

UC Irvine Student Fee Advisory Committee 2018-2019 Annual Report

Introduction

As per Regental Policy 3101: The University of California Student Tuition and Fee Policy, the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) on each UC Campus is assigned the role of providing recommendations on the use of Student Services Fees and each year's Student Services Fee (SSF) as set by the Regents. In accordance with this charge, the UC Irvine SFAC provides the following recommendations on incremental SSF budget allocations, and a summary of recommendations for proposed 2019-2020 Course Materials and Services Fees (CMSF) and recommendations on the language included in the proposed compulsory campus-based student fee referenda which was to be included on 2019 spring student elections ballot.

The committee also reviewed and is providing areas of focus for recommended changes to the current SFAC Guidelines.

I. Incremental Student Services Fee Revenue Recommendations: SSF Allocation Recommendation Process

SFAC identified five areas of focus in this year's funding requests, consistent with past student survey data and committee deliberations. These priority themes were: Career & Professional Development, Academic Engagement, Student Life, Campus Climate and Health & Wellness.

Based on relevance, each SSF funding proposal was categorized under at least one of the five priority themes, although many proposals were assigned to more than one category. To facilitate review, each SFAC member individually reviewed all of the proposals. The full committee then reconvened to review each proposal on a case-by-case basis, giving first consideration to requests that had received a high score.

Recommended SSF Allocations

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the SFAC was charged with making recommendations on permanent allocations of \$250,000 in new 2018-2019 SSF funding and \$2,678 in remaining permanent funds from the 2017-2018 year, for total permanent funding recommendations of \$252,678. In 2018-2019, the committee received funding allocation proposals from various campus units totaling \$516,244 in budget requests. With total requests outpacing the committee's available budget, it was inevitable that the many of the applicants would not receive additional SSF funding for the 2018-2019 year via the SFAC's budget recommendation process. The following recommendations, listed below in order of highest priority, are for requests the committee considered as high-priority and true to what SFAC-recommended SSF funding is intended for: to fund services and activities that are not essential to the core academic function of the University, but are deemed important and complementary to the University experience.

Table 1: 2018-2019 SFAC SSF Funding Recommendations

| Rank | Proposed Allocations | Recommended Funding |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Student Affairs: CARE | | |
| 1 | Advocate 3 1.0 FTE (temporary seed funding previously provided by UCOP). The CARE advocate provides emotional support, coping skill training, connects students to resources and assistance with financial, housing or relationship stressors as well as navigation through various options and campus/criminal processes including accompaniment to courts, hearings, forensic exams, accessing accommodations, etc. | \$60,000, plus benefits (perm) |
| Student Affairs: Fresh Hub | | |
| 2 | Five student staff for CalFresh Advocate Team. Est. 15 hours/week at \$14.00 per hour including summer. Students will assist other students in applying for SNAP benefits and work to increase awareness about the Fresh Hub program. | \$46,200 (perm) |
| Student Affairs: DREAM Center | | |
| 3 | Program Director (SAO4) 1.0 FTE to direct programming and advance the mission of the DREAM Center to support the personal, professional and academic success of undocumented students at UCI; includes individual student consultations. | \$78,531, plus benefits (perm) |
| Academic Affairs: School of Physical Sciences | | |
| 4 | Student Affairs Officer (SAO) II/Academic Counselor 0.5 FTE appointment that focuses on online advising and programming development for URM, first-generation and international undergraduate physical sciences majors. | \$22,491, plus benefits (perm) |
| Student Affairs: Fresh Hub | | |
| 5 | Funding for the Emergency Meal Swipe program providing students in need with access to several healthy and well-balanced prepared meals at the University Dining Commons. | \$20,000 (perm) |
| Student Affairs: Counseling Center | | |
| 6 | One-year subscription for Therapy Assisted Online (TAO)--an online mental health program. Provides students with additional options for self-help for various mental health issues; provides additional access and resources for students. Three levels: Level 1 is self-help access for students; Level 2 is use of TAO by campus departments; Level 3 is using TAO as an adjunct to the Counseling Center's in-person mental health services. | \$11,050 (perm) |
| Student Affairs: Center for Student Wellness & Health Promotion | | |
| 7 | Funds to support topic-based programming including Sexual & Relationship Health, Alcohol & Other Drugs, Wellness, and Nutrition Programming. | \$7,000 (perm) |

| Student Affairs: Center for Student Wellness & Health Promotion | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| 8 | Online assessment tools. Two online assessment tools to determine where students are at with alcohol/cannabis/marijuana use prior to attending classes or consultation meetings. | \$2,525 (perm) |
| Academic Affairs: OVPTL/Student Success Initiatives | | |
| 9 | Funds for housing stipends for students in the UCDC academic internship program. Funds will support first-generation and low-income students' participation in the UCDC program. | \$5,000 (temp) |
| Total Permanent Funds (plus benefits) | | \$247,797 |
| Total Temporary Funds | | \$5,000 |
| Total Recommendations | | \$252,797 |

The committee continues to recommend stronger communication on Student Services Fee-funded budget requests between individual departments and the organizations to which the department's report.

II. Course Materials and Services Fee (CMSF) Recommendations

In addition to reviewing SSF funding requests, SFAC also convened to review and recommend various CMSF requests from different academic units, listed below.

Table 2: 2018-2019 CMSF Recommendations

| Recommended CMSF Requests | |
|---|--|
| Claire Trevor School of the Arts | |
| Studio Art 30A and 30B – Basic Painting I and II: new \$30.00 per quarter/per student fees to cover the costs of live models and raw building materials for students to use. Materials will assist with fabricating projects and materials used in painting projects. Recommended fee based on actual cost per student. | |
| Drama 280A – Costume Techniques: increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00 per quarter/per student fee to cover the cost of consumable materials and supplies used in their projects including: sewing machines, brushes, yarn, fabric, etc. Recommended fee level based on actual cost per student. | |
| Undecided/Undeclared | |
| University Studies 1 – Freshman Experience: An increase from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per quarter/per student to cover the licensing fee for a subscription to StrengthQuest. The test will assist students in identifying strengths and achievements as well as identify future career and educational paths. | |

The committee did not recommend approval of School of Physical Sciences proposed CMSF for ESS 226-Land Surface Process based on the cost justification and calculation provided by the school and the overwhelming lack of support and comments provided in the student feedback [note: this proposal was eventually withdrawn by the school]. Additionally, the proposed increase to the E120 – Marine Biology CMSF submitted by the School of Biological Sciences was not recommended for approval because of the lack up updated student feedback and the committee also questioned the learning outcomes of the Aquarium of the Pacific field trip exercise.

The committee remains committed to monitoring CMSF increases in the best interest of the relevant student bodies. For this reason, SFAC strongly values the contributions of student

feedback and in-person discussions with school representatives to aid the committee's understanding of the merit behind each CMSF request.

III. Spring 2018 Student Fee Referenda Recommendations

The committee reviewed and provided feedback to the Graduate Student Government on the draft language for the proposed Graduate Student Food Insecurity Relief student referenda and recommended inclusion of the referenda on the 2019 spring elections ballot.

IV. Proposed Revisions to SFAC Guidelines

The committee reviewed the current approved SFAC guidelines (please see attachments) and recommend the following revisions:

Section 2: Composition and Eligibility

2.1.1.

- Move student composition in section 2.1.2. to 2.1.1. and move faculty composition from 2.1.1. to 2.1.2.
- Add "Voting Members" designation to students.
- In paragraph five, specify undergraduate nominations need to be completed by ASUCI by week nine of the spring quarter before the new committee term begins.
- Remove "seniors or other graduating...." from the third sentence of paragraph five and replace with "Members will be replaced upon graduation."

2.1.2.

- Add "Non-Voting Members" designation to faculty representatives.

2.1.3.

- Add "Non-Voting Members" designation to staff representatives.

2.2.2.

- Replace "2/3rds" with "supermajority" in the first sentence.

2.3.2.

- Add the following language: "Stipends levels shall be reviewed at request of Committee."

Section 3: Organization Procedures

3.3.4.

- Remove "the" before "campus media" and add "as deemed appropriate" at the end of the sentence.

3.3.6.1.

- Remove "half" from the last sentence regarding weighted voting by one-time proxies.

3.3.6.2.1.

- In language for appointment of longer-term proxies, specify the chair must be provided a brief summary of the proxies' qualifications and the length of the proxies' appointments.

3.7.2.

- Add language stating a “speakers list will be added as necessary and when agreed upon by a simple majority vote” of the committee.

3.7.3.

- Add language: “In the case of a tie vote in all simple-majority votes, unless otherwise state, a tie will be considered non-passing.”

Section 4: Operating Procedures

4.1.

- Include plan for more communication with department heads.
- Also add language regarding proposed revisions to Committee guidelines: “By the end of week 10 of the fall quarter [fall quarter completion], the Committee shall review, amend, as necessary, the currently approve Committee Guidelines, and shall vote to approve the amended Guidelines by a super-majority vote.”

General Revisions to Guidelines

- Replace “his/her” with “they/them/theirs” throughout guidelines when pronouns are used generically.
- Add “academic” before each reference to “year.”

V. Moving Forward

SFAC hopes to improve dialogue, beyond communicating via the committee’s Annual Report, with the Provost and EVC, the Budget Office, Student Affairs and campus units requesting SSF funds. Increased dialogue would assist all parties in being better informed of the funding priorities for critical student services needs and for the committee to have a better understanding of the campus budget process and funding decisions. The committee thus encourages administration and all campus student services units to work closely with the SFAC Chair and Vice Chair to provide feedback on the needs of their units. With feedback from campus leadership the Student Fee Advisory Committee can best serve the campus and align their priorities with campus needs. In coming academic years we hope to grow the partnership with the administrative personnel to more effectively address greater student needs.

VI. Closing Remarks

As the student body continues to grow and its needs diversify, SFAC is committed to its role in identifying student needs, and making SSF recommendations that align with those needs and emerging campus priorities. Yet we are aware that our work is not possible without the support, consultation and collaboration of the campus leadership, and we therefore urge executive administration to continue their encouragement of SFAC and its charge.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve our student body and UCI campus in this way.

In Solidarity,

Auzzsa Eaton
Chair, UCI Student Fee Advisory Committee

2018-2019 SFAC members