

Measure 37 (U): Support GIIP, Undergraduate Education, Social Justice and Sustainability

QUESTION

Shall the undergraduate students of UCSC provide funding for the Global Information Internship Program (GIIP) at UCSC, which will enable more UCSC students to learn information technology skills and implement social justice and sustainable development internships with global and local community organizations by establishing a new compulsory fee of \$1.33 per quarter, per student, beginning Fall 2008?

SUMMARY POINTS

- New undergraduate compulsory fee of \$1.33 per quarter, per student.
- Fee begins Fall Quarter 2008 and is a permanent fee with no ending date.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduate students enrolled in the fall, winter, and spring quarters, and to undergraduate students enrolled in State-funded summer quarter.
- Fee will generate approximately \$59,427* in academic year 2008-2009, the first year it is in effect.
- This fee includes a 33% 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 \$19,611 per year.
- Fee is sponsored on the ballot for undergraduate students by 2/3 of College Student Governments.
- Fee income will fund student-interns' travel and health insurance costs and part of the staffing cost required to place GIIP student-interns globally and locally with community organizations.
- Students were consulted regarding the need for this fee through the following mechanisms: consultation with the GIIP Fellows and GIIP students, surveys, and focus groups. Approximately 250 students were surveyed, and approximately 30 students participated in focus groups.

*Three quarter enrollment estimate based on Fall 2007 third-week enrollment of 14,894

BALLOT STATEMENT

How the fee will be used

1. The Global Information Internship Program (GIIP) (<http://giip.ucsc.edu>) is an innovative digital service learning program created by students and faculty at UCSC and managed by GIIP Fellows. GIIP sponsors a new generation of "info-activists," who use information technology to advance social justice, democratize globalization, and promote social entrepreneurship to support sustainable community organizations. Every

year, at least 100 UCSC students participate in GIIP classes and trainings, where they learn valuable technological skills such as computing, data bases, web design, and digital video, as well as organizational skills such as project design, field work and grant writing. Self-reliance and entrepreneurship are emphasized: GIIPers are required to submit proposals before they are eligible for GIIP funding. GIIP's success rests on the partnerships and networks created by former GIIPers, however the demand for GIIP interns outstrips GIIP's staff resources and funds for student travel.

2. The current annual budget for GIIP is \$75,000. The fee will create approximately \$39,816 in new funding for the GIIP program, and will allow GIIP to fund participating UCSC students' travel, health and living expenses and assist GIIP in placing its interns with community groups, non-profits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). GIIP's classes, trainings, and grant-writing programs prepare UCSC students to become digital social entrepreneurs who use their real world and marketable technical skills to build a sustainable and just society.
3. Currently, the GIIP program supports the participation of 100 UCSC students. If passed, this fee will increase that number to 150 UCSC students. The fee will allow GIIP to double the number of student interns, from 20 to 40 annually.
4. The fee will provide financial assistance to low-income students unable to complete GIIP internships because of financial constraints.
5. A small portion of the fee will support part of the cost of assisting students prepare proposals and grants and place students with community and NGO organizations. GIIP staffers are former GIIPers who develop partnerships and internships with local and international nonprofits, create and teach classes, plan and support GIIP partnerships, and provide technical support while on internships. Average staff salary is \$32,628 per year, and benefits are valued at \$5,546; part of the fee contributes to sustaining staff members who place and support GIIP student interns.
6. The fee will also support the global social justice movement and the transition to a sustainable world because it will enable GIIP to place more UCSC students and fund more UCSC student projects and internships with community and non-profits who seek technically trained GIIP interns. GIIP students are encouraged to find internships that focus on our thematic concerns: environmental sustainability, access to quality health and education, women's empowerment, peace and conflict resolution, social enterprise and global justice.

Why the fee is needed

The fee will support a student-run program that is facing budget cuts. The fee will provide a

sustainable source of financial support for GIIP, thus giving more students the opportunity to become involved in a program unique to UCSC. Finally, the fee will provide financial resources for low-income students whose finances reduce their ability to pursue GIIP's internship opportunities. In past years, GIIP students going on internships (last year at least twenty students worked at internships, and many of them completed multiple projects) were supported with money provided by a grant for GIIP from the Compton Foundation. That grant money has since ran out and we are no longer able to provide students with this option. The fee will fill this need; the amount given and number of students benefiting will depend on the number of internships being undertaken, the location and length of the internship, and the student's financial need. In past years, financial support has ranged from \$100 to \$1000 per student.

Who will benefit

1. An increased number of undergraduate UCSC students would have more opportunities to participate in GIIP's information-driven, unique hands-on approach to education.
2. Low-income students would not be financially constrained from participating in internships.
3. GIIP's network of global partners, extending from Santa Cruz to Fresno, Minneapolis to Washington, Honduras to Mexico, and Nigeria to Malaysia, would have a larger pool of trained and funded GIIP students to meet their demand for digitally competent interns. GIIP also focuses on recruiting students from historically excluded communities such as the LA basin and the Central Valley. GIIP interns have also worked to advance sustainable forestry in Kenya and Honduras, democratic development in Central America, reproductive health in Nigeria, peace and conflict resolution in the Middle East and labor and community organizations in California. Demand for GIIP interns outstrips GIIP's ability to train and place them. The world's majority will benefit from funding this referendum. Join us.

ENDORSEMENTS

- CGIRS (the Center for Global, International, and Regional Studies)
- STOP (Students Together Opposing Poverty)

PRO/CON STATEMENTS

None