

UC Irvine Student Fee Advisory Committee
2019-2020 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 six 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, Health & Wellness, and Equity & Achievement.

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 individually, giving first consideration to requests that had received a high score. The committee is also providing feedback on each application so that each applicant can be empowered to provide even stronger applications in future years.

Recommended SSF Allocations

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the SFAC was charged with making recommendations on permanent allocations of \$250,000 in new 2019-2020 SSF funding and \$5,000 from the balance of permanent funds from 2018-19. In 2019-2020, the committee received funding allocation proposals from various campus units totaling \$864,301 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 2019-2020 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: 2019-2020 SFAC SSF Funding Recommendations Rank Proposed Allocations

Rank	Proposed Allocation	Recommended Funding
Student Affairs: CARE		
1	Permanent funds to sustain programs funded by OVW Grant (ending in Sep. 2020) which includes self-defense classes, menCARE, Holistic Healing programs, Coordinated Community Review Team meetings, Green Dot bystander intervention program, and staff professional certifications.	\$30,000 (perm)
Student Affairs: Latinx Center		
2	Permanent funds for an SAO 2 Program Coordinator to assist in the development of annual programming for the LRC. The Program Coordinator has the functional responsibility for coordinating programs, initiatives, and events for Latinx student empowerment, education, support, and retention through graduation.	\$44,982 (perm), plus benefits
Student Affairs: Dream Center		
3	Permanent funds to sustain and grow the DREAM Project Fellowship (DPF) program, which provides an essential opportunity for undocumented students, (especially students without employment authorization) to gain professional experiences by completing a year-long project with an on-campus department or host site.	\$50,000 (perm)
Student Affairs: Latinx Center		
4	Permanent funds for student intern positions (Student Assistant IV) responsible for developing workshops, doing marketing and outreach on LRC resources and programs, and community building. Intern positions will include Community Programs, Arte & Cultura, Graphic Design, Marketing, QTPOC Affairs and Afri-Latinidad Affairs.	\$23,100 (perm)
Student Affairs: Counseling Center		
5	Permanent funds to raise the annual salaries of 4 doctoral interns from \$32,300 to \$36,300 each. They are engaged in the same clinical activities as the licensed clinical staff, but require the oversight of the clinical supervisors. Interns provide individual therapy, urgent care/crisis support, group services, assessment, outreach, postvention response to critical incidents, teaching, and consultation/liaison services to the	\$16,000 (perm)

	campus community. They have been responsible for developing such programs known as Wabrudah, Wellness Workshop Series, and liaison relationships with units like SSI, Athletics, LGBT RC, CCC, Dreamers Center, Vets Center.	
	Outreach, Claire Trevor School of the Arts	
6	1.0 FTE Outreach Programs Manager (Administrative Analyst) permanently funded to develop and implement programs that support our students' career goals by providing opportunities for them to gain practical teaching experience in the K12 classroom, resume and career path support in their discipline, and experience developing community engagement programs.	\$42,000 (perm), plus benefits
	OVPTL: Peer Academic Advising	
7	Permanent funds to augment funds for peer academic advisors' wages. The augmentation is to offset rising wages and increase the number of advisors in the program. PAA provided 4 scenarios of increasing staffing with the budget request required to fund each scenario. (Alternate scenarios: 1. \$7,800 - 30 staff; 2. \$12,480 - 48 staff; 3. \$83,303 - 48 staff (full funding); 4. \$201,003 - 75 staff (full funding))	\$12,480 (perm)
	Nursing Student Affairs	
8	Temporary funds for pilot programs to address the Sophomore slump, first-generation students, and student engagement for Sophomores and Juniors (specifically for transfer and change of major students).	\$2,500 (temp)
	Student Affairs - Cross-Cultural Center	
9	Permanent funds for 1.0 FTE for an Office & Events Manager (Admin Specialist) which provides services and program of growing interest to students on campus. The position also provides crucial services to individuals, campus clubs and organization, as well as campus departments. The Office & Events Manager is primarily responsible for our room reservation system and event services platform.	\$23,000 (perm), plus benefits
	Office of Vice Provost Teaching and Learning	
10	Permanent funding for a Psychologist Liaison from the Counseling Center dedicated to serving Student Success Initiative students. Units across our campus have counselors in their respective identity centers because of the unique needs of various underrepresented student communities. SSI at UCI needs to join these ranks of other campus centers for the sake of the many transfer students, former-foster youth, low-income students, first gen students, undocumented students, and students with dependents.	\$11,012 (perm), plus benefits
	Total Permanent Funds	\$252,574
	Total Temporary Funds	\$2,500
	Total Recommendations	\$255,074

Total Recommendations \$255,074. The committee requests the campus provided an additional \$74.00 to fully fund the recommended budget allocations.

The rationale for each funding recommendation is as follows:

1. CARE

The CARE Office demonstrated a high degree of need and potential degree of impact. The CARE Office is losing temporary grant funding from UCOP and other entities, funding without the prospect of being renewed. This funding is essential as CARE's utilization rates have skyrocketed. While it occurred after SFAC's deliberation, the new Title IX rules released by the U.S. Department of Education on May 6, 2020 will require greater resources and energy by the CARE staff.

2. Student Affairs: Latinx Center

UCI takes great pride in its designation as a 'Hispanic Serving Institution.' Unfortunately, the growing number of Hispanic/Latinx students have not be well-resourced with resources and programming specific to them and their needs. SFAC found that the application for a Program Coordinator showed a clear roadmap for more programmatic resources of UCI Latinx students. This position also exists at other UC campuses, and we are confident that the Latinx Center can learn from the successes of the other UC campuses in the onboarding and execution of this position.

3. Student Affairs: DREAM Center

The number of Undocumented students at UCI, those with and without DACA or AB540, continues to grow. However, many incoming students are no longer eligible for DACA and AB540, and are without a number of rights and services including loans and work authorization. This problem may grow if the US Supreme Court fails to uphold DACA later this judicial term. SFAC found the DREAM Center application novel, bold, and demonstrated a step-by-step way of creating meaningful employment and professional development opportunities for UCI Undocumented students, irrespective of DACA and AB540.

4. Student Affairs: Latinx Center

The cultural centers on campus are critical for developing students' identities and developing community. Students of color are more likely to have jobs while in school, limiting their ability to fully partake in UCI resources and programs. Also, SFAC generally finds that, when possible, student internships are preferable to FTE positions when the work product can be roughly the same. For those reasons, SFAC found that the internships proposed by the Latinx Center would help students take part in the Center's resources, find meaningful professional development

experiences, and provide a service that other students could benefit program. The interns would also be integral to the success of the Program Coordinator.

5. Student Affairs: Counseling Center

Students utilize the Counseling Center more each year. The doctoral interns are essential in providing a lower-cost counseling service to students. The interns provide one-on-one counseling services and are trained with more recent techniques and specializations that the UCI Counseling Center desperately needs. However, the pay for the interns needs to be competitive if UCI is to secure the interns with the specialties and skills we need. SFAC found the modest salary increases warranted.

6. Outreach, Claire Trevor School of the Arts

SFAC found the outreach programming that CTSA does to be important for UCI's mission to serve to local community, particularly those communities whose education is understaffed and underfunded. The FTE position would be an important asset in ensuring students get the most out of their community service. SFAC's decision to partially fund this application was based on the large number of deserving applications and this application's ability to work with partial funding.

7. OVPTL: Peer Academic Advising

Peer academic advisors (PAAs) play an important role helping students navigate campuswide, major, and minor requirements. Resourcing students with PAAs, including through the Summer Quarter, is a cost-effective mechanism for improving graduation rates and lowering time-to-degree averages. OVPTL has applied for SFAC support of the PAAs for multiple years, and SFAC has been unable to allocate the requisite amount to satisfy their needs. This year, SFAC determined that partial funding (\$12,480) would help OVPTL meet minimum wage increases and improving recruitment, while also enabling SFAC to fund other important campus priorities.

8. Nursing Student Affairs

SFAC was impressed by the novelty of this application. Programming to reduce the Sophomore Slump is unfortunately sparse at UCI. Yet, it is critical for the undergraduate majors that have high attrition. SFAC found the \$2,500 dollar request modest and, if successful, something that could be replicated throughout campus. Nursing Student Affairs asked for temporary funds, and SFAC agrees that a one-time allocation enables SFAC the opportunity to observe the programs success before funding it permanently.

9. Student Affairs- Cross Cultural Center

SFAC was persuaded that the Cross Cultural Center is understaffed and that having an FTE dedicated to managing events and the office would be beneficial for maximizing the Center's impact. Having a staff position under a center director is consistent with the other center's on campus at UCI and systemwide. Given the scarcity of funds, SFAC suggests a partial funding of this application. The Cross Cultural Center said that they could make use of the partial funding for hiring this position.

10. OVPTL

This application would allow OVPTL to buy-out a psychologist from the Counseling Center to serve Student Success Initiative Students. Under-resourced and underrepresented students are less likely to utilize counseling services, but more likely to need them. SFAC also believes that enabling OVPTL to buy-out a psychologist to liaise with these students would liberate the Counseling Center from some of its more time consuming outreach and provide funds for them to provide more direct clinical services.

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. The applications need to justify why a new cost is warranted and demonstrate a substantive level of student consultation. This year, SFAC was persuaded about the efficacy of the CMSFs presented after additional conversations with the applicant academic units. The CMSFs we recommend are: Art 113 (How to be Clever with Stuff); E115L (Evolution Lab); ENGRMAE93 (Topics in Engineering Design); ENGRMAE 172/180 (Robot Design); N129 (The Transparent Brain). Each of these applications demonstrated why a fee was appropriate, a more convenient option for students, and a last resort given the financial constraints of the academic units.

SFAC does not always recommend CMSF applications, but felt comfortable recommending each of the applications we received this year. 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 2019 Student Fee Referenda Recommendations

The committee reviewed and provided feedback to the graduate student government on the draft language for the proposed student referenda to increase of the student government fee and recommended inclusion of the referenda on the 2019 spring elections ballot with suggestions.

The committee also reviewed and provided feedback to the undergraduate student government on the draft language for the proposed student referenda for the Womxn's Hub fee and recommended inclusion of the referenda on the 2019 spring elections ballot with suggestions.

IV. Proposed Revisions to SFAC Guidelines

SFAC reviews the approved SFAC guidelines annually to ensure that the UCI SFAC is operating under best practices as informed by consultation with the SFACs across the UC and from UCI community feedback. The committee reviewed the current approved SFAC guidelines (please see attachments) and recommend revisions to operate its own student recruitment procedure. SFACs across the UC have found that implementing its own recruitment procedure has enable has reduced delays in committee function and has resulted in broader and more diverse student membership than when recruitment is administered solely by the undergraduate and graduate student governments.

Please see the appendix to this document for the proposed changes. Note that italics refer to new language and strikethroughs denote deleted language.

V. Moving Forward

In light of the changing fiscal landscape of UCI, SFAC hopes to be a greater resource to the Provost and EVC, the Budget Office, Student Affairs and campus units as administrators are inevitably forced to implement budget cuts. SFAC is experienced in administering scarce resources and believes that its track record of recommendation illustrates its ability to understand the most crucial investments in students services and the student experience. 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.

VI. Closing Remarks

As the student body continues to grow and its needs diversify and grow increasingly complex in light of the COVID-19 epidemic, 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.

Sincerely,

Connor Strobel

Chair, UCI Student Fee Advisory Committee

Khajika Soyoltulga

Vice Chair, UCI Student Fee Advisory Committee

2019-2020 SFAC members

Appendix: Proposed Changes to Governing Documents

2.1.2.1. Eleven Students

~~The ASUCI President and ASUCI Executive Vice President. Both ASUCI Executives can recommend designates to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for approval. Terms are for tenure of office.~~

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~~One AGS Vice President of Financial Affairs. The AGS Executive can recommend designates to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for approval. Term is for tenure of office.~~

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~~Two Graduate Students—nominated by the AGS. Expected term is for two years, with a maximum of four years. One student should preferably be a professional student.~~

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~~Six Undergraduate Students—nominated by the ASUCI. Expected term is for two years, with a maximum of four years.~~

Student members shall preferably be appointed before the end of the Summer Quarter before their term on a staggered two-year basis. ~~Four years shall be the maximum service period for any member. Seniors or other graduating members will be replaced upon graduation.~~ Members who will no longer be able to serve in their capacity will be replaced by the EVCP based on nominations from the respective student governments or through SFAC applications, whichever is applicable. Replacements will serve out the remainder of the term. Continuity of the Committee's membership is desirable. Students must be in good academic standing and pay the student service fee through the entirety of their term.

One representative recommended by ASUCI to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for approval. Terms are for one academic year.

One representative recommended by AGS to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for approval. Terms are for one academic year.

Two Graduate Students - recommended by SFAC to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost after a campuswide application process. Expected term is for two years, and students may reapply. One student should preferably be a professional student.

Seven Undergraduate Students - recommended by SFAC to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost after a campuswide application process. Expected term is for two years, and students may reapply.

Student members shall preferably be appointed before the end of the Summer Quarter before their term on a staggered two-year basis. ~~Four years shall be the maximum service period for any member. Seniors or other graduating members will be replaced upon graduation.~~ Members who will no longer be able to serve in their capacity will be replaced by the EVCP based on nominations from the respective student governments. Replacements will serve out the remainder of the term. Continuity of the Committee's membership is desirable.

2.1.2.2. SFAC Application Process

SFAC will administer a campuswide application process for the two at-large graduate and seven at-large undergraduate representatives. It is desirable to administer this process during the Spring Quarter for the following year.

SFAC will make a good faith effort to ensure a broad solicitation by utilizing campuswide email and other institutional resources and by reaching out to registered student organizations and resource centers on campus.

SFAC will provide a written application that privileges the diverse insights of the UCI student body.

SFAC will strive to recruit and retain a committee that is reflective of the UCI student body.

Any student paying the student service fee is eligible to apply, regardless of any memberships in other campus organizations.

The current SFAC will vote in closed-session to fill the vacancies for the next year. SFAC will utilize this applicant pool to fill any mid-year vacancies. SFAC members who have applied for reappointment will abstain from voting on their own application.