

UC Irvine Student Fee Advisory Committee
2017-2018 Annual Report
Attachment 1

June 8, 2018

Dear Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Lavernia,

The members of Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) take their fiduciary responsibility to provide recommendations on the use of student fees very seriously, and are diligent in the pursuit of providing capital to programs and positions that put UCI first in class. Over the past several years, members of SFAC have noted an increasingly troubling trend in SFAC applications where a large portion of applications have been for programs, services, and staff that are essential to the student educational process and experience at UCI; by essential, we mean programs and services that the university would not be in legal compliance if it did not have these available to students. These programs and services are needed for institutional parity, or are necessary for students, at any university, for them to successfully complete their academic programs and make use of their degrees. Additionally, it seems that for certain requests such as Commencement, Women's Hub, the Latinx Center and perhaps Immunizations as well as other items, the budget requests to the Provost were treated as back-up to funding requests submitted to the SFAC.

We have worked with the systemwide Council on Student Fees to share best practices, and we are happy to report that we are in many ways setting the benchmark for the other campuses. In speaking during those meetings and with UCOP representatives, it is SFAC's position that we should not recommend budget requests for funding which are essential to UCI. From speaking with applicants, they are evermore under the impression that SFAC is, "another pot of money for applicants to draw from." This is not correct. The value of the student perspective is less insightful when tasked with evaluating essential services than when we appraise things which enhance our time here. Therefore, we have decided to recommend SFAC funding only for meritorious applicants which provide non-essential services and to separately assemble a list of applicants that propose what we view to be essential services and to strongly urge the Provost to consider funding as part of the campus's annual budget process. SFAC should be confident that the Provost will fund items like Commencement, Women's Hub, Latinx Center and perhaps Immunizations and other items that are clearly essential to the operation of the campus, so the SFAC funds can be directed to student focused items that may not be viewed as integral to campus operations, but demonstrate character and compassion and enhance the culture of the campus.

We hope to work with you in the Fall 2018 to ensure that this trend can be mitigated, the applicants are better resourced in applying for funding, and to improve channels of communication between our many campus partners.

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2017-18 UCI Student Fee Advisory Committee