integrate sustainability into the classroom.** Build bridges between operations, teaching and research to establish UCSC as a living, learning laboratory in which students can learn and apply sustainability principles and techniques.

Who will benefit from the fee?

All students, faculty, and staff invested in furthering sustainability at UC Santa Cruz will benefit. Those not directly involved with sustainability will also benefit from the advancement of the Campus Sustainability Plan, the Sustainability Office goals, and reducing UC Santa Cruz's collective environmental impact. Collaborative projects, such as the Sustainability and Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat, promote social and environmental justice efforts.

Over the next ten years of the fee, approximately 300 students will receive hourly pay from their employment through the fee measure in the Sustainability Office. These students will benefit from experience in the workforce and in sustainability implementation projects, as well as from professional development opportunities and professional conference attendance.

Over the next ten years of the fee, up to 1,000 students who will attend the Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat will benefit from impactful keynote speeches (including from influential UC Santa Cruz alumni) and student-led workshops on sustainability and social justice-oriented topics, while connecting and building relationships with students across campus.

What a yes vote means?

If Measure 45 is renewed, the Sustainability Office will have the ability to offer 25+ hourly paid positions to undergraduate students annually; to provide high-impact professional development and conference attendance to employed students; and to expand existing programs, including the Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat, which serves approximately 100 students annually.

What a no vote means?

If Measure 45 is not renewed, the Sustainability Office will need to change its current structure and reconsider whether it will be able to offer 25+ paid positions to undergraduate students or continue existing programs, including the annual Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat, which serves approximately 100 students.

Student Consultation Method

Measure 45 has a long history of strong student support: in a 2009 opinion poll, 53.36% of voting undergraduate and graduate students voiced their support in favor of a \$3.75/quarter fee (\$15/year) to support the Sustainability Office. Following an evaluation of core budget needs, and being mindful of the increasing number and amount of fees students are assessed, in 2010, the Sustainability Office pursued Measure 45 at a \$2.75/quarter fee, which passed with 62.94% of the undergraduate vote.

Last year, an opinion poll was placed on the 2019 campus elections. The opinion poll asked: **Question 1:** If a measure to renew support of the Sustainability Office was on a future election ballot, would you vote "yes" to continue the current \$2.75/quarter fee to: i) fund paid student positions in sustainability across campus and in the Sustainability Office; and ii) promote cross-campus dialogue and collaboration through opportunities such as the annual Sustainability & Social Justice Inter-Organizational Retreat, which serves over 100 students?

Question 2: If yes to Question 1, what is the maximum fee amount you would agree to contribute? \$2.75/quarter (\$11/year) \$3.00/quarter (\$12/year) \$3.25/quarter (\$13/year) \$3.50/quarter (\$14/year) \$3.75/quarter (\$15/year) If a majority of students who complete this opinion poll indicate a willingness to support this student fee, the Sustainability Office will pursue placing a referendum on the Spring 2020 student Election Ballot.

The results from the opinion poll demonstrated strong student support - **74.51%** of both undergraduate and graduate students who participated in the poll affirmed that if a measure were placed on the ballot next election to renew support of the Sustainability Office, they would vote in support of the measure. The poll results provided insight into how much the students who voted in favor of the opinion poll would be willing to be assessed on a potential fee each quarter - 30% of students indicated that they would support a potential measure continuing at the same rate (\$2.75/quarter); about 20% would support a \$0.25 increase (\$3.00/quarter); and **38% would support a \$1 increase to \$3.75/quarter or \$15/year.**

Endorsements: TBD

10 Year Budget Projection for Measure 45

Fiscal Year	Proposed Fee Rate	Sustainability Office Annual Expenses	Proposed Fee Revenue (after Return to Aid)	Annual Surplus or Deficit	Carryforward from Prior Year	Remaining Balance	Percent of Revenue in Remaining Balance
FY21	\$3.00	\$111,725	\$103,662	-\$8,063	\$11,734	\$3,671	3.54%
FY22	\$3.14	\$109,235	\$108,500	-\$735	\$3,672	\$2,937	2.71%
FY23	\$3.28	\$114,287	\$113,338	-\$949	\$2,937	\$1,988	1.75%
FY24	\$3.42	\$117,508	\$118,175	\$667	\$1,988	\$2,655	2.25%
FY25	\$3.56	\$122,756	\$123,013	\$257	\$2,655	\$2,912	2.37%
FY26	\$3.70	\$127,603	\$127,850	\$247	\$2,912	\$3,159	2.47%
FY27	\$3.84	\$133,309	\$132,688	-\$621	\$3,159	\$2,538	1.91%
FY28	\$3.98	\$136,925	\$137,526	\$601	\$2,538	\$3,139	2.28%
FY29	\$4.12	\$141,087	\$142,363	\$1,276	\$3,140	\$4,416	3.10%
FY30	\$4.26	\$144,905	\$147,201	\$2,296	\$4,415	\$6,711	4.56%