

**Update to Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF)
2015-2016 Use of Student Services Fee**

Department Name: **Undergraduate Research Center**

HISTORY

1. How many years has the department been receiving the **Student Services Fee**?
This is a new request for 2017.
2. What was the historical context in which the department started receiving a portion of SSF?
The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference, now in its 28th year, was established in 1990 originating in Student Affairs, under Yvonne Marsh, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Tammy Hoyer, Conference Chair, Advising Services (now Undergraduate Research Center). A few years into the conference, costs (as well as contributions of staff) were shared by Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs. The current request for funding is to secure a permanent allocation of Student Services Fees to ensure long term planning for the conference. Please note that half of the funding for the conference comes from Student Affairs and the other half is secured through Undergraduate Education.

BUDGET

3. What percent of your budget comes from the **Student Services Fee**? Does the program have other fund sources (ex. Recipient of other student fee money)?
Half of the conference budget comes from Student Services Fees, the other half comes from funds secured through Undergraduate Education. This allows the conference to be free to all students who are conducting research or creative projects, as well as their families and guests (the conference is free and open to the public). Students who are presenting posters may have their conference posters printed for free on a professional poster printer at the URC. This makes the conference truly accessible to all undergraduate students who wish to participate.
4. How does the department use the income generated by the **Student Services Fee**? Does the department have any source(s) of revenue or fundraising (ex. Selling tickets)?
The URC only spends money on items that are directly related to the conference, such as room reservations and set-up (Pavilion), renting poster boards to display student posters, printing student posters, printing abstract books, name tags for student presenters and moderators, certificates for student presenters and light refreshments for students, their families, their guests, and moderators. The cost of the conference is approximately \$20,000 each year. There are no sources of revenue for the conference.
5. How does the department allocate the SSF *within* the department?
N/A.

IMPACT

6. In general, tell the council about the department's role/function on campus. (What impact does it have on students? The UC Davis campus community? The wider Davis community?)

The Undergraduate Research Center is the home department for the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference. The URC has campus-wide influence on students and faculty as we provide services to all student class levels and all departments/colleges. Last year, 540 undergraduates presented their research at the conference (362 Poster; 173 Oral; 5 Arts Exhibit) with an audience of approximately 2,300 at the poster session/arts exhibit and 658 at the Oral sessions. 350 UC Davis faculty members sponsor these undergraduate research projects, as well as many others across campus each year. Many students view the conference and opportunity to present their research as a capstone experience and often invite their parents, friends and other relatives to attend. Additionally, other campus departments, such as Undergraduate Admissions, use the conference as an outreach tool and premier campus event to promote undergraduate research to community college students. In general, the conference is a campus-wide showcase of undergraduate research that is celebrated by all faculty, staff, administration and students.

Students build an array of important skills preparing for the conference. They learn to:

- Conduct research and build critical thinking skills
- Work as a team member with faculty, post docs, graduate students and other undergrads
- Synthesize and analyze research findings
- Write an abstract
- Communicate research outcomes to a general audience
- Prepare a poster or oral presentation
- Build confidence in public speaking

7. Please list the department's programs, services, or facilities funded by the **Student Services Fee**: Here is a list of campus units/facilities paid with conference funds to provide direct services to students for conference participation: ARC Pavilion, Special Services, University Catering, Multipurpose Room-Student Community Center, Reprographics, Aggie Buy, and UC Davis Custodial Services.

8. How many students participate or benefit from the programs funded by the SSF? How many unique students?

Last year, 540 undergraduate students presented their research and creative work; growth is expected again in 2017. Approximately 2,900 people attended the conference, the majority of which are UC Davis students, staff and faculty. Attached documents indicate the colleges, divisions and schools where undergraduates conduct research projects. The majority of these students are applying to graduate and/or professional school or are going onto the job market and find the conference to be an excellent platform to build skills to prepare for their future academic and career endeavors.

Srijita Pal, a 2016 conference presenter sums it up by saying:

"The Undergraduate Research Conference was an amazing experience because it taught me a lot about the research presentation process. From formulating an abstract to creating a poster and rehearsing a presentation, the conference gave me the skills I needed in order to succeed in the future. These skills were also invaluable when I had the opportunity to attend other professional conferences."