

Entertainment Council Fee Referendum

ISSUE

Effective Fall 2025, do you approve a \$10.00 per quarter (excluding summer) undergraduate student fee, followed by a \$0.50 increase to the fee to keep pace with rising costs every following academic year (e.g: \$10.50 per quarter in 2026-27, \$11.00 per quarter in 2027-28 , and so on until the fee level is \$14.50 per quarter in 2034-2035) to support the Entertainment Council and its financial independence from the variability of the ASUCD budget. This fee will support the Entertainment Council's ability to offer high-quality concerts and entertainment on a consistent annual basis, including Sunset Fest, Local Limelights, and Lawntopia. Twenty-five percent (25%) of this fee will support financial aid for those undergraduate students with the greatest financial need.

___ **Yes**, a "yes" vote establishes a new fee that supports continued entertainment on campus for undergraduate students via Entertainment Council events (ex. Lawntopia and Sunset Fest) at no to low additional cost. See Table 1 below for pricing breakdown.

___ **No**, a "no" vote rejects the proposed fee and may result in a reduction of Entertainment Council events at UC Davis.

OVERVIEW

This referendum will provide funding to support the Entertainment Council which will enable them to continue providing on-campus entertainment for undergraduate students at no to low additional cost. Fee revenue will provide funding to (1) acquire talent for annual concerts such as Sunset Fest and Lawntopia; (2) promote rising artists and student artists in 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, including office supplies, equipment maintenance, publications, production, film showings, reservations, and merchandise.

The Entertainment Council is a completely student-run unit within ASUCD and is dedicated to providing affordable concerts and music events at no to low additional cost 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 undergraduate 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 elected officials. The current budget provides for all expenses related to the ASUCD Entertainment Council and has varied annually depending on ASUCD Senate and ASUCD President vote during annual budget hearings.

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

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

If approved, effective fall 2025, the graduated fees outlined in this referendum will be assessed in the fall, winter, and spring quarters (no summer assessment) to all undergraduate students.

Table 1: Proposed Quarterly Fee, by Academic Year (AY)*

Academic Year	Total Fee per Undergraduate Student per Quarter (Fall, Winter, & Spring)	Return-to-Aid (25%)	Entertainment Council Funds
2025-26	\$ 10.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 7.50
2026-27	\$ 10.50	\$ 2.64	\$ 7.86
2027-28	\$ 11.00	\$ 2.75	\$ 8.25
2028-29	\$ 11.50	\$ 2.88	\$ 8.63
2029-30	\$ 12.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 9.00
2030-31	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.13	\$ 9.38
2031-32	\$ 13.00	\$ 3.25	\$ 9.75
2032-33	\$ 13.50	\$ 3.38	\$ 10.13
2033-34	\$ 14.00	\$ 3.50	\$ 10.50
2034-35	\$ 14.50	\$ 3.63	\$ 10.88

*Fee is not collected during Summer Sessions

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

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 spring quarter 2025 census data. In addition, this referendum requires ratification by at least sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote for approval.

Advisory Vote - The outcome of the vote shall be advisory to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Chancellor, and the President of the University of California.

Oversight – Oversight of the Entertainment Council Fee is to be provided by COSAF. In addition, ASUCD’s annual budget process involves active participation and review from: (1) the ASUCD Management Team (consisting of the President, the Internal Vice President, the Controller, the Vice Controller, and the ASUCD Business Manager), (2) the Entertainment Council unit director, who, along with their adopted ASUCD Senators, will determine estimates of wages with the ASUCD Management Team, (3) the ASUCD Senate, which approves the budget with a two-thirds vote in addition to approval by the ASUCD President, and (5) the ASUCD Executive Advisory Council which serves in an advisory role for multiple facets of ASUCD.

Life of Fee – This fee will expire in Spring 2035. Until then, it will continue to be assessed unless altered through referendum or other permissible action.

Adjustment of Fee – The quarterly fee will increase by \$0.50 each year starting in fall 2026. For example, the Entertainment Council quarterly fee for the 2026-27 academic year will be \$10.50 per quarter, the Entertainment Council fee for the 2027-28 academic year will be \$11.00 per quarter, 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 support the Entertainment Council and aid them in providing entertainment to all UC Davis undergraduate students at no to low additional cost. This fee will be collected solely to finance 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.