

MEASURES

MEASURE A: Shall the undergraduate and graduate students of UCSC increase the campus child care program fee to \$3.00 per quarter?

Discussion: This measure requires a simple majority of a minimum voting pool of at least 25% of the student body.

This measure increases the level of support for the campus child care programs from \$1.00 per quarter to \$3.00 per quarter. The original fee was approved in 1986 by the student body and has not been increased since.

Income from the fee is used to partially support the costs of caring for the children of students only. Three programs currently operate on campus: a preschool program for low-income student parents at Family Student Housing (FSH); an infant/toddler program, also at FSH; and a preschool program at the Granary.

In 1990-91 the Child Care Programs Fee generated approximately \$27,000 in income to sustain programs. The proposed increase in the fee would generate approximately \$54,000 in additional income to be used to subsidize fees for student parents, replace aging equipment and materials, and maintain mandated quality standards and staffing levels. In the face of budget cuts in both state and University funding, continuation of student child care services and subsidies are dependent upon increased support.

Supporting Opinion: UCSC students have a long standing tradition of supporting positive social change. The original child care fee was approved by a 90% majority of the student body. Child care is a major social, political and economic issue of the 90's which powerfully impacts the welfare of our society. We must all bear the full cost of quality care now for children, or pay even more for our negligence in the future.

If the referendum is not passed, services will have to be cut, or fees to student parents will have to be raised to the extent that child care may be beyond their means. The results would be discrimination against students on low and fixed incomes, and decreased diversity in the educational community. Effective affirmative action and re-entry programs imply equal opportunity for all, which in turn requires quality, affordable child care for student parents. All students, whether or not they are students, benefit from a diverse educational community.

Access to quality child care can make all the difference. Bruce Avery, a graduate student in literature, says, "I can say in all honesty that I would never have finished my degree without the Child Care Center." Another student parent, Kim Dios, has reported that she would have had to "postpone my studies for almost three years" without the infant program. And a third student, Mary Healy, wrote that she simply would not have been able to attend classes. Child care, she said, is a social concern that needs to be addressed at every level of society, including locally, right here on the UCSC campus.

Campus child care programs benefit not only student parents but the many students who are employed by them and who use them as course observation sites.

It is important to note that none of the impending increase in student registration fees will go to child care programs. In fact, because of the current fiscal situation, child care may face budget reductions by as much as 20%. Students would set an important social precedent by sustaining their level of support despite rising educational costs. This small fee increase would make a significant difference in the lives of students with families.

Child care at UCSC has a strong history. Please continue the tradition. Vote "YES" and help our academic community do right by its children and their student parents. Don't turn your back on this important student service or on our "University children." Vote to maintain affordable child care at UCSC. Thank you!

UCSC Child Care Advisory Committee

Endorsed by the Student Union Assembly, Estudiantes para la Salud del Pueblo, Re-Entry Services, Children's Center Parent Advisory Committee.

Opposing Opinion: No opposing opinion was received.