

## **Measure Title: Sustainable Food, Health, and Wellness Initiative**

### **Measure #: Measure 43**

#### **Ballot Information:**

Shall the undergraduate students of UCSC provide funding for programming and educational support related to sustainable food, health and wellness initiatives, for on-campus and off-campus undergraduate students at UCSC by establishing a new compulsory fee of \$3.75 per quarter, per student, beginning Fall 2010?

#### **Summary Points**

- New undergraduate compulsory fee of \$ 3.75 per quarter, per student.
- Fee begins Fall Quarter 2010 and is a permanent fee with no ending date.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates enrolled in the fall, winter, spring and summer quarters
- Fee will generate approximately \$ 171,663\* annually.
- The funding will be governed by the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) with an oversight committee comprised of two staff, two students and two faculty members.
- 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 undergraduate students who are on financial aid, cover the expense of the fee. This will be approximately \$56,649 per year.
- Fee is sponsored for undergraduates on the ballot by petition.

\*Three quarter enrollment estimate based on Fall 2009 third-week enrollment of 15,259.

#### **Ballot Statement:**

How will the fee be used? This fee will promote greater student health and wellness through programming on food choices; shifts in institutional food service practices for more healthy and fresh options in campus eateries; support for student-centered experiential learning programs, classes and events on the UCSC farm and in college gardens; quarterly and annual educational publications; and provide funding for staff to oversee and expand current and future programs. In support of the purposes outlined above, the Sustainable Food Health & Wellness Initiative fee will provide funding for the following:

- Increasing support for student research and program development on issues of nutrition, health, sustainable food systems, garden and farm based learning at UCSC
- Co-sponsored activities for Registered Campus Organizations, Residential Life, and International Living Center
- Hosting a monthly forum on campus, featuring professionals, scholars, and youth leaders working towards a more just and sustainable food system.
- Funding for events such as: The annual Fall Harvest Festival, which is attended by over 2,000 students and campus community members; The annual Sustainable Food Interactive tent at the Fall Festival, which is attended by over 3,000 students; Cultural food and community events on the CASFS farm.
- Supporting student organizations by providing student scholarships and helping Registered Student Organizations sponsor special events and activities related to the food system.
- Partnering with the Recreation Department to sponsor and provide scholarships for quarterly field trips, classes, and student activities related to the Food System Learning Journey programs featuring experiential and hands-on learning; building upon successful previous activities such as the annual alternative food and justice spring break trip,

service learning opportunities in our community, and the student run quarterly food system based classes.

- Publishing the annual Campus Food Guide which serves as a resource and educational tool for the student population at UCSC, on and off campus.
- Providing funding for enhancing student-centered hands-on learning on campus farm & gardens, at CASFS, and in partnership with other campus-based classes and programs such as the Program in Community & Agroecology (PICA).
- Working with dining services and campus food system vendors to create interactive learning spaces on sustainability, health, and wellness related to our food system. In addition, develop innovative programs to create healthy, fresh, and sustainable options and reduce waste through composting and education.

In addition to sponsoring the above programs and activities, CASFS will also include a quarterly call for funding requests from students and registered student organizations for research and program activities. The funding will be governed by CASFS with an oversight committee comprised of two staff, two students and two faculty members. The committee will review programs and proposals to ensure they meet funding requirements. A yearly report will be submitted each March by the committee to review all funded activities. The yearly report will be available for review by the campus community.

Why is the fee needed? The fee is needed to build greater support for successful programs and activities that have emerged over the last 40 years at UCSC and received necessary feedback and input from students over the past 5 years. The fee will ensure that all undergraduate students have access to education and programs that enhance their understanding of the food system and their food choices to increase opportunities for an enriched lived experience. The funds will include reinstating support and programs such as resources for student gardens to be established at each college and freshman Sustainability Learning Projects that have been jeopardized by budget cuts; in addition to providing new programs based on student proposals and interests.

Who will benefit? Participating undergraduate students and members of the campus community as a whole. Specifically, through CASFS, current registered student organizations, classes, and campus units the aforementioned activities and programs will be carried out to further enrich students and engage them in creating participatory learning models and programs. Campus food guides and publications will be available for all students, distributed in a fashion that includes campus mail boxes, student organization boxes, freshman mailings, and ready availability in public spaces.

### **Endorsements**

UCSC Student Environmental Center, UCSC Campus Sustainability Council, Students for Organic Solutions, Program in Community & Agroecology, Friends of the Community Agroecology Network, UCSC Recreation Department, College 8 Sustainability Office, Education for Sustainable Living Program, Sustainable Living Center.