

## **2022-2023 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 (SSF) and each year's Student Services Fee 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 2022-2023 Course Materials and Services Fees (CMSF) and recommendations on the language included in the proposed compulsory campus-based student fee referenda which were to be included on the 2023 Spring student elections ballot.

### **I. Incremental Student Services Fee Revenue Recommendations**

#### **SSF Allocation Recommendation Process**

The 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:

- 1) Academic Engagement - Requests that supplement academic services such as peer academic advising or student programs within academic schools and academic support areas.
- 2) Campus Climate - Requests that promote a positive campus climate, diversity, inclusion and cultural competency.
- 3) Career & Professional Development - Requests that provide training and opportunities for students to find careers and excel in the professional world.
- 4) Equity & Achievement - Requests that support the successes of underrepresented populations on campus.
- 5) Health & Wellness - Requests that promote student mental health services or encourage mental wellbeing.
- 6) Student Life - Requests that encourage student engagement in campus activities and campus and generally help students integrate their academic and personal lives.

These pillars were shared with prospective units within the application materials to ensure that they could better align their requests with the purpose and ambitions of the SSF.

To facilitate the review, each SFAC member individually reviewed all the proposals and provided an initial ranking. The full committee then reconvened to review each proposal individually, giving first consideration to requests that had received the highest average score.

**Recommended SSF Allocations**

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the SFAC was charged with making recommendations on total permanent allocations of \$276,798.00, comprised of \$250,000.00 in new SSF funding for 2022-2023 and \$26,798.00 in permanent funds remaining from the 2021-2022 cycle. In 2022-2023, the committee received funding allocation proposals from various campus units totaling \$771,225.00 in budget requests, broken down as follows:

Student Staff Positions	FTE Staff Positions	Programming Expenses	Operational Expenses
\$294,096.00	\$299,999.00	\$101,200.00	\$75,930.00
38.13% of requests	38.9% of requests	13.12% of requests	9.85% of requests

The financial decrease from previous years was highlighted in many applications, with various units prioritizing items vulnerable to cuts or that have become harder to self-finance. With total requests outpacing the committee’s available budget, it was inevitable that many of the applicants would not receive additional SSF funding for 2022-2023 via the SFAC’s budget recommendation process. Due to fiscal constraints, the committee ultimately prioritized the funding of Student Staff positions over other considerations, finding them to be an effective investment towards the missions and priorities of many departments. 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 campus, but are deemed important and complementary to the university experience.

**Table 1: Breakdown of 2022-2023 SFAC SSF Funding Recommendations by Category**

Student Staff Positions	FTE Staff Positions	Programming Expenses	Operational Expenses
\$239,026.00	\$0.00	\$37,700.00	\$0.00
86.38% of requests	0.00% of requests	13.62% of requests	0.00% of requests

**Table 2: 2022-2023 SFAC SSF Funding Recommendations Rank Proposed Allocations**

Rank	Proposed Allocation	Funding Recommendation
<b>Student Affairs: UCI Basic Needs Center</b>		
1	Permanent funding for four (4) Student Assistants for the CalFresh Advocate team to provide one-on-one application assistance to CalFresh eligible students experiencing food insecurity, as well as raise awareness of the CalFresh program to potentially eligible students.	\$46,000.00, plus benefits (perm)
<b>Student Affairs: Womxn’s Center for Success</b>		
2	Permanent funding for one (1) Graduate Student Assistant (\$13,000) and partial funding for one (1) Undergraduate Wellness Development Student Intern (\$2,000) to support services and provide professional development opportunities.	\$15,000.00, plus benefits (perm)
<b>OVPTL: Peer Academic Advising Program</b>		
3	Permanent funding for a minimum wage increase for approximately 56 PAAs from \$15 to \$15.50 per hour (\$8,960) and a wage increase for Lead PAAs from \$15.50 to \$16.50 per hour (\$6,400).	\$15,360.00, plus benefits (perm)
<b>Student Affairs: Cross-Cultural Center</b>		
4	Permanent funding for student staff positions related to Student Interns, Front-Desk Staff Assistants, and a Graduate Intern.	\$40,000.00, plus benefits (perm)
	Permanent funding for loss of programming funds from budget cuts to continue supporting signature programs, weekly program offerings, events,	\$2,500.00 (perm)

	presentations, and fairs.	
<b>Student Affairs: LGBT Resource Center</b>		
5	Permanent funding for seven (7) Student Interns to support programs, act as peers and mentors, facilitate dialogue, create an atmosphere of inclusion, manage social media presence, and outreach to the campus.	\$32,550.00, plus benefits (perm)
	Permanent funding for loss of programming funds from budget cuts to continue supporting more than eight (8) programs and workshops per week and two celebration identity weeks per quarter.	\$10,000.00 (perm)
<b>Student Affairs: Latinx Resource Center</b>		
6	Permanent funding for general programming (\$10,000), the Latino Excellence Achievement Dinner (\$7,500), and La Bienvenida (\$5,000) to continue supporting workshops, film series, professional development, and legacy celebrations and events.	\$22,500.00 (perm)
<b>Division of Career Pathways</b>		
7	Permanent funding for nineteen (19) Work Study Students to provide front desk customer service, workshops, programs, drop-ins, career fairs, and outreach.	\$19,600.00, plus benefits (perm)
<b>Student Affairs: Sustainability Resource Center</b>		
8	Permanent funding for four (4) Student Staff - Academic Coordinator, Environmental Justice Collective Assistant, Media & Marketing Coordinator, and Outreach Coordinator - to support sustainability, environmental justice, education and outreaching programs.	\$20,000.00, plus benefits (perm)
	Permanent funding for programming funds to support environmental justice and climate resilience programming.	\$1,400.00 (perm)
<b>Student Affairs: Office of Campus Organizations &amp; Volunteer Programs</b>		
9	Permanent funding for programming funds to support quarterly Campus Organization Involvement Fairs with an objective to promote opportunities for student	\$1,300.00 (perm)

	involvement, leadership, career/professional development, and community engagement.	
<b>School of Biological Sciences - Mathematical, Computational and Systems Biology (MCSB)</b>		
10	Permanent funding for ten (10) MCSB Mentors to enhance student academic experiences.	\$3,216.00, plus benefits (perm)
<b>Henry Samueli School of Engineering</b>		
11	Permanent funding for two (2) to four (4) Student Staff as Retention Coaches to support students needing additional academic care by developing skills for independence and study techniques.	\$18,000.00, plus benefits (perm)
<b>OVPTL: Learning &amp; Academic Resource Center</b>		
12	Permanent funding for four (4) to six (6) Academic Student Employees for the Peer Tutor Team to provide drop-in learning support for historically challenging courses.	\$20,000.00, plus benefits (perm)
<b>Paul Merage School of Business</b>		
13	Permanent funding for six (6) Peer Coaches to support incoming freshmen and transfers by fostering meaningful relationships and acting as a coach to resolve incoming students' academic, social, and campus life questions.	\$9,300.00, plus benefits (perm)
	<b>Total Permanent Funds</b>	\$276,726.00
	<b>Total Temporary Funds</b>	\$0.00
	<b>Total Recommendations</b>	\$276,726.00

The rationale for each funding recommendation is as follows:

**1. Student Affairs: UCI Basic Needs Center (\$46,000.00 permanent)**

UCI leads the UC system, and many of its peers in other university systems, in assisting students facing basic needs insecurity. Through the UCI Basic Needs Center, the university ensures students can focus time, energy, and action towards their academic success. CalFresh Advocates further this goal by connecting students to governmental financial support by helping them navigate an otherwise complicated and bureaucratic application process. Seeing the tangible

impact the CalFresh Advocate team has had at UCI, the SFAC recommends funding the UCI Basic Needs Center's request to maintain the capacity of an invaluable service on campus.

**2. Student Affairs: Womxn's Center for Success (\$15,000.00 permanent)**

The Womxn's Center for Success is a more recently developed campus unit that attends to the needs of not only women, but nonbinary and femme students on campus as well. Through ProDevo and Wellness programming, the center continues to promote these underrepresented groups' personal and professional development. The center's student staff play a key role in ensuring their operations are able to reach as many members of our campus community as possible. The SFAC recognizes the value of such student staff towards promoting a safer and more equitable campus for all Anteaters and recommends funding the Womxn's Center for Success' request.

**3. OVPTL: Peer Academic Advising Program (\$15,360.00 permanent)**

With the rise of inflation, the SFAC believes that the proposal to increase the minimum wage for Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs) is critical. The Peer Academic Advising Program is an essential program on campus that serves undergraduate students' academic needs, particularly for those enrolled in historically challenging courses. With each PAA being well-versed in UCI's policies and curricula, the SFAC believes that they should be compensated for their dedicated work in advising students and recommends funding OVPTL's request for the Peer Academic Advising Program.

**4. Student Affairs: Cross-Cultural Center (\$42,500.00 permanent total)**

With the recent budget reductions, the Cross-Cultural Center (CCC) had to eliminate some student staff positions to maintain their operations, resulting in less capacity for the 2022-2023 year. The SFAC believes that student staff is critical in a successful program as the department can receive additional support and student staff can act as ambassadors to the department. Thus, the SFAC believes in funding CCC with \$40,000 to fund student interns and front-desk students.

Aside from funding student staff, the SFAC recommends funding CCC with \$10,000 of programming funds to continue their outreach efforts to the majority of the students. While programming funds are important, the SFAC has weighted student staff more due to the impact in the department's operations.

**5. Student Affairs: LGBT Resource Center (\$42,550.00 permanent total)**

The student staff at the LGBT Resource Center represent the student community and create a space that their peers can access for many resources. The student staff also take on a large part of the critical programming to support students as a part of the center's resources. The SFAC values the input and drive of these student assistants towards creating safe spaces for their peers at UCI, and recommends the funding of the LGBT Resource Center's request to help serve this underserved community.

Additionally, programming at the LGBT Resource Center allows for students to learn and explore their identities and how those intersect with their success and opportunities on campus. It also provides spaces for students to connect with peers and build community. The SFAC believes every Anteatr on campus should be able to discover themselves in a safe and comfortable learning environment and recommends funding programming for this purpose.

#### **6. Student Affairs: Latinx Resource Center (\$22,500.00 permanent)**

As another fairly recently developed center at UCI, the Latinx Resource Center provides vital resources and opportunities to the student community through a variety of programming during the academic year, as well as bridging the gap between educational disparities for students. Additionally, the Center is also a space for students to actively connect with peers and mentors through volunteer opportunities and more. The SFAC celebrates the successes of the Latinx Resource Center since its establishment and recommends funding their request to further serve this important community.

#### **7. Division of Career Pathways (\$19,600.00 permanent)**

The Division of Career Pathways is a critical resource on campus, providing professional development opportunities for students in hopes that they will develop into successful professionals upon graduation. The SFAC believes that funding nineteen (19) work study students to provide front desk support, customer service, workshops, programs, and career fairs will spread the impacted workload among additional student staff and be able to provide additional time to assisting more students.

#### **8. Student Affairs: Sustainability Resource Center (\$21,400.00 permanent total)**

The SFAC recommends a permanent funding of \$20,000 for student staff to increase awareness and activity for the students to more effectively participate in sustainability efforts through volunteering opportunities, education and free resources that are accessible to all.

In addition, the SFAC also recommends a permanent funding of \$1,400 to provide crucial education and resources to students through programming, as seen in their annual retreat SLICR. The programming allows for students to engage with the campus community and take initiative in sustainability efforts.

**9. Student Affairs: Office of Campus Organizations & Volunteer Programs (\$1,300.00 permanent)**

The two components of the Office of Campus Organizations & Volunteer Programs (COVP) - campus organizations and volunteer programming - remain essential to a well-rounded Anteater community. Campus organizations provide students a safe space to pursue their interests and explore their passions, while volunteer programming is often a campus' most direct way to deliver a positive impact on the surrounding community. Student volunteers, in particular, participate in direct action, advocacy, policy, and other aspects of assistance not often available elsewhere. The SFAC values continued promotion of these opportunities to ensure greater amounts of community engagement and student professional development in the future.

**10. School of Biological Sciences - Mathematical, Computational and Systems Biology (MCSB) (\$3,216.00 permanent)**

The School of Biological Sciences - Mathematical, Computation and Systems Biology (MCSB) had previously requested \$3,216 in temporary funds the prior year. After a successful year as a pilot program, the SFAC believes that MCSB has established an equitable process to ensure the success of their students. In particular, the program supports graduate students' academic needs and promotes mentorship opportunities between a valuable cohort of our university. With this permanent funding, the SFAC desires to see an increase in graduate students' served by the program in the upcoming year.

**11. Henry Samueli School of Engineering (\$18,000.00 permanent)**

The Henry Samueli School of Engineering has a history of academically challenging courses, particularly for incoming students who may be transitioning into life at UCI. The SFAC recommends permanent funding of \$18,000 to support Retention Coaches who will ensure students are successful in the long term. With Retention Coaches in place, students will be able to receive peer-to-peer mentorship and develop skills for independence and study techniques in order to succeed.

**12. OVPTL - Learning & Academic Resource Center (\$20,000.00 permanent)**



Peer-to-peer interactions and instruction are invaluable to student learning. The Peer Tutor team's work has in the past directly improved students' understanding and mastery of complex quantitative coursework through drop-in learning support. An in-depth understanding of method and knowledge is paramount to a student's ability to critically evaluate information and participate in knowledge creation, as well as innovate and adapt in private and NFP enterprises. For this reason, the SFAC recommends funding the Learning & Academic Resource Center's request for 4-6 Academic Student Employees.

### **13. Paul Merage School of Business (\$9,300.00 permanent)**

The SFAC recommends permanent funding of \$9,300 to support Peer Coaches at the Paul Merage School of Business. With the funding of Peer Coaches, first-year and transfer students will be able to receive academic and social mentorship from experienced students to ease their transition into life at UCI. Through peer mentoring, the SFAC desires to see Peer Coaches enhancing student experiences and incorporating new students into the Paul Merage School of Business and UC Irvine community.

### **Additional Recommendations**

Of the budget requests the SFAC received, several pertained to the hiring of career staff to supplement a lack of available mental health resources on campus, particularly for graduate students, and a growing need for specialized advisors for students from marginalized communities. Though the monetary scale of the requests far exceeds the amount granted to the committee's purview for recommendations, pursuant to the committee's pillars of Equity & Achievement and Health & Wellness, the SFAC strongly recommends that the Provost's Office explores alternative mechanisms of funding for such considerations.

## **II. Course Materials and Services Fee (CMSF) Recommendations**

In addition to reviewing SSF funding requests, the SFAC also convened to review and recommend various CMSF requests from different academic units. The applications needed to justify why a new cost was warranted and demonstrate a substantive level of student consultation. This year, the SFAC was persuaded about the efficacy of the two (2) CMSFs presented after additional conversations with the applicant academic units.

- 1) **BIO 93L & BIO 94L** - The application demonstrated the fiscal need for a new fee to fund the creation of a new dry lab for BIO 93L and BIO 94L. The committee appreciated the School of Biological Sciences' data on student retention rates between the two consecutive classes in addition to responses from a student survey on attitudes toward the

fee. Based on these considerations, the SFAC recommended the creation of this fee. In the interest of transparency, the SFAC additionally recommended the administrative separation of the fee into one for each course: a \$20 fee for BIO 93L and a \$5 fee for BIO 94L.

- 2) **ESS 226** - The application demonstrated the fiscal need for a new optional fee to fund the field trip component of ESS 226. Though a relatively large fee (\$160), the optional nature of the fee was something the committee appreciated during deliberations. Based on these considerations, the SFAC recommended the creation of this fee.

The SFAC does not always recommend CMSF applications, but felt comfortable recommending these applications. The committee remains committed to monitoring CMSF increases in the best interest of the relevant student bodies. For this reason, the 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 2023 Student Fee Referenda Recommendations**

The committee reviewed and provided feedback to one (1) referendum for the 2023 Spring student elections ballot.

The SFAC reviewed and provided feedback to UCI Campus Recreation on the draft language for the proposed student referendum for the Anteater Recreation Center (ARC) Expansion fee (\$145.00 fee per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter) and recommended the inclusion of the referendum on the 2023 Spring student elections ballot with suggestions. The ARC Expansion fee was not placed on the ballot due to a lack of approval from the Associated Graduate Students' (AGS) Legislative Council.

### **IV. Moving Forward**

Considering the changing fiscal landscape of UCI, the SFAC hopes to be a greater resource to the Provost and EVC, the Budget Office, Student Affairs, and campus units as administrators continue to navigate the campus' budgetary challenges. In line with this, the SFAC also hopes to improve dialogue, beyond communicating via the committee's Annual Report, with campus partners, especially in regards to reviewing carryforward balances each year as a part of allocation considerations. The 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 student services and the student experience.

The SFAC feels strongly that UCI's adaptation during the 2022-2023 academic year has highlighted opportunities for a greater efficiency of resources that can deliver a better learning and living experience to students. We encourage the Provost's Office to engage with the 2023-2024 SFAC, ASUCI, and AGS to identify these opportunities to help propel UCI into its brilliant future.

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

Sincerely,

Jun Jang  
Chair, Student Fee Advisory Committee

Johnathan Li  
Vice Chair, Student Fee Advisory Committee

2022-2023 SFAC Members