

# COSAF Report | Recommendations & Comments

Review: **Memorial Union Fee**

April 26, 2024

Action Item #2024-122

## Memorial Union Fee Background

The Memorial Union is the main student union at UC Davis. It was completed in **1955** and dedicated in honor of UC Davis students and alumni who lost their lives in military service. The \$1 Million cost was funded by private support from the campus community, including funds raised by one of the earliest campaigns of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association. The MU was a one-story facility when it was constructed.

In **1966**, with the help of another building campaign and a student fee of \$10 per year (\$5 per semester- UC Davis was not yet on the quarter system), the campus completed the construction of a large addition to the Memorial Union, including the second, third and fourth floors, where we are meeting today. The 1966 renovation also added the Games Area and the main branch of the UC Davis Stores. The Coffee House opened its doors in **1968** in the east wing of the building.

In **1987**, students voted to increase the MU fee to \$25 per quarter, starting in 1989 to expand the MU. In the **early 1990's**, the first floor and Bookstore were expanded, adding 18,200 square feet in dining, lounge, recreational and bookstore space. The Coffee House was relocated to the west side of the building, where it is still housed today. In **1998**, the MU Complex underwent a major seismic renovation.

From **2015-2017**, the Memorial Union was renewed and expanded once again. The comprehensive renovation brought the historic Memorial Union back to life again as a dynamic on-campus destination for students and the UC Davis community. The glass atrium was added to the front of the building, structural improvements were made to the building and the Bookstore was expanded to accommodate the large growth the campus experienced since the Memorial Union was originally built.

The MU Fee is not subject to CPI adjustments.

## Presentation to the Council on Student Affairs & Fees (COSAF)

Presentation Date	Department	Name of Presenter(s)
4/26/24	Memorial Union	Janna Tolla, Director, Student Unions

## COSAF Survey Results

Following the presentation, the council completed a survey with the following prompt:

**Please provide your feedback and comments regarding the MU Fee presentation and use of fee revenue:**

The MU is one of the best buildings on campus and embodies the values of Davis. I think more frequent maintenance/renovations should happen to uphold the quality of the MU space.

The MU fee seems to be doing a great job at maintaining our MU building and I'm impressed that the funds do not seem to be running short yet.

It was great to hear Jana's presentation on the MU Fee as I had not known most of the fee information prior to our meeting. It was most interesting to learn that the fee may need a CPI adjustment or an increase in the future as costs are increasing. I believe the MU would benefit from either option. Because the building experiences high traffic daily, it would make sense to have an increase in the fee soon to account for the cost predictions. In the coming years, I think it is necessary that COSAF continue to hear updates on the MU Fee as the Council should be kept in the loop in order to make an informed decision should the fee need adjustments.

The MU is the heart of campus and has been my favorite building to go into. It looks modern and feels like our fees are being utilized. The MU seems to have a consistent and healthy budget and I approve of the way the fee revenue is being handled.

I really enjoyed learning about the history of this building on campus, and appreciated how meaningful it clearly was to the presenter. With its central location on campus, and close proximity to the Bookstore, the memorial union is increasingly becoming a more popular hub for students and in their capital projects the presenter's seem to be taking this wide popularity into account.

The MU fee presentation gave good insight onto how they operate and what their main priorities are in terms of using their funds.

Love the MU, think the uses of fees are reasonable, informed, and good for students. I'm interested in seeing the next projects they implement as well as how they plan to use their reserves in the years to come.

The MU is one of the most used buildings on campus and their ability to have many programs happening throughout the day is very impressive. It is nice to see that they are using this fee to help with the upkeep of the building.

The MU fee presentation was very descriptive and outlined the need of the associated fee in order to keep the building current and relevant to the UCD student body.

Really liked learning about the history of the MU. It makes sense that it has to undergo renovation so often as it is the hub of student activity.

It was nice hearing about how the MU fee is used and structured. Based on the fee structure and array of access to students and student facing services, it seems well spent.

Keep the MU vibrant and healthy!

The Memorial Union already serves as a hub where many students come together to study and socialize. Look forward to the future facility improvements to enhance the experience.