

UC Irvine Student Fee Advisory Committee

September 16, 2014

HOWARD GILLMAN
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR

RE: 2013-2014 Student Fee Advisory Committee Annual Report

Introduction

As per Regental Policy 3101: The University of California Student Tuition and Fee Policy, the Student Fee Advisory Committee on each individual UC Campus is charged with providing recommendations on the use of Student Services Fees and the annual Student Services Fee to be set by the Regents. With regard to this Policy, the UC Irvine SFAC provides the following recommendations:

Allocations

During the 2013-2014 academic year, SFAC was charged with making recommendations on permanent allocation of \$250,000 in incremental SSF funding in addition to \$2,768 in unallocated permanent funds from 2012-2013. Based on deliberations by the committee, the following recommendations represent allocations of \$211,268 in permanent funds and \$41,500 in one time funds:

Department	Purpose	Permanent	One-Time
Student Affairs- WH&CS Counseling Center	Doctoral Intern Staff salary	\$10,000	
	0.50 FTE Senior Psychologist	<u>\$41,000</u>	
Student Affairs- WH&CS Career Center	Graduate Student Career Consultant	<u>\$26,317</u>	
	Graduate Student Career Conference		\$10,000
Student Affairs- Student Life & Leadership Cross Cultural Center	Multicultural Leadership Institute		\$6,500

Academic Affairs-DUE Peer Academic Advising (PAA)	One additional PAA in EACH academic school	<u>\$40,222</u>	
	Bring Salary levels of PAA to minimum wage of \$10/hr	\$9,719	
Student Affairs- (CARE)	One Assistant Director position	\$56,200	
Associated Graduate Students	AGS Symposium		\$10,000
	Travel Grants		15,000
Student Affairs- WH&CS Health Education	Education & Wellness Programs Manager position	\$27,810	
Total		\$211,268	\$41,500
Overall Total		\$252,768	

Student Priorities from SSF Survey Results

As the Student Services Fee has the unique potential to enrich the quality of student experience by providing crucial student services on campus and as this fee affects students at all academic levels including undergraduate, graduate and professional students, the SFAC has undertaken a UC Irvine campus-wide survey campaign to find out what students want from their student services, to listen to their concerns and share their stories in an effort to recognize areas of increasing student needs, and to increase transparency in the Student Services Fee allocation process.

The surveys conducted in 2013-2014 and in 2012-2013 elicited a total of 3,314 responses from students in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. A drastic increase in participation levels during the survey conducted in 2013-2014, where more than 2,500 students participated in the very first week of survey release, clearly demonstrates a growing interest in the student population regarding student services and the allocations of their Student Services Fee to fund these essential services.

The SFAC have carefully deliberated on the allocation of Student Services Fees by analyzing student priorities identified in the student fee survey. The details of the analysis and respective allocation recommendations are as follows:

Increase in Mental Health Service Needs

Student respondents of the SFAC student fee survey identified the top three growing reasons for using Student Mental Health Services on campus to be stress, emotional and academic issues. Based on the increasing student need and the related Mental Health Services staffing needs, the SFAC has made recommendations on permanent allocations for staffing in both the Counseling Center and the Health Education Center.

Services of Growing Interest to Students

Student services provided by Academic Advising and the Career Center have been identified as the two additional top priorities for students across academic levels. Therefore, the SFAC has made recommendations to allocate funds to support the budget requests submitted by the Career Center which impacts graduate students and requests by Academic Advising impacting undergraduate students.

Student Services Fostering Diversity

With respect to furthering the cause of UC's mission and stewardship in improving diversity and access, the SFAC firmly believes in supporting student services that improve opportunities for diverse student populations across academic levels. The SFAC therefore recommends allocations to provide additional funding to support student services and co-curricular activities provided by the Cross Cultural Center, CARE and Associated Graduate Students.

Observations from Unit Budget Request Process

During the campus-wide unit request deliberation process, the committee observed various common themes across the budget request process which might be potential areas of concern when reviewing unit requests in the coming years. These concerns are as follows:

Increased Unit Budget Requests

In comparison to previous years, where the SFAC was charged with making recommendations on a maximum of \$100,000 in incremental SSF allocations, for the past two years the SFAC has been charged with making recommendations on \$250,000 in incremental SSF allocations. This year the SFAC deliberated over budget requests totaling \$1,892,385 from 21 different units across the campus. This increase in unit budget requests as compared to prior years represents growing budgetary support needed by units with Student Services Fees funding.

Recommendations

In light of the above increasing unit budget requests, our recommendations are as follows:

1. Our committee recommends the units requesting Student Services Fees also consider additional funding sources such as their home departments, Student Affairs and Office of the Provost & EVC.
2. While soliciting unit budget requests, the SFAC should indicate the maximum level of incremental SSF allocation recommendations that will be made by the committee during that year.

3. Units should be encouraged to submit funding requests for only their highest priority budget needs. Units should consider the limited fund allocations that can be recommended by the SFAC through incremental SSF allocations.
4. Units with funding requests for overlapping services/activities should be encouraged to work together while preparing their budget proposals. This recommendation may also be reinforced by including additional questions in the budget request template prompting units to identify other units they have worked with in the case of requesting funds for common services.

Raising Salary Levels of PAAs to Minimum wage level

DUE Peer Academic Advising (PAA) has requested a permanent allocation to raise the wage level of student peer academic advisors to \$10.00/hr. The committee believes that funding this request is critical to retain and recruit superior undergraduates as peer academic advisors.

Recommendation

Because of the multiple, competing funding requests and the limited amount of incremental SSF funds available, the SFAC recommends funding \$9,719 of the \$14,688 permanent budget support DUE has requested for increasing the PAA wage levels. Additionally, the SFAC requests the Office of the Provost & EVC consider other funding options to fully fund the DUE PAA budget request.

Employee Benefits Included in Unit Budget Requests

Staffing requests from multiple units included funding both salaries and benefits. This resulted in an increase in the overall requested funding amount.

Recommendation

Benefits for approved staff positions recommended by the SFAC have been centrally funded by the campus, so the committee's recommendation is to revise the budget request template to instruct units to only include staff salaries in their requests.

Course Material and Services Fee Proposal Recommendations

This year the SFAC reviewed three Course Material and Services Fee (CMSF) proposals submitted by the Music, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Developmental and Cell Biology departments. Recommendations for each of the programs' proposals are detailed below:

Claire Trevor School of the Arts – Department of Music

1. The CMSF should be included in student recruitment materials where students are adequately informed about the fee when they apply and get accepted to the Music department.
2. A return-to-aid component of 33% should be included in the CMSF.
3. Student survey results reported by the department should be comprehensive in reporting: a) overall student population surveyed; and b) specific reasons for the need to increase the CMSF.
4. The Music department may want to compare their funding model to other UC music programs that have a similar curriculum structure but do not charge a CMSF for individualized music instruction.

5. The committee recommends that the fees be reduced by \$50.

Henry Samueli School of Engineering - Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department

1. The committee was interested in analyzing a comprehensive listing of cost breakdown/consumable that equated to total cost. This information was lacking in the proposal.
2. The committee recommends the CMSF to be \$20/quarter/student as compared to original request of \$40/quarter/student.

School of Biological Sciences – Department of Developmental & Cell Biology

1. While the committee commends the efforts made to receive student input, the committee questions the depth of student consultation in which only 10 students were surveyed in a class size of 100.
2. As the high cost of the CMSF may adversely affect students from low income backgrounds and from other underrepresented communities, the committee recommends a CMSF of \$30/quarter/student.

Council on Student Fees

This year saw an increased participation and interest in the Systemwide committee of Council on Student Fees (CSF) that consists of an executive board made up of the leadership team from all 10 UC Campuses' Student Fee Advisory Committees. The Council provides system wide policy positions on Student Services Fees and student services on the UC Campuses. This year our SFAC participated in three system-wide campaigns spearheaded by CSF namely: a) the Funding Stream Assessment Campaign; b) the Referenda Campaign; and c) the SSF Enforcement Report.

Conclusion

With both campus-wide and Systemwide Student Services needs increasing, we urge campus leadership to continue obtaining substantive consultation and collaboration with students on the Student Fee Advisory Committee regarding the use of Student Services Fee funds and priorities for student services provided to UCI students. We thank you for providing us this opportunity to serve our student constituents and the campus through our work on the Student Fee Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Sonali Madireddi
Chair, UCI Student Fee Advisory Committee
Chair, UC Council on Student Fees
President, UCI Associated Graduate Students

CC: Vice Chancellor Meredith Michaels
Associate Vice Chancellor Rich Lynch