

DRAFT: The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Ballot Referendum, Spring 2021 election

An ASUCD Senate Bill to add a legislative ballot measure to the ASUCD Spring 2021 ballot.

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The ASUCD Senate hereby places the following legislative ballot measure on the ASUCD Spring 2021 ballot:

PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE

Ballot Measure ##

The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF)

The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Fee is a student-initiated, mandatory, and quarterly fee of \$3.00 established in 2016. TGIF has since awarded more than \$625,000 to over 90 campus sustainability projects. The Green Initiative Fund Committee is composed of a majority of undergraduate students, one graduate student, a student representative from the Council on Student Affairs and Fees, a student representative from the ASUCD Environmental Policy and Planning Commission, and is hosted by the UC Davis Office of Sustainability. For more information about TGIF, including a list of granted projects and committee composition, please visit <https://tgif.ucdavis.edu/>.

The proposed fee would start at \$4.00 per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring) and incrementally increase to \$7.00 per quarter by the 2027-2028 academic year. This is to account for wage increases, Consumer Price Index inflation, and increased demand and necessity for funding available to student-centric environmental sustainability initiatives. Twenty-nine (29) percent of the proposed fee shall be provided for need-based financial aid (return-to-aid) for undergraduate students.

In order to continue funding impactful environmental sustainability projects, student internships, and sustainability programming and initiatives at UC Davis, do you approve the renewal of The Green Initiative Fund Fee?

Please vote for one of the following options:

_____ Yes, I approve renewal of The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Fee

_____ No, I do not approve renewal of The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Fee

BACKGROUND:

Introduction: The University of California system has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase solid waste diversion rates. UC Davis engages with and supports the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#). Campuses across the nation including seven UC campuses, have green funds to meet these goals and have seen many innovative and impactful projects develop as a result. UC Davis students, staff and faculty can apply for TGIF funds to establish and develop student projects with a significant undergraduate student involvement that improve educational opportunities, promote environmental awareness, increase energy and water efficiency, advocate for climate justice, and reduce the amount of waste created on campus.

Mission: The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) shall strive to promote sustainable development by providing necessary resources to the UC Davis Community. As part of a higher education institution, TGIF will involve and educate students of all backgrounds by empowering them to develop, propose, and enact sustainable projects on campus. Information about TGIF is available at <https://tgif.ucdavis.edu>.

Funding:

The proposed fee would start at \$4.00 per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring) and incrementally increase by to \$7.00 per quarter by the 2027-2028 academic year (fee would not be collected during summer session). This is to account for wage increases, Consumer Price Index inflation, and increased demand and necessity for funding available to student-centric environmental sustainability initiatives.

Year	Fee per Student per Quarter	Return to Aid (29%)	TGIF Funds
2021-22	\$ 4.00	\$ 1.16	\$ 2.84
2022-23	\$ 4.50	\$ 1.31	\$ 3.20
2023-24	\$ 5.00	\$ 1.45	\$ 3.55
2024-25	\$ 5.50	\$ 1.60	\$ 3.91
2025-26	\$ 6.00	\$ 1.74	\$ 4.26
2026-27	\$ 6.50	\$ 1.89	\$ 4.62
2027-28	\$ 7.00	\$ 2.03	\$ 4.97

Return-to-Aid: **Twenty-nine (29)** percent of the proposed fee shall be provided for need-based financial aid (return-to-aid) for undergraduate students.

Grant Management and Allocation: The TGIF Committee, with an undergraduate student majority, will vote on and allocate funds to projects throughout the academic year. The part-time career TGIF Manager will be paid from collected funds. Bylaws 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 shall be accountable and transparent to the student body by making all approved grants available to the public online.

Sunset Clause: The fee will be implemented for **seven (7)** years, terminate after the spring quarter of 2028, and remain frozen until re-voted in the election of spring 2028. If the bill does not pass the seven year referendum, the TGIF committee will continue to operate and recirculate funds until they are exhausted, so long as sufficient money remains in the TGIF Committee account. If the fee is voted for and passed again in 2028, any leftover fees will continue to be put towards future grants.