

Campus Elections 2020

Measure #: 75

Referendum Title: Student Success Hub

Type: Enact a new fee

Ballot Author: Student Health Outreach & Promotion, Slug Support, and Counseling and Psychological Services.

Contact: Meg Kobe, SHOP Director, mkobe@ucsc.edu

QUESTION: Shall the undergraduate and graduate students of UCSC approve the Student Success Services Hub Fee to be assessed to all students as part of the Kresge College Renewal Project? This compulsory \$25.00 quarterly fee will be assessed in the fall, winter, and spring quarters, and a reduced fee will be charged in the summer quarter. Collection of the fee would begin only when the building is complete and ready for occupancy, estimated to be Fall 2024. The fee would allow the Division of Student Success to secure permanent space as part of the Kresge College Renewal Project for the following critical student services and programs: Slug Support, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Cove - UC Santa Cruz's resource center for students in recovery.

SUMMARY POINTS

- New undergraduate and graduate mandatory fee.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduate and graduate 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.
- The fee is estimated to generate \$1,546,750 in revenue each year from FWS and Summer, with \$510,428 being distributed to Return to Aid each year per UCSC policy.
- 33% of the fees collected will go to Return-to-Aid to help students with financial need pay for fees.
- Collection of the fee would begin only when the building is complete and ready for occupancy, estimated to be Fall 2024. The fee will be assessed until debt service is paid off (expected around fiscal year 2054-55), upon which the fee level will be reduced to \$10.00 per student, per academic Fall/Winter/Spring quarter and a reduced fee amount during Summer Session to address ongoing maintenance issues.
- Students were consulted about this fee via an opinion poll on the 2018 Campus Elections ballot and the results of the 2019 Student Elections (Measure 72) where 35% of the students voted and of those, 57% supported the fee.
- The Student Fee Advisory Committee opinion statement: *“The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) supports this fee as it will give a permanent home to some of the most utilized services on campus: CAPS, COVE, and Slug Support. While there are some concerns about it not being enacted until 2024, we acknowledge that all referendum impact*

future students and this is no different.

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

¹ The revenue estimate is based on FWS enrollments listed on the IRAPS Multi-Year Enrollment Plan through 2023-24 dated 10-23-19 for graduate and undergraduate students in FY2024 (less undergraduate off campus students). The summer undergraduate and graduate enrollments are estimated using on the Summer 2019 actual enrollments.

Ballot Statement

The Division of Student Success has the opportunity to be a part of the Kresge College renovation project: <https://reports.news.ucsc.edu/kresge/>. The Division is excited at the prospect of securing permanent space for students whose personal, academic or financial circumstances are barriers to academic success at UC Santa Cruz. The Student Success Services Hub at Kresge College would secure permanent space for the following critical student services and programs: Slug Support, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the COVE.

The \$25.00 per quarter Student Success Hub Fee @ Kresge College would create 5,500 square feet of newly renovated, permanent, space for these programs:

- Slug Support: Permanent and expanded home for Slug Support, which serves 17% (and growing yearly) of the student population every year. The Slug Support Program promotes early intervention for students experiencing personal, academic or financial circumstances that often escalate into a crisis; the services offered through Slug Support mitigate the impacts of crisis when it occurs.

Currently, Slug Support is located at Hahn Student Services within the Dean of Students Office. Slug Support requires both space and privacy. The Dean of Students Hahn Suite does not currently have adequate space or privacy for the case management that is part of Slug Support. Students who meet with Slug Support case managers are often sharing highly sensitive information about themselves (e.g. depression, suicidal ideation). It is important students feel safe and secure when they meet with Slug Support team members. The Kresge space gives the Dean of Students office the opportunity to develop a space with intentionality so that students can meet with team members in an environment that is more suitable for sensitive work of this kind. The number of students Slug Support serves has grown

significantly over the last few years. Slug Support has a goal to have 4 permanent case managers to address this growing case load, and additional office space is required. Without the additional Kresge Hub space, students will not get the kind of one-on-one care that they need to address issues of food insecurity, housing and homelessness, mental health and other urgent challenges they are facing.

The Student Success Hub at Kresge would include a permanent food pantry; a demonstration kitchen that can be used by students; private offices for case managers to meet with students; and workspace for student interns who lead efforts such as CalFresh enrollment, basic needs awareness programs, and year-round programming for the greater student body.

- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** A CAPS Hub on the West side of campus would secure permanent space for offices that are now in temporary spaces throughout campus, including temporary trailers located at Cowell College and Porter College. These temporary locations will not be available for counseling services on a permanent basis. Nor can they provide the confidentiality, privacy or ease of access for students that will be provided by the Kresge space. The passing of this fee would result in 8 new permanent offices for CAPS therapists to serve students in a highly functional, problem-free environment specially designed for counseling services. CAPS offers a wide array of free mental health services including brief individual therapy, psychiatry, crisis services, group counseling, workshops, self-help, referrals, case management, and peer support. The new CAPS Hub would have space for group counseling and student wellness, in addition to individual therapy offices.

- **Cove:** The Cove provides community and support for students that are committed to their recovery from alcohol and/or other drugs, are the loved one of someone with an addiction, who want to support those in recovery, are interested in recovery, or just want to meet other students who are substance-free and looking for community. Services at The Cove include support meetings, counseling and coaching resources, health and wellness services, social activities, networking, and mentoring.

Currently, the Cove, is located in a temporary trailer in the Cowell College area. This trailer was never meant to be permanent at Cowell and has been used for over eight years. It is important to students in recovery or considering a change in their relationship to alcohol and/or drugs to feel safe and secure. The new Kresge space would allow the Cove to continue to develop programs and services to adequately support this growing demographic of UCSC students. The ability to provide the Cove program and services for our students in recovery and their allies will be hampered and at risk without this permanent space at the Kresge Hub.

The fee is subject to the following costs and conditions:

- Collection of the fee would begin only when the building is complete and ready for occupancy, estimated to be Fall 2024. The fee will be assessed until debt service is paid off (expected around fiscal year 2054-55), upon which the fee level will be reduced to \$10.00 to address ongoing maintenance issues.
- The Division of Student Success will establish a Student Success Building Advisory Committee, which will include students representing the programmatic areas that are housed in the facility, to help advise on oversight of the facilities, major maintenance improvements, etc.
- We do not anticipate net revenues in excess of the projected debt service and yearly maintenance. However, any excess revenues realized for unanticipated reasons (e.g., potential fluctuations in enrollment, emergent maintenance requirements, a decrease in interest rates, etc.) may be reserved for major maintenance and/or early re-payment of the debt, to be approved by the principal officer.

Future net revenues that may be in excess of the projected debt service and yearly maintenance will be reserved for major maintenance and improvements of the Kresge space.

- Should the Division of Student Success need to reallocate the programs occupying the Kresge space in the future, given evolving programmatic needs and future growth, the Vice Provost would consult with the Student Success Building Reserve Advisory Committee to determine an appropriate course of action that is in alignment with the principles set forth in this referendum.