

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

May 20, 1999

### D. INCREASE IN ASSOCIATED STUDENTS FEE, DAVIS CAMPUS

The President recommends that the Committee on Finance recommend to The Regents that, effective Fall Quarter 1999, the Associated Students Fee, Davis campus, be increased from \$23.50 per undergraduate student per quarter to \$35.00 per undergraduate student per quarter.

#### BACKGROUND

The undergraduate students on the Davis campus first voted to assess themselves an Associated Students (ASUCD) Fee in 1934. The current fee level of \$23.50 per student per quarter became effective Fall Quarter 1990. Of this amount, \$13.00 is committed to the cost of operating and maintaining the University Transport System (Unitrans). Started in 1966 as a trial busing system to provide transportation for students between their community residences and the campus, Unitrans is now recognized as an integral part of the campus and city of Davis transportation system. Undergraduate students currently pay no fare to ride on Unitrans buses.

Current operating and maintenance costs now exceed Unitrans' annual revenue sources, which include campus, county, city, state, and federal funds. Therefore, in February 1999, the Associated Students placed on the ballot a referendum proposing an increase in the fee of either \$6.50 or \$11.50 per undergraduate student per quarter. Students approved a fee increase of \$11.50 per undergraduate student per quarter with a portion of the increase used to maintain the existing services and the remainder to expand transportation services to students, including: (1) extended free fare travel for students to the Sacramento airport and the greater Sacramento area; (2) more frequent buses on the Unitrans D and W lines; (3) extended services on all Unitrans routes, Monday through Friday; and (4) limited shuttle service from the Davis Amtrak station on weekends. The current program of no fares for undergraduate students would continue for a minimum of three academic years, after which time the program will be re-evaluated. A copy of the student referendum language is attached (Attachment).

Campus referendum procedures provide that voter turnout must be equal to or greater than the average of the four previous student government presidential elections. Prior to the referendum, the campus determined that for this referendum, a minimum voter turnout of 2,990 students would be required to increase the fee. The campus regulations also require that approval by a majority of those voting would be needed to increase the fee and to determine the specific fee level. The number of ballots cast on this ballot measure was 4,421; of these, 2,640 (60%) voted in favor of the \$11.50 per quarter increase. These results met the campus' voter turnout and majority approval requirements.

(Attachment)

**Ballot Measure #1 – CONTINUE THE UNITRANS NO FARE PROGRAM**

Shall the Associated Students of the University of California, Davis, pass the following:

Please vote for only one (1) of the following options. (Note: A yes vote for Option 1 shall automatically be tallied as a yes for Option 2 in the event that option 1 fails.)

<p>1 - Yes, I approve the <b>Expanded Service Fee Increase (\$5.00)*</b> and the <b>Unitrans Free Fare Fee Increase (\$6.50)**</b> for a total increase of \$11.50. I support the current No Fare program and the addition of expanded services.</p>	<p><b>\$11.50</b></p>
<p><b>*Expanded Service Fee Increase:</b> Increases the ASUCD Membership Fee by an additional \$5.00 per quarter per member effective the academic year 1999-2000. Adds the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Fare to Sacramento, Woodland, West Sacramento, and Sacramento International Airport via the Yolobus system, subject to annual negotiation with the Yolo County Transportation District.</li> <li>• Adds 15 minute frequency to Unitrans' D and W lines.</li> <li>• Extends high frequency day service to one hour later on all Unitrans routes, Monday through Friday.</li> <li>• Adds limited shuttle service from the Davis Amtrak station, Saturday and Sunday late afternoons and evenings.</li> </ul>	<p>\$5.00</p>
<p><b>**Unitrans Free Fare Fee Increase:</b> Increases the ASUCD Membership Fee by \$6.50 per quarter per member effective the academic year 1999-2000. Retains the current No Fare Program with the existing services and service levels, for a guaranteed minimum of three academic years. After three academic years, the ASUCD Student Senate will re-evaluate Unitrans' Free Fare Operations</p>	<p>\$6.50</p>
<p>2 - Yes, I approve the <b>Unitrans Free Fare Fee Increase (\$6.50)**</b>. I support maintaining current service levels and the No Fare program.</p>	<p><b>\$6.50</b></p>
<p><b>**Unitrans Free Fare Fee Increase:</b> Increases the ASUCD Membership Fee by \$6.50 per quarter per member effective the academic year 1999-2000. Retains the current No Fare Program with the existing services and service levels, for a guaranteed minimum of three academic years. After three academic years, the ASUCD Student Senate will re-evaluate Unitrans' Free Fare Operations.</p>	<p>\$6.50</p>
<p>3 - No, I do not approve of a Unitrans Fee Increase. I support implementing fares and reducing services to balance the Unitrans budget, beginning in the academic year 1999-2000.</p>	<p><b>\$0.00</b></p>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Financial Aid:** For students who are recipients of campus based financial aid, increased ASUCD fees would be reflected in the base budget for the academic year 1999-2000. To meet base budget expenses, financial aid assistance is calculated by a combination of grants/loans, family contributions, and student work commitments.

*Ballot Measure #1*

**Financial Impact:** Failure of the Unitrans Free Fare Fee Increase option would cause reductions in bus service and implementation of fares. Failure will also result in inadequate funds to purchase necessary capital equipment (buses, facilities, etc.). Failure of the Expanded Service Fee Increase will have no significant financial impact.

**Voting Requirements:** University policy states that a majority of those voting must vote in favor of the increase and that voter turnout must be equal to or greater than the average of the four previous Presidential elections.

**Required Approvals:** A successful referendum must be approved by the Chancellor and transmitted to the Regents through the University President for final approval.

