

COSAF Report | Summary of Comments

Review: Associated Students of UC Davis (ASUCD) Fee 2022-23
February 28, 2023

Action Item #2023-037

Per the ASUCD **BASIC NEEDS AND SERVICES UNDERGRADUATE REFERENDUM** language, there will be a \$26 increase (25 percent of which will be used for Return to Aid) to the ASUCD Base Fee portion of the ASUCD Fee, increasing the overall ASUCD Fee from \$35 to \$61 per undergraduate student per quarter effective fall 2020, followed by an additional \$8.00 increase to the quarterly ASUCD Base Fee to be implemented annually in Academic Year (AY) 2021- 22 to AY 2029-30, with automatic CPI adjustments annually thereafter

Therefore, COSAF oversight is to provide comments & recommendations based on the information provided to the Council. COSAF does not vote on a CPI recommendation, as incremental increases to the fee are built into the referendum language.

COSAF Review Timeline:

Date	Action
2/10/23 COSAF Meeting	Presentation: Greg Ortiz, ASUCD Business Manager, JT Eden, ASUCD Internal Vice President
2/24/23 COSAF Meeting	Full Council discussion
2/24/23	Qualtrics survey distributed to Council for comments/recommendations. Due 2/26/23

Following is a summary of COSAF comments and recommendations:

It was really great learning what ASUCD does and a lot of the students benefit from their programs. I think it is important that they are trying to convert volunteer positions to full time paid positions. Since they were presenting to COSAF I think their budget should be more detailed and specific. I agree that their budget is available on their website but even the presenters mentioned that it was not easy to understand so for future presentation a more detailed breakdown would be appreciated.

They provided a thorough and very insightful presentation. I really look forward to seeing the positive impact of the fee on the association. Also, I cannot wait to see more volunteer jobs become paid positions and more opportunities for students to get involved as a result.

I feel that ASUCD does provide a lot of services from COHO to the Pantry and I appreciate the work that they do for students. But I do feel that they should provide more details regarding how exactly are their millions of dollars in revenue being used. It is interesting that ASUCD have millions in reserve funds but receive new revenue from the fee increases every quarter-- while I understand that they have expanded the amount of people they pay with this, I'd love to see if they could expand on other services or start new initiatives as their revenue increases.

ASUCD provides immense opportunities and products to so many students on campus. The operations of ASUCD is enormous, which is why I support student fees such as the ASUCD Base Fee. However in my eyes, ASUCD appears to have little name recognition for students beyond the thought of a student council. ASUCD should form a better name recognition, like Campus Rec has, to engage students in the Davis community and student elections (which have had low turnout). Additionally, ASUCD has massively expanded the base fee to turn stipend and volunteer jobs into hourly jobs. While this provides students with the pay they deserve, the implementation of these new hourly jobs appears slow. The job-pay-shifting process is currently reflected in a big carry-forward balance for ASUCD, which to the student population makes the fee appear excessive for the benefits provided.

I'm very excited to see different projects being added and the plans that the ASUCD has to offer to the students. The presentation was very informative about the services that ASUCD has. I wish to see more exposure to the different events that ASUCD hosts throughout the year. I think having more marketing around what exactly ASUCD does and more advertisements would be extremely helpful. I do understand that it can be very difficult to reach such a massive population of students, but I think it'll be nice to see more information about ASUCD and the resources that they offer to students.

ASUCD should advertise itself and its services more as a whole but otherwise no comments

After re-familiarizing myself with the ASUCD fee as well as having our meeting on Friday (2/24) reaffirmed my belief in the justified uses of the fees on students at the undergraduate, graduate, and law levels. I definitely agree with the pros of the fee, however would like to have more transparency as to what the fees are being apportioned to each respective class level.

If they could provide this clarification/transparency, I would be more on-board personally to support to the fee as well as any CPI adjustments needed for the future.

It was a great presentation that highlighted the far reach ASUCD has. The following outcomes would be great to see happen.

- Increase transparency of expense items.
- Convert volunteer positions to paid positions.
- Increase the visibility of ASUCD at orientation.

ASUCD is clearly a prominent feature in student life. Many students interact with at least one part of ASUCD every day. I think their presentation did a good job displaying this fact, but I also would have liked to see more transparency in the uses of this fee. Also, I would be interested in more detail about the usage of some of the departments of ASUCD and the intended uses for this fee as it increases.

ASUCD serves as an extremely important aspect of the UC Davis community as seen in the ways that most students interact with one of ASUCD's units, such as Unitrans, every day. The presentation that the Business Manager, Controller, and Vice Controller presented to COSAF seemed to be lacking in essential information that is needed for COSAF to complete its responsibilities. ASUCD is composed of 16 units, and the financial breakdown (focusing on the ASUCD base fee) of those 16 units was omitted from the presentation. ASUCD has said 1.4 million dollars support expenses and 1.6 million dollars support student salaries, and I am left wondering what is the breakdown of the expenses and student salaries between the various units.

Importantly, I would like to seek clarification on the actual monetary value of the uses of the ASUCD base fee. ASUCD has reported to the Council that after student salaries, expenses, and staff salaries they will be left with a carryforward amount of approximately \$12,000, but the Sources and Uses report, presented by Budget and Institutional Analysis, estimates a carryforward of more than \$2,000,000.

I believe there are still many questions for ASUCD in regard to the ASUCD base fee that needs to be addressed. ASUCD in the coming years will be collecting more than 12 million dollars in student fees each year (as long as enrollment stays the same) and I am unsure of ASUCD's plans for such a large sum of money especially since they companion the fact that student fees represent only 10%-20% of their total operating budget.

I'm very grateful for all that ASUCD does for our students. My only wish would be if we could get a more detailed breakdown of how their funding is being used and what plans they have for using their large reserves. I was not present for the Presentation, but I appreciate being able to understand the breakdown of the large amount of money ASUCD requires to run its many programs.

I appreciate all the resources and services that ASUCD provides for us. I personally use them every day and love the value that ASUCD has put in for us. I wish that the presentation was longer than 15 minutes as I know ASUCD has various complex dealings that are unable to be explained within the time frame. However, I do wish that the packets we receive provided more information on how our student fees are spent.