

Measure 31 (U, G): Athletics Funding Measure

QUESTION

Shall the undergraduate and graduate students of UCSC provide programming funding for Intercollegiate Athletic Sport Team, which will expand the athletic department training room hours, support athletic team allocations, travel, equipment, game management, student workers, membership fees, salaries for administrative staff and coaches by establishing a new permanent fee of \$5.00 per student per quarter?

SUMMARY POINTS

- New undergraduate and graduate compulsory fee of \$5.00 per student, per quarter.
- Provides 33% Return-to-Aid (\$1.65 of the fee) to assure that lower income students have Financial Aid assistance in paying the fee.
- Fee begins Fall Quarter 2007 and is a permanent fee with no ending date.
- Fees will be assessed each quarter and state-supported summer session on all undergraduates and graduates enrolled in that quarter or summer session.
- Provides funding for greater athletic training coverage in injury treatment and prevention for student participants
- Helps our students, athletes and coaches by creating jobs for student employees who staff at all intercollegiate athletic sporting events
- Increases ability to attract diverse, highly qualified and highly motivated scholar-athletes to UCSC
- Provides funding for teams allowing for safer travel options and more appropriate team allocations
- Creates a better, more competitive and exciting sports program leading to increased school pride
- Provide funding to increase student, parent and fan school spirit, excitement and interaction at intercollegiate athletic team home contests through promotional activities
- Provides funding for additional personnel to assist coaches in sport administration, travel and budget logistics, fundraising, game management, and marketing and promotions to increase interactive opportunities between coaches and their students
- Provides funding for greater coach retention to assist students in the opportunity for quality coaching and consistency within their sport
- Provides more opportunities to students who otherwise could not afford to participate in intercollegiate athletics
- Students were consulted regarding the need for this fee through the following mechanisms: feedback and input from the Student Athletic Advisory Committee comprised of 1-3 members from each athletic team on campus.

BALLOT STATEMENT

Shall the undergraduates and graduate students of UCSC assess themselves \$5 per student, per quarter beginning Fall 2007 to provide funding to the Athletic Department for Intercollegiate NCAA Division III teams?

How the fee will be used

This fee will be used to fund programming for Intercollegiate Athletic Sports. This funding will expand the athletic department Training Room hours, support athletic team allocations, travel, equipment, game management, student workers, membership fees, administrative staffing, and coaches salaries.

Why the fee is needed

The fee is needed to reduce participant out-of-pocket expenses for UCSC student-athletes, which are currently estimated at \$200 - \$600 per student, depending on the sport). The fee will reduce those out-of-pocket expenses by 15 - 25%, approximately \$100 - \$200. The fee is needed to reduce the risk of injury through expanded athletic training services, and provide consistent and well trained game day student workers (currently volunteer) for athletic contests. Further, it is needed to meet NCAA uniform and equipment regulations, lessen high coach workload by increasing administrative support and decrease the high coach turnover rate due to extremely low salaries. UCSC is the only NCAA Division III institution in the UC system. To maintain this unique status, the campus needs to support our programs through student fees, as we do not have access to TV packages and Conference post-season revenue sharing as do our sister, Division I campus schools and as we fundraise over 60% of our sport team budgets.

How students will benefit

- Provides funding for greater athletic training coverage in injury treatment and prevention for student participants
- Helps our students, athletes and coaches by creating jobs for student employees who staff at all intercollegiate athletic sporting events
- Increases ability to attract diverse, highly qualified and highly motivated scholar-athletes to UCSC
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- Provides more opportunities to students who otherwise could not afford to participate in intercollegiate athletics

ENDORSEMENTS

PRO/CON STATEMENTS

This measure is needed to provide the Athletic Department at UC Santa Cruz a base level of funding. Currently the Athletic Department and the UCSC NCAA teams fundraise nearly two thirds of their budget each year, which constitutes less than half of a normal Division III school's athletic department budget. With only \$5 per quarter the students of UC Santa Cruz can help to ensure that we have an athletic department and teams that we are all proud of. Passing this referendum will make sure that the student-athletes at UCSC can continue to represent our campus, and our community in a positive manner. In addition, the athletic department will be better able to serve the general student population, providing fun, positive and safe events for students to participate in (ie: Home Contests).

The funds generated from the student fee, will go to help support the student-athletes by hiring support staff (currently the athletic department employs only one full time employee, where a average division III school employs 5-10), give teams a base level of funding to take the fundraising burden off of the student-athlete's shoulders, and to the athletic department general fund to provide funding for broken equipment, uniforms, and other expenses necessary for running a NCAA athletic department.

Most importantly this funding is needed to keep UCSC Athletics alive...

WE ARE NOT... adding football or any other sport

WE ARE NOT... using funds for letter winner awards, team awards or banquets

WE ARE NOT... using funds for facility maintenance or improvements

WE ARE NOT... using funds for athletic scholarships (DIII is non-scholarship)

WE ARE NOT... moving to Division I or II

Author: UCSC Athletics Department

- This should not be a campus-wide measure since graduate students are unable to compete based on two restrictions: their workload requirements and the 25 year age limit. Because of these issues, the overwhelming majority of graduate students will not directly benefit from this fee in any way.

- An identical measure was submitted in 2006 elections and voted down by a campus-wide voter turnout that satisfied minimum voting pool requirements. Posing the same question to the student body is wasteful of public resources spent on a campus election.
- Only 350 undergraduate athletes will benefit from this fee annually, out of a student population of 15000 combined graduates and undergraduates.
- If funding athletics is a worthy endeavor for the entire campus it should be funded from the educational fees administered by the UC Regents.

Author: Graduate Student Association