

COSAF ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

This past year has been a successful first year for the Council on Student Affairs and Fees (COASF). COSAF was created during the 2014-15 academic year at the request of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs in an attempt to address ongoing issues with member appointments, attendance, and retention as well as provide a single mechanism for students to provide advice to the Vice Chancellor on matters pertaining to student affairs and student fees. The council has successfully fulfilled this charge in its first year and will likely continue to do so with greater efficiency in the years to come. This report is structured into sections that account for the Council's specific activities to complete its charge.

Review of and CPI Recommendations for Existing Student Fees

- At the orientation held on September 23, COSAF's membership met for the first time and received presentations that provided a broad overview of the UC Davis budget as well as campus based fees from staff in Student Affairs, Budget and Institutional Analysis, and other campus departments.
- Over the Course of the Fall Quarter, COSAF reviewed the funds collected from Campus Expansion Initiative (CEI) and received presentations from the units/facilities that received funding from it (COHO, ICA, CRU, SCC, Student Health Center and Unitrans). After completing all of the presentations, COSAF's membership voted to recommend CPI adjustments for all the units with the exception of ICA and the Student Health Center. The initial vote was revisited after some confusion amongst COSAF's membership about the purpose of reserves-which prompted the committee to begin to allocate a greater amount of time for discussion about the fees prior to voting as well as require all members to include comments on their ballots.
- During Winter Quarter COSAF reviewed the use of the funds collected from the Facilities and Campus Enhancement (FACE) and LEEAP initiatives and received presentations from the units/facilities that received funding from it (ICA, CRU and the SRRC). After completing all of the presentations, COSAF's membership voted to recommend CPI adjustments for all the units funded as part of the initiative.
- During Spring Quarter COSAF reviewed the use of the funds collected from the Student Activities and Services Initiative (SASI) and received presentations from the units/facilities that received funding from it (ICA, CRU, CCC and the WRRC). After completing all of the presentations, COSAF's membership voted to recommend CPI adjustments for all the units funded as part of the initiative, with the exception of ICA.
- Over the course of the Spring Quarter meetings, Laurie Carney from BIA presented an overview of the Student Services Fee and how it is allocated, explaining that while most of the fee is allocated to Student Affairs, there is a portion that is allocated for student services outside of the Division (such as the Mondavi Center to offset ticket prices for students). Students requested that, in the future, additional information be provided on how such allocations are used for student services.

Per revisions to COSAF's voting process, all members are required to provide comments on their ballots, in order to ensure the Vice Chancellor has access to the thoughts of each member to fully understand the rationale of the Council's recommendations. These ballots and all their comments are attached to this report, with a few underlying sentiments highlighted in the subsequent paragraph. The presentation process has been drastically revised and improved upon over the course of the year, with the Co-Chairs and Student Affairs staff ultimately developing a new model by which units complete a template form with budget and program information to ensure the COSAF receives not only pertinent but also comparable information from each of the units. The template was piloted in spring quarter, received support from the Council's membership, and will continue to be used with adjustments moving forward.

Students felt that the ICA funding model placed an unnecessarily large burden on UC Davis Students and raised concerns about the extent to which ICA programs benefit the broader campus community. Many members indicated their support of future investigations into methods by which to shift ICA costs away from student fee sources to others funds. Concerns over the use of funds initially assessed for the creation of a facility for staffing costs, as well as increases in revenue from other funding sources, were provided in the comments of many members regarding the other unit that COSAF did not vote to recommend a CPI adjustment for, the Student Health Center.

CPI Discussion and Vote Ratification

At the second to last meeting of the year, on May 13, COSAF Members voted to ratify the committee's CPI adjustment recommendations for the campus based fees. Luci Schmidl had previously provided an overview of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to COSAF's membership at both the orientation as well as prior to the CEI CPI vote. She had explained that CPI adjustments are provided for in the language of the referenda and are not fee increases, but rather an attempt to keep the fee in line with the rate of inflation. She further explained that only the part of a campus-based fee used for operating expenses, not capital, is eligible for CPI adjustment. Members were provided with an overview that showed the specific amount of CPI adjustments for each fee if passed by the Council. (COSAF's bylaws, in an attempt to eliminate any confusion, specifies the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor for the San Francisco Area, calculated at 2.6% for 2016.)

Review of Proposed Student Fee Initiatives

For the first time, COSAF received presentations from two proposed student fee initiatives as part of the new process for reviewing these proposals prior to their election. The council first provided feedback to the students leading the efforts for both the TGIF and Aggie fee initiatives and voted to endorse both measures after receiving a second presentation from the advocates for each of the fees which demonstrated that they had made changes

requested by COSAF and Campus leadership. Moving forward, COSAF will continue to help proposed fee initiatives improve their structure and provide recommendations about such proposals to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Recruitment of Members

In May and June, the Co-Chairs and student affairs staff followed the guidelines of the new bylaws to recruit, interview, and select the new undergraduate COSAF members for the 2015-16 academic year. (COSAF is not subject to the MOU that calls for the selection of members by ASUCD.) In addition, the Council is working with GSA, LSA, the Academic Senate, the Academic Federation and staff Assembly to fill the other positions as outlined in the bylaws. The COSAF Co-Chairs for next year are Madeline Garcia, who served as a voting undergraduate member for this year, and Briar Tanner, who has not served on the Council previously but has been very involved with a number of activities on campus.

Conclusion

We are excited about the successful first year of this new committee and what it will mean to increase student involvement in fiscal matters and program decisions in the future. We also look forward to providing Vice Chancellor de la Torre and the Division of Student Affairs sound counsel that reflects the diversity of the student voice at UC Davis.

Respectfully submitted by the COSAF Co-Chairs:
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