

University of California, Riverside
Spring 2014
Student Services Support Fee Referendum

The assessment of a new fee supporting seven Student Services departments would begin Fall 2014.

Introduction:

This referendum acknowledges the graduate student body of University of California, Riverside (“UCR”) is interested in improving and expanding support services, resources, and programs through African Student Programs, Asian Pacific Student Programs, Chicano Student Programs, LGBT Resource Center, Middle Eastern Student Center, Native American Student Programs, and Women’s Resource Center (“seven departments”).

Even as UCR enrollment has increased, as well as expenses associated with providing services and programming, the permanent budgets of the seven departments have not grown. The seven departments’ ability to provide needed support services, resources, and programs is limited by reductions in permanent professional staffing and less access to permanent funding through Student Services Fees. Student organizations are also seeking additional staff assistance from the seven departments to navigate campus policies and procedures, as well as staff time in helping students in distress to find needed campus support.

The purpose of the Student Services Support Fee is to allow the seven departments to better meet student needs, by providing:

- Increased co-programming with student organizations and student-led initiatives, including funding and advising
- Staffing to assist students in finding support and resources
- Support for conference hosting and conference travel
- Support for Common Ground Collective projects & collaborative initiatives with the Graduate Student Association (GSA)
- Peer mentoring and peer education programs support
- More resources in each student program office and center, such as student computer support and educational materials
- Basic operations support as the costs of campus services continue to increase

Funding:

If approved, this referendum will provide \$14 per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) to increase student support services, programming, and resources through the seven departments, as well as financial aid funds to meet the University of California “return-to-aid” requirement (see “Return-to-Aid” section below). Seventy-five percent of the amount collected from this fee will be split evenly amongst the seven departments, with \$1.50 per

quarter transferred directly to each department's budget.

“Return-to-Aid”:

In accordance with University of California policy, 25% of the amount collected from this fee (\$3.50 per quarter) will be returned to UC Riverside students in the form of graduate financial aid.

Governance:

If passed, the Referendum Student Advisory Committee (“RSAC”) will be formed. It shall be made up of undergraduate and graduate UCR students appointed by the seven departments, and shall meet regularly to advise on the use of funds. A portion of the funds will be used to support and sustain the work of RSAC (*are they paying the committee members?*). Once allocated, department directors are responsible for the proper use of funds to meet the purpose of the Student Services Support Fee.

Referendum Passage:

In compliance with UC and UCR policies, this referendum must meet the following criteria during elections to be approved by the student body.

1. At least 20% of the graduate student body must vote on the issue.
2. A majority of the votes cast must vote in favor of the issue.

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

Do you support a quarterly fee of \$14 for student services departments to meet growing student needs by providing programming, collaborative student events & projects, center infrastructure, and staffing for student support?

- Fee will begin effectively, Fall 2014
- Fee will be assessed in Fall, Winter, Spring, & Summer quarters
- 25% of the fee (\$3.50) will be returned to financial aid to help offset costs for students who are eligible for financial aid
- Fee will be split equally between seven departments: African Student Programs, Asian Pacific Student Programs, Chicano Student Programs, LGBT Resource Center, Middle Eastern Student Center, Native American Student Programs, and Women's Resource Center
- Fee will go directly to each department's budget

The approval of this referendum would provide:

1. Increased co-programming with student organizations and student-led initiatives, including funding and advising
2. Staffing to assist students in finding support and resources
3. Support for conference hosting and conference travel
4. Support for Common Ground Collective projects & collaborative initiatives with GSA
5. Peer mentoring and peer education programs support
6. More resources in each student program office and center, such as student computer support and educational materials

In order for GSA to pass the above referendum, 20% of the UCR Graduate Student body must vote **and** the referendum must be approved by a majority of Graduate Student voters. The Graduate Student population **shall not** be combined with the undergraduate student population in order to reach the 20% voting population necessary for this referendum to pass.

___ **Yes**, I hereby support the Student Services Support fee.

___ **No**, I hereby do not support the Student Services Support fee.