

## Overview: Student Services Fee *for Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF)*

### BACKGROUND

The Student Services Fee (formerly the University Registration Fee) is set by the UC Regents and charged to all registered students systemwide, with few exceptions.<sup>1</sup> The annual fee increased from \$972 per student in 2014-15 to \$1,020 per student in 2015-16, and 5% annual increases are approved through 2019-20.

The mental health fee, a subset of the Student Services Fee (SSF), is ear-marked for mental health programs and is administered separately. The 2016-17 mental health fee is \$95 per undergraduate and professional student and \$87 per graduate student. Of the remaining revenue – estimated to be more than \$33 million in 2016-17 – approximately \$2.1 million must be spent on financial aid (return-to-aid).<sup>2</sup> The remainder can be used to support other student services.

### Student Services Fee History

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Annual Student Services Fee</b> <i>includes mental health fee</i>	<b>SSF Revenue</b> <i>excludes mental health fee revenue (\$ in millions)</i>	<b>Mental Health Fee Revenue</b> <i>(\$ in millions)</i>	<b>Total SSF Revenue</b> <i>(\$ in millions)</i>
<b>2010-11</b>	\$900	\$24.7	\$1.8	<b>\$26.5</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	\$972	\$27.1	\$1.8	<b>\$28.9</b>
<b>2012-13</b>	\$972	\$27.8	\$1.9	<b>\$29.7</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	\$972	\$28.6	\$1.9	<b>\$30.5</b>
<b>2014-15</b>	\$972	\$29.7	\$2.0	<b>\$31.7</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	\$1,020	\$31.1	\$2.5	<b>\$33.6</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	\$1,074	\$33.2 (est.)	\$3.2 (est.)	<b>\$36.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> (1) low-income students who are a spouse or registered domestic partner or child of a resident law enforcement officer or fire fighter killed in active duty, and (2) students who are a dependent of a military veteran (including California National Guard) who was disabled or killed in service (also known as the "Cal Vet" program) <http://www.ucop.edu/operating-budget/fees-and-enrollments/other-fee-information/exemptions-reductions.html#exemption>.

<sup>2</sup> UCOP return-to-aid set-aside requirements: 33% of fees above \$900 for undergraduate and professional students (\$58 in 2016-17) and 50% above \$900 for graduate students (\$87 in 2016-17).

## ALLOWABLE USES AND ALLOCATIONS

The [University of California Student Tuition and Fee Policy](#) (Regents Policy 3101) states that Student Services Fee revenue:

...shall be used to support services and programs that directly benefit students and that are complementary to, but not a part of, the core instructional program. These services and programs include, but are not limited to, operating and capital expenses for services related to the physical and psychological health and well-being of students; social, recreational, and cultural activities and programs; services related to campus life and campus community; technology expenses directly related to the services; and career support.

The [Guidelines for Implementing the Student Services Fee Portion of the University of California Student Fee Policy](#) state that “services and programs funded by the Student Services Fee should be broadly available to all students.” The guidelines interpret Regental policy and provide some flexibility to campuses regarding the use of SSF revenues, in consultation with student fee advisory committees. The guidelines also address the structure and responsibilities of the advisory committees, the process for soliciting budget recommendations from the committees, annual SSF reports, and campus fee websites.

SSF revenue is allocated to a variety of campus units, with Student Affairs receiving about 75-80% of total revenues. For several years prior to 2015-16, fixed cost increases consumed all revenue increases, leaving no new revenues to allocate. With SSF increasing 5% per year, some revenues will be available for allocation after return-to-aid and fixed cost increases are funded. The available amount was about \$800,000 in 2015-16 and is estimated to be \$750,000 in 2016-17. Student Affairs manages the allocation of these revenues.

## OVERSIGHT

The UC Office of the President (UCOP) requires each campus to have a committee to advise its Chancellor on the use of SSF revenue. At UC Davis, this committee is the Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF), which advises the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and the Chancellor regarding all student fees, including the SSF.

Campuses are also required to report annually on expenditures for SSF-funded programs. BIA produces the reports for UC Davis and presents them to COSAF. There is one report for the mental health fee and a separate report for the remainder of the SSF. Reports for all campuses are posted [online](#).