

COSAF Report | Summary of Comments

Review: *The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) 2022-23*

March 12, 2023

Action Item #2023-041

In Winter quarter 2016, the initiative was presented to students and passed. It received final approval by the Chancellor and UC Regents during the summer of 2016.

The TGIF undergraduate student fee of \$3.00 per quarter began in the fall of 2016. There is no Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments on this fee.

The aim of TGIF is to provide funding that enables students to have a greater impact on sustainability within the UC Davis campus and the immediate region. The fund provides grants to projects that improve educational opportunities, promote environmental awareness, engage in sustainability research, advocate for climate and environmental justice, increase energy and water efficiency, and reduce the amount of waste created on campus.

Per TGIF original initiative language, the fee sunset in 2021.

Attempt to reinstate the fee in Spring 2021 and Fall 2022 elections failed due to low voter turnout. Most remaining funds from prior years will be exhausted this year, 2022-23.

The future of TGIF depends on the outcome of the fee reinstatement, which will be added to the Spring 2023 election ballot.

COSAF oversight is to provide comments & recommendations based on the information provided to the Council.

COSAF Review Timeline:

Date	Action
2/24/23 COSAF Meeting	Presentation: Madison Souja, TGIF Grant Program Manager
3/10/23 COSAF Meeting	Full Council discussion
3/10/23	Qualtrics survey distributed to Council for comments/recommendations. Due 3/12/23.

Following is a summary of COSAF comments and recommendations:

The Green Initiative Fund presentation was very informative and transparent with their allocation of funds.

The Green Initiative seems relevant to many students, even those who are not yet aware of it.

[I] fully support TGIF and all information providing - hoping the ref. passes this election cycle. Excellent work to the team working and supporting TGIF!

I really enjoyed learning more about TGIF and the opportunities it's able to provide to our students. Personally, I find that TGIF is a good representation of our school's values and is a source of pride for our student body. However, I believe TGIF is still not widely known throughout the student body, making it exceptionally hard to get its referendum passed. Additionally, to add to this, we face a school-wide issue of low voter turnout, making it even harder for TGIF to receive funding. I hope that if TGIF's referendum is not passed that our school can work to find a creative solution to ensure TGIF receives the funding they need to continue operating.

I really hope that TGIF will be able to be reinstated next quarter, the work that this fee funds is such an important part of keeping our university sustainable. Issues of climate change are of growing concern to many students, who should have the opportunity to fund programs that promote a greener campus.

Great presentation, I really hope they meet the voter threshold this upcoming election.

I feel that they gave a great and detailed presentation on the funds of this fee and were very open about the amount of remaining money they have. I appreciate that they are taking actions to address this. It's great to see that they are very invested in the projects that they fund.

Overall, great presentation, I could tell the presenter was very knowledgeable and more than happy to answer anyone's questions. I think that UCD gets a lot of recognition for being such a sustainable campus and this starts from initiatives like TGIF.

The Green Initiative Fund is an extremely important, since it allows undergraduates to make their environmental sustainability impact at the most sustainable university in North America (according to some metrics). It is a shame that tgif is not getting the minimum voting requirement to pass, especially since it is likely most students support it, but are simply not engaged in elections. Potential changes to the referendum may make the fund more popular; however, the core issue is due to low voter turnout. The fund is extremely important for the student community and sustainability, so it would be shame if the fund would sunset.

I think that TGIF is really important to UC Davis as it promotes sustainability. As the most sustainable campus in America a program like this will only enrich our culture of sustainability. I think the idea to increase the period of the fee from 5 years to 10 is pretty good as the process of voting is pretty tedious. Overall it is a great fee and I am excited about what the committee is planning going forward.

I think the TGIF fund is an amazing program that provides amazing opportunities to students. I'm glad that TGIF is extending their term to 10 years instead of 5 in order to plan and facilitate un-delayed growth!