

Entertainment Council Fee Referendum

ISSUE

Effective Fall 2025, do you approve a \$10.00 quarterly student fee, followed by a \$0.25 increase to the fee to match inflation every following academic year (ex: \$10.25 in 2026-27, \$10.50 in 2027-28) to ensure the Entertainment Council is financially independent of the variability of the ASUCD budget. This will ensure high quality concerts and entertainment on a consistent annual basis. This fee will ensure on-campus events such as Sunset fest, Local Limelights, and Lawntopia receive consistent annual funding.

YES NO

OVERVIEW

This referendum will provide funding to ensure the Entertainment Council will be able to continue providing free and affordable on campus entertainment for all undergraduate students. Fee revenue will provide funding to (1) acquire talent for large-sized annual concerts such as Sunset Fest and Lawntopia; (2) promote rising artists and student artists in small-medium shows such as BrainFreeze and Local Limelights; (3) acquire high-quality production and sound equipment for all Entertainment Council shows; and (4) fund any other additional expenses required to complete the Entertainment Council's mission of providing high-quality on campus entertainment.

Comparable fees have been approved at UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, and many other universities.

The passage of this referendum will require voter turnout equal to at least twenty percent (20%) of the undergraduate student population and at least a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote for approval.

If approved, the graduated fees outlined in this referendum will be assessed effective fall quarter, 2025.

The Entertainment Council's Mission

The Entertainment Council is a completely student-run organization dedicated to providing free

and affordable concerts and music events for undergraduate students. The Entertainment Council's mission is to create accessible, high-quality entertainment experiences that foster community engagement and enrich campus life. The Entertainment Council is committed to supporting diverse musical talent while ensuring that all students, regardless of their financial background, can enjoy live performances and cultural events. Through collaboration, creativity, and a student-centered approach, the Entertainment Council strives to bring vibrant and inclusive musical experiences to our university community.

The Entertainment Council currently receives funding from the annual ASUCD fee with a budget approved by the ASUCD. This budget currently provides for all expenses related to the ASUCD Entertainment Council and varies annually depending on ASUCD Senate and ASUCD President influence.

If approved, the Entertainment Council will be able to ensure a more consistent quality of entertainment annually for all students. Entertainment Council's student staff wages will continue to be funded by the annual ASUCD fee, but all other Entertainment Council expenses will be funded by this Entertainment Council Fee referendum. These expenses include, but are not limited to:

1. Office Supplies and Equipment/Maintenance
2. Publicity
3. Volunteer Incentive/Retention
4. Talent Buying
5. Event Production
6. Film Showings
7. Reservation
8. Merchandise

If approved, thousands of dollars in ASUCD fees will be freed up and reallocated to other ASUCD units such as Unitrans, Pantry, Coffee House, etc.

Initiative Provisions – Entertainment Council Fee Referendum

Voting – “Minimum voting pools” have been determined in accordance with University regulations. A minimum voter turnout of twenty percent (20%) of the undergraduate student population is required for a valid vote. The exact number of undergraduate students required will be provided by the University Registrar in advance of the election, and will be based on the winter quarter 2019 census data. In addition, this referendum requires ratification by at least sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote for approval.

Oversight – Currently, Entertainment Council’s annual budget process includes the following oversight: (1) the Entertainment Council student staff and supervising ASUCD Senior Director establish a budget , and (2) the ASUCD Senate reviews the budget, with approval requiring a two-thirds vote and approval by the ASUCD President.

Life of Fee – This fee does not have an “expiration” date and will continue to be assessed unless altered through referendum or other permissible action.

Adjustment of Fee – The fee will continue to increase by \$0.25 every year annually after the 2025-26 academic year. For example, the Entertainment Council fee for the 2026-27 academic year will be \$10.25, the Entertainment Council fee for the 2027-28 academic year will be \$10.50, and so on. This adjustment does not have an “expiration” date and will continue to be assessed unless altered through referendum or other permissible action.

Use of Funds Derived from the Fee – This fee will ensure the Entertainment Council is properly funded to provide free and affordable entertainment to all UC Davis undergraduate students. This fee will be collected solely to supply the Entertainment Council and will be used for no other purpose

Return to Aid Funds – Twenty five percent (25%) of this fee will support financial aid for those undergraduate students with the greatest financial need.