

Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COSAF)

November 12, 2021

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Memorial Union, 3rd Floor, Mee Room

Meeting Notes

These meeting notes are transcribed using an audio to text tool. Therefore, there may be incorrect spelling of words and phrases due to the translation.

1. 11:30 **Lunch / Welcome**
Co-Chairs
2. 11:30 – 12:00 **New Referenda Ballot Language Presentation**
CEI Revote & SASI Revote
Calvin Wong, Referenda Sponsor

12:00 – 12:10, Q&A

Transcription:

Q. Where did you get your numbers for total undergraduate population?

A. Total undergraduate population is taken from the COSAF website where they posted, they have listed their sources and revenues for SASI and CEI.

Q. With this proposed change, what would the shift in benefits be to everyday students? So now you have to pay to go to Athletics. Does anything else shift? If any of these measure pass, it's like \$10 to go see a football game. Do any of the other benefits they were given originally change?

A. Nothing except for the athletics portions of these fees are going to change. So it's nothing about language, nothing about all the other programs have to be changed. If there is a nullification of the athletics portion, that will ultimately depend on what University administration members choose to do. It is ultimately in their hands if whether or not they want to continue students having free access to games and what they want to do there. But so ultimately, if there was a nullification, students will have this \$571 remaining in their pockets to be able to use for what they need during the quarter.

Response: Okay, in my comments I will make sure to put that it should be clear that this could go away.

Response: Okay

Q. To you, what is the importance of an instantaneous decrease of their funding, all the way to zero? Like, we got here gradually, why is it important that everything is taken away?

A. Because these fees are inherently unjust.

Q. In the Budget and Institutional Analysis it said that if the proposed referenda were recommended, there would be an estimated loss of \$2.4 million in need based financial support for all eligible UC Davis students. So is that what would happen if we decide to take away the funding for ICA? I just want to clarify that.

A. Yes, that is what Budget and Institutional Analysis states, so ultimately their going to, people that disagree with this referenda are going to sight that figure. But, ultimately, in a sense, they are trying to hold the student body hostage by using that argument. And ultimately, these fees are inherently unjust and they never should have passed in the first place. Or they should never be being paid by current students in the first place. Because these fees are passed by the slimmest of margin and the student body back then would likely not approve these fees right now. So it would be completely an illogical argument to say that we should continue to pay these fees because that's what is existing now even though they are inherently unjust.

Q. Given that student athletes are part of student body and the benefits are paying for their own scholarships, are they paying for SASI and CEI?

A. Yes, student athletes are paying for those scholarships.

Q. Was CEI unlawful to begin with?

A. CEI was actually passed then the judicial council ruled that it was passed in an illegal manner per ASUCD bylaws. And they ruled that it was null and void because it was not submitted in time for the actual election deadline. So that means CEI was actually submitted to the ballot process much after the deadline and yet it still went through and eventually campus approved it. And so, in another way that is also an affront to the student body at the time because it is clear that the University can just break the rules in order to get their agenda completed.

Q. Do graduate students and also professional students like law students pay any of this portion of CEI or SASI?

A. So, for SASI, that is only undergraduate fee so it doesn't affect anyone. And then for CEI, this referendum pursuit does not deal with anything outside the undergraduates. So, as I mentioned before, for CEI graduate students, undergraduate students, law students etc. they all voted on different parts of the referendum but for undergraduates specifically, they voted to fund all the programs listed on that slide through CEI.

Q. For the other UC's that have less funding from the student body, if they have less funding from the student body does that mean that have more institutional support? Is that what that means?

A. You would have to look at the numbers. Looking at the numbers you see where something like UC Berkeley almost has zero percent of student fees actually funding the ICA program and then they have institutional support of \$90 million. You can also look up all the others which there's substantially more institutional support as compared to student fee funding, except for the situation at UCLA and UC San Diego where their students are doing far worse than us.

Q. Do you know where that institutional support is coming from?

A. That institutional support is from their own money. I'm not exactly sure about that.

Q. I was just hoping for clarification on what a no vote would mean because that does kind of seem like that it's left in the air. If I'm a student coming to UC Davis I would want to know if I'm getting funded or not. That's maybe more of a suggestion to clarify.

A. Oh definitely. I worded the yes and no language for these two referenda very similarly because in the end these two are very similar. So the no vote is just saying that I do not approve the nullification of the portion of SASI or CEI fee that goes to ICA. I want SASI or CEI funding to remain unchanged.

Q. I know this process has to be approved by administrators and UCOP. Can you tell me where this is in that process? Do you think if it hasn't already, will it be approved by those? Will students be able to vote on this?

A. There are many stages and the Guide to Creating a Student Fee Initiative is actually on the COSAF website. I've actually already had the referenda language reviewed by people from Student Affairs, someone from the Budget Office and then the Campus Counsel and then it will go through a series of other processes after I receive comments from COSAF. I'm sure later on one of these administrators in the room can explain the process but there is going to eventually be a student petition where I'm going to have to collect signatures to get this onto the ballot and then it's going to have to go through COSAF again to get your endorsement on the content of these referenda and it will go to the Vice Chancellor I believe for their final endorsement.

Q. I just wanted to note the clarification of a yes vote. Can you note what exactly that would mean in reality, like that would mean a reduction in blank, blank, blank. Can you be more specific on what a yes vote would mean? Because your taking money away entirely for the athletics fund, what would that result in athletics for students next year.

A. Generally historically on all the student fee languages is meant to be as simple and concise as possible in order for the student body to actually know what they are voting on. And then if they read down into the overview that's where it discusses and as the tables show a yes vote would mean support of reducing the fee of the athletics portion of SASI and CEI. Response: I know the overview says it, but it's not exactly saying what happens with athletics. It's just saying that they get money. It's not saying that the stadium would probably be closed most of the year, it's not saying stuff like that. It's just saying that it's going to be zero compared to the other departments.

Response: Well, that would be engaging in speculation because like what I said ultimately what happens is up to the University and that's why I extend an invitation to work alongside student athletes and form a united front in pursuing an affirmative outcome of this referenda to ensure that funding for student athletes is expended and that travel costs, medical costs and scholarships are not taken away and that we hold the University administrator accountable.

Response: So of as right now, you don't know?

Response: So as of right now, what you are suggesting is engaging in speculation which I'm not comfortable doing.

Q. Right now, are athletes paying for their own team travel?

A. As through the SASI and because their undergraduate they are paying for their own team travel.

Q. Okay, it's from them as well and the student body population?

A. From them as well and the student body population and also note that UC Davis athletics have a fundraising campaign where they are literally asking their own student athletes to pay into these fundraisers. So, in the end, it's not just that student athletes receive these fees, they are actually being forced to pay into their own program. And so that's also another point of injustice in these fees.

3. 12:10 – 12:15

New Referendum – Campus Presentations

Cory Vu, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

Transcription:

Hi everyone, my name is Cory Vu, the associate vice chancellor for divisional resources.

I'm not here today to tell you pro or con about referendums.

That's not why I'm here.

You now you have the documents.

I think that's been provided with ICA overview and the financial impacts.

Or other impacts from the referendum that Calvin mentioned.

So you have any questions about those documents

Please refer to question for Sheila or to Jason and then they can help respond to any questions that you have.

What I wanted to do today just remind everyone about the process to get the referendum on the ballot.

It's a very long one, you know, as Calvin kind of revealed earlier with you many, many steps along the way.

What we're doing today is part of that process.

You know, it's good that we have a process.

We have structure in place for us to be able to do that

And I think this is a good one.

This is a great way to have discussions on different things that our students are passionate about.

As far as process the referenda sponsors will present the draft ballot language.

So Calvin as a sponsor for SASI and for CEI has sent me his original draft ballot language and also Camille for today.

So I reviewed the language.

I also asked colleagues from BIA and colleagues from legal counsel to also review it.

And the reason why we review the referenda language is that we want to make sure that whatever that language is, is fair, but first of all, it's neutral, and also that students know when you vote on the referendum, you know exactly what are you voting yes or no on.

Well, you know what does a yes mean? What does a no mean?

So your job is to look at the language and to see whether it's clear enough to make a recommendation. Once those recommendations are made, I'll go back to the sponsor or the author of the referendums, whether it's Calvin or whether it's Camille for TGIF.

And I'll say these are recommendations from COSAF. Let's work on to see what we need to do there to see if we can implement some.

Of those recommendations, suggestions in the referendum ballot language, they will have their own comments, questions, edits, and then I'll go back and, you know, work with Calvin or work with BIA.

Once we get that done, then we have finally have a valid language where we can bring it back to you to view everything again.

Just to make sure that you know it looks right and if you have any final edits, comments, suggestions, and once that's done, then it moves to student affairs and FOA. We get a chance to review it and then get a chance to determine if it's going to be endorsed or not.

And then they move that on to the Chancellor.

Then the Chancellor again reviews it and determines whether to endorse it.

Yeah, so the referendum process is, it's a long one and then if it gets on the ballot then of course you know we talked about the 20% student body has to go out and vote. And of that 20 percent, 60% have to vote yes for it to pass, so that's the process with this SASI and CEI, because we want the ballot language to be as clear as possible or neutral like I mentioned And that's the same for TGIF.

Also, if there's people that are against it they also have chance to post on the COSAF website so that everyone can see.

And then you know they have an opportunity to view both sides.

So that's the process. So that's my job to today. Just explain the process.

We are going through that process right now.

I think it's a great process.

You all have a very big opportunity to be able to make your comments and help us get to that point.

All the students who vote on this, Undergraduate students, that they understand exactly what they're voting for.

I was asked about questions to Calvin today.

We're only worried about the language of the ballot, so we'll send you a Qualtrics survey.

Like I said, you'll see that after the meeting, that's where you'll direct your questions or concerns.

And it'll all get sent to Calvin so he can have it in mind.

So UC Davis policy that deals with campus based student fees policy 280-15 requires that affected students must be included in discussion and be kept informed on the issues and plans related to the referendum.

Now we will hear from some student athletes that will be directly impacted by the proposed referenda for their perspective.

4. 12:15 – 12:30 [Student Athletes Presentation](#)

[12:30 – 12:35, Q&A](#)

Transcription:

And again we have about 5 minutes for quick questions.

I would just like to ask, obviously everything you guys like received from athletics is amazing and no one wants to take it away and I think it would just be great if the whole population had another vote on this to see if it's still something that's interested to them and everyone uses these facilities like you said, and I feel like if that's true, which I think it is then there should be nothing to be worried about and I just want to know would you be willing to work together with Calvin and get this funding from a different Ave?

Just like something to think about.

Are you aware that as undergraduate students your paying for your own scholarships and medical expenses to travel. And are you comfortable with that? Do you think it is better to have that support from the institution 'cause I think they promised and what the administrators promised. That they should also be providing that support and also carry like equal if not more because you guys deserve it. It's not right that you're paying for it through your own pocket. Like I said, so you're paying these fees to support your own endeavors, and so I personally think that it's that university should be supported in order instead of burdening students and us.

Yeah, but my question was were you aware of that?

We are going to limit Q&A to council voting members. But I do ask that everyone speak up and please ask maybe less rhetorical questions, ask questions to get as much information from the athletes that they can answer. That's kind of the purpose of this Q&A so.

Am I not a voting member?

Yeah, she's my designee.

I was just clarifying, am I able to respond?

Yeah.

Simply in response to your question, yes, we are all aware that that we do pay into the tuition fees just like any other student. And I think that's something that that I have kept in the back of my mind is if it weren't for athletics, if it weren't for these fees from all student body that I of course want to be fully supported by the administration, but it seems that it might be a bit unrealistic to expect them to find this money. Just like out of random. Not out of random, but just like coming up all the sudden kind of unrealistic to expect them to find so much money. Because they don't really have it stored away, but I feel that if we weren't to have these fees, then student athletes would be in charge of having more fund raising, which to be honest they really don't have time for.

We practice 20 hours a week on top of schoolwork on top of jobs that we might have on the side and fund raising really like we do a lot of fund raising on our own, but if we were to have to do more than it, I don't know if we. It seems like we would be overloaded.

I just want to say that we do have a large university endowment and I know you guys were here for Calvin's presentation, but it's definitely something to look at that most of the other UC's have more like equal and give and take from student fees and institutional support. We're actually one of the lowest with only 10% of institutional support. That's really something to think about. Why is it so low and that could change. And if this referendum did pass, it would only take place, I think in 2023, so there is time.

Is there any other questions?

I have a follow up with my question. Thank you for coming by the way, I really appreciate it. I'm really curious to hear from some first year or second year athletic students who will be here when this takes effect in the fall of 2023. I think that would be also of value. But yeah, that's my only comment.

OK. It's time. I think we're all out of out of time here.

5. 12:35 – 12:50

[New Referendum Overview](#)

The Green Initiative Fund

*Carla Fresquez, Student Engagement Program Manager
Office of Sustainability*

6. 12:55

Council Referenda Feedback via Qualtrics Survey

Survey responses due by Sunday, 11/14, 11:59 pm

Announcements:

- Bi-weekly timesheets are due by 5:00 pm today.
- Hourly paid members may add .50 hours to their timesheet for taking the Referenda Ballot Language surveys.

Meeting adjourned