FEE REFERENDUM

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PROPOSED
The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF)
SUSTAINABILITY GRANT PROGRAM RENEWAL UNDERGRADUATE REFERENDUM
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Introduced by: THE ASUCD ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The ASUCD Senate hereby places the following legislative ballot measure on the ASUCD Fall2022 ballot:

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE

<u>ISSUE</u>

Effective fall 2023, do you approve the fee to support the reinstatement of The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) sustainability grant program at $3.50 per quarter (25 percent of which is used for Return to Aid), with a $0.50 per quarter increase through AY 2032-33 as depicted in Table 1 below?

   YES
        A "yes" vote reinstates the TGIF Fee (see Table 1 below) and allows the TGIF program to continue advancing student-centered environmental sustainability projects, student internships, and sustainability programming and initiatives at UC Davis through AY 2032-33.

   NO
        A "no" vote rejects the TGIF fee renewal and results in closure of the TGIF program and a loss of funds for student-centered environmental sustainability projects, student internships, and sustainability programming and initiatives at UC Davis.

<u>OVERVIEW</u>

The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) is a campus program that offers students the opportunity to develop and launch innovative sustainability projects within the UC Davis campus community. Revenue from The TGIF fee is used to promote sustainable development by providing necessary funding to the UC Davis community. TGIF involves and educates students of all backgrounds by empowering them to develop, propose, and enact sustainable projects and initiatives on campus. The TGIF Committee welcomes applications from students, staff, and faculty for projects that include significant undergraduate student involvement and seek to build a collegial team that represents the diversity of the UC Davis campus while making wise use of student funds to support projects across the full spectrum of campus sustainability.

Granted project types have included undergraduate research project sponsorship, funds for sustainability conferences and workshops, funds for projects implemented on campus, and support of student clubs and internships related to sustainability. Project topics have included food insecurity and reducing food waste, climate and environmental justice, sustainable transportation, resource management, environmental education, ecosystems services, recycling and composting infrastructure, and sustainable agriculture. For more information about TGIF, including a list of granted projects and committee composition, please visit https://tgif.ucdavis.edu.

This referendum will reinstate the TGIF fee that was in effect 2016-2021 and allow the TGIF Committee, composed of a majority of undergraduate students, hosted by UC Davis Sustainability, and overseen by the Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF), to continue awarding sustainability grants at UC Davis.

As of Spring 2021, TGIF has awarded more than $625,000 to over 90 campus sustainability projects that positively affect students through increasing and improving educational opportunities, promoting environmental awareness, engaging in sustainability research, advocating for climate and environmental justice, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy and water efficiency, and reducing the amount of waste generated on campus. TGIF has awarded between $109,000 and $295,000 each academic year. Since the first award year, grant proposal funding requests have exceeded funds awarded to projects by $82,000 to $239,000 (on average $150,000) per year as the UC Davis community has gained awareness about the TGIF program. Additionally, there has been an average year over year increase of 60 percent (60%) in the average grant size awarded to each project. The proposed fee increases would allow TGIF to gradually increase the annual amount of funds available for project grant awards to $455,000 by Academic Year (AY) 2032-33.

The TGIF fee referendum ratified in 2016 expired in Spring 2021. Using program funds, the TGIF program expects to grant new projects through Spring 2022 contingent upon sufficient available funds. For AY 2022-23 we expect to cease granting new projects and maintain project management duties for existing funded projects. Ratification of the referendum will reinstate the fee starting at $3.50 per quarter for AY 2023-24, increasing the quarterly amount by $0.50 annually through AY 2032-33 (see Table 1 below). The gradual increase in the fee would allow the program to fund more projects, increase the amount of available funds to each project, take into account wage increases, address Consumer Price Index inflation, and meet increasing demand for funding available to student-centric environmental sustainability initiatives. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the proposed fee shall be provided for need-based financial aid (Return-to-Aid) for undergraduate students. Please visit https://tgif.ucdavis.edu/referendum to view the detailed analysis of the fee increase.

Table 1: Proposed Quarterly Fee, by Academic Year (AY)*

Academic Year	Fee per Student per Quarter	Return-to-Aid (25%)	TGIF Funds
2023-24	$ 3.50	$0.88	$2.63
2024-25	$ 4.00	$1.00	$3.00
2025-26	$ 4.50	$1.13	$3.38
2026-27	$ 5.00	$1.25	$3.75
2027-28	$ 5.50	$1.38	$4.13
2028-29	$ 6.00	$1.50	$4.50
2029-30	$ 6.50	$1.63	$4.88
2030-31	$ 7.00	$1.75	$5.25
2031-32	$ 7.50	$1.88	$5.63
2032-33	$ 8.00	$2.00	$6.00

*Fee is not collected during Summer Sessions

Return-to-Aid - Twenty-five (25) percent of this fee will support financial aid for those undergraduate students with the greatest financial need.

Voting - "Minimum voting pools" have been determined in accordance with University regulations. A minimum voter turnout of twenty percent (20%) of the undergraduate student population is required for a valid vote. The exact number of undergraduate students required will be provided by the University Registrar in advance of the election, and will be based on the fall quarter 2022 census data. In addition, this referendum requires ratification by at least sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote for approval.

Advisory Vote - The outcome of the vote shall be advisory to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Chancellor, and the President of the University of California.

Oversight - Oversight of the TGIF fee is provided by COSAF. The TGIF Committee, with an undergraduate student majority, votes on and allocates funds to projects throughout the academic year pursuant to its Bylaws, which outline the operation of the TGIF Committee and include the process for dispensing funds. Any grant application for TGIF funds is required to have significant undergraduate involvement and/or majority undergraduate benefit. The TGIF Committee is accountable and transparent to the student body by making all approved grants available to the public on its website (https://tgif.ucdavis.edu/).

Life of Fee - This fee will expire after Spring 2033 Until then, it will be assessed unless altered through referendum or other permissible action.

Adjustment of Fee – The increases to this fee are effective AY 2023-24 through AY 2032-33 as shown above in Table 1. Any additional increases not previously stated in this referendum would require a future referendum or other permissible action as specified by University of California and UC Davis policies and procedures.

Use of Funds – The majority of funds will be used for granted projects. Funds may also be used for TGIF expenses such as program outreach to the UC Davis community (e.g., facility rental fees, flyers, stickers, event fees, etc.), a 50-percent (50%) time program manager, a part-time student assistant, and committee stipends. Historically, program expenses have averaged about 15 percent (15%) of the TGIF program funds collected (not including the 25 percent of Return-to-Aid funds). This amount may increase as the program grows and program costs increase.