

COSAF Report | Recommendations & Comments

Review: Unitrans Fee

March 8, 2024

Action Item #2024-058

Unitrans Fee Background

In academic year 2018-19, a referendum was put forth to increase the Unitrans Fee. (The last time funding for Unitrans was increased from campus-based fees was in 2008.)

The increased fee revenue would provide funding to:

- (1) Continue unlimited undergraduate student access to Unitrans bus service and maintain current service levels
- (2) Comply with California’s minimum wage laws and maintain operational staffing levels
- (3) Support enhanced driver training in order to expand extra capacity buses during crowded times and comply with Federal regulation requirements on driver training
- (4) Improve maintenance practices of Unitrans fleet buses to reduce breakdowns that impact services

The fee would increase from \$6 per quarter to \$19.33 per quarter, followed by a \$24 increase to be implemented gradually over three years.

After academic year 2022-23, the Unitrans fee would be adjusted annually by the CPI escalator used by COSAF. Other than the CPI adjustment, any increase to this fee would require a future referendum or other permissible action.

In Winter quarter 2019, the initiative was presented to students and passed. The increase took effect in Fall quarter 2019. As per referendum language, starting in academic year 2023-24, COSAF will review the uses of the Unitrans Fee.

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

Presentation Date	Department	Name of Presenter(s)
2/23/24	Unitrans	Jeffrey Flynn, General Manager

COSAF Survey Results

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

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

Unitrans made an excellent presentation. They are very well organized and a credit to the campus.

Unitrans is vital to student life on campus and I hope they will soon be able to transition back to pre-pandemic operations.

The Unitrans presentations was clear and it showed the usage of this service in our community. In their presentation, they did a good job showing us how their planned projects will help improving their services.

Unitrans is essential to the UCD student experience. I support the fee as it has a great mission to push all buses to electric and increase training to ensure maximum operating levels. With hundreds of students and community members relying on Unitrans, it is important we support them. I also appreciated the talks about getting the public fee increased so that not all the pressure falls on students.

Unitrans is essential. I think they are doing the best they can. The only recommendation I have is potentially hiring more students but understand the limitations on this.

The Unitrans Fee presentation was informative, and I can see how it is a vital resource for the undergrad population.

Unitrans is a vital operation for undergraduates on campus. The transportation network at Davis is unrivaled compared to most college campuses. Unitrans uses its funding and revenue appropriately.

The proposed plan is crucial for sustaining and enhancing the student experience, as the bus provides transportation for many.

The Unitrans Fee presentation had great insight into the use of their revenue and what it specifically goes toward.

Unitrans is an essential department and program and am fully in support of the fee

They deserve funding support for driver training programs and to recover to pre-covid bus services.

The Unitrans fee showcased where the additional funds are being spent, I support the fact that they are switching to electrical buses and are trying to hire more graduate students into their full-time position.

They run a great operation in managing funds and ensuring that routes have a good schedule for students to utilize.

So many students living in on and off campus housing facilities use the Unitrans service and their presenters are always super well-informed which is always great to see. I also really appreciate their expansions to push towards all-electric fleets.

Unitrans touches the lives of many students, and their presentation shows future growth and development of the organization that will further better student lives.

Unitrans needs the fee to come back to pre-covid capacity, so I am in favor

Unitrans is a vital part of student and campus accessibility. I concur with other's views that the City of Davis and non-student riders need to pay their fair share (as Unitrans provides legally required accessibility services in the city) as ASUCD and students have done their fair share. If this doesn't continue, I would advise ASUCD to restrict bussing benefits to the city and non-student riders.