What this SASI and CEI Revote is All About:

This is not about liking or hating athletics
A credit-bearing PE Program
A program that created opportunities for EVERY student to stay active while also earning credit toward graduation.
Yes = Diverse PE Activity Class Program
No = Immediate reduction and eventual elimination of PE
The **move to the Big West Conference** is necessary to preserve and improve the program we have. It is not about the coaches, the Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) administration, or Student Affairs suddenly being gripped with aspirations for “big time” athletics. Nor is it about “entertainment” or “business.” Rather, we are seeking, in an evolving landscape, firm ground upon which to continue and enhance a program that is centered around the student-athlete and the teacher-coach. Our **program is an uncommon model of intercollegiate sports**. Our plans to preserve it are similarly uncommon and led us early on to seek a conference with institutions of similar academic values. The Big West met that need and was expressing interest in UC Davis even as we were looking for a better fit.
ASUCD Senate Resolution #5

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on behalf of the undergraduate students of UC Davis, the Associated Students of University of California, Davis (ASUCD) Senate-

(1) Firmly objects to the administration’s decision to end the PE Program.

(2) Urges the administration to immediately halt the cancellation of PE, and form a working group of stakeholders containing both students and faculty to approach the future of PE carefully, thoughtfully, and democratically.

(3) Calls for any decision pertaining to the status of PE to be decided only after a workgroup has formed and has rendered a decision.

(4) Affirms the student body’s authority to have input in decisions that directly affect students.

(5) Invites campus administration to maintain its decades long culture of collaboration and trust with the student body by taking the aforementioned actions.

https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/chancellor-outlines-his-rationale-d-i-athletics
Closing Thoughts

The Academic Senate appreciates your sending this consultation to us for review. At the current time, we cannot support the decision to discontinue the PE program—the data do not show that PE lacks academic value or that its costs to the campus outweighs its benefits. Should you choose to halt the discontinuation decision, we recommend you initiate further campus outreach and offer an analysis of alternatives to aid conversations and decision making. We have attached the Senate’s full committee responses, which contain important and thoughtful analysis considerations.

That UC Davis is one of only three UC campuses offering PE courses for credit should not be a basis for considering PE’s elimination. One can just as easily argue—as many have in the past several months—that UC Davis’ commitment to connecting physical health with academic well-being and rigor sets us apart positively from our counterparts. Indeed, it aligns with our own “One Health” approach of promoting the well-being of people, animals, and the environment.

The historical combination of university athletics and physical education has long been a third rail of UC Davis politics. Should you choose to put the brakes on this particular train, the Senate looks forward to participating in conversations about the future of the PE program.
On January 15, 2021, Academic Senate Chair Richard Tucker highlighted in his letter to the administration, 

However, as CPB (Committee on Planning and Budget) notes, all evidence indicates that ‘the UC Davis administration committed itself to continue to fund the PE program as part of Chancellor Vanderhoef’s campaign for the transition to Division 1 of ICA.’...At the current time, we cannot support the decision to discontinue the PE program - the data do not show that PE lacks academic value or that its costs to the campus outweighs its benefits.
Letter Opposing Elimination of PE

Dear Chancellor May and Provost Coughan,

We were quite surprised to read in the Davis Enterprise about the proposed elimination of the Physical Education Program. There are three aspects to this that give pause.

First, many thousands of students participate in PE each year. One might have thought there would be a larger degree of engagement with the campus community concerning this decision and its consequences. Besides consulting with those who would be most affected, the students, there is also the fact that the Academic Senate has formal authority in decisions of this nature.

Second, the benefits of physical activity are well proven, for stress relief, overall health, and learning new skills. The mind-body is a complete system: disregarding the rest of the body inhibits memory, mood, and learning. Eliminating PE seems starkly at variance with one of the strategic goals of the recently announced “Healthy UC Davis” initiative: “Providing UC Davis community members with support, opportunity, information and tools to engage in healthy behaviors.”

There are many students who, for one reason or another, have grown up without the opportunity for much learning and participation in sports broadly defined. Elimination of PE unfairly singles out these, typically less wealthy, students who, for example, are not able to afford a membership and lessons at a golf club, but who can, in a UCD PE class, learn under the tutelage of a Cy Williams. PE courses offer all our students the opportunity to learn, at no cost, new skills as a beginner, and from talented and outstanding instructors.

Third, and finally, we need not remind you of our nation’s recent descent into fragmentation and division. Many majors on campus are profoundly segregated by race and by gender. PE classes offer our students a unique opportunity to make friends and interact across lines of race, religious belief, and sexual orientation. Sharing the experience of spotting a partner’s bench press, or giving an assist in a basketball game, reminds our students how arbitrary categories are irrelevant to the process of working together.
On November 19, 2020, California Senator Connie Leyva, Chair of the Education Committee, wrote a letter to the administration and stated,

“The University of California - and each of its campuses - must be transparent and fair in its decisions. I urge you to freeze this decision in order to conduct a full and appropriate review, as well as meet the due process expectations of the university and the greater higher education community.”
UC Davis will no longer offer for-credit PE classes starting Winter Quarter 2021

"Why are we paying for something that doesn’t exist?" Students file lawsuit against UC Davis after P.E. program canceled

The lawsuit by the students argues UC Davis is unjustly charging them a Student Activities and Services Initiative without the P.E. program existing.

UCD faculty body criticizes termination of PE program

The Davis Division of the University of California Academic Senate, a faculty body with authority over academic matters at the university, pushed back last week against UC Davis administrators' decision to terminate the campus' physical education program last month.
The Language that Campus Refused to Put Forward

- Establish a precedent that students have a right to re-consider perpetual fee initiatives;
- Student leaders may use an affirmative result to negotiate the return of the credit bearing Physical Education program;
- Student leaders may collaborate with UCD administrators to draft new and equitable student fee(s) to fund the ICA program’s expenses;
- Student leaders may collaborate with UCD administrators to draft new athletic student fees which feature a sunset clause;
- The UC Davis ICA program may switch from DI athletics to DII or DIII;
- The student body may become more knowledgeable regarding how their athletic student fees are used;
- The student body may become more involved in conversations about their student fees;
- Spark a conversation about whether to continue offering certain sports over concerns related to student-athlete health, particularly with the prevalence of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) among football athletes;
- Spark a conversation about concerns over ICA budgetary practices and its long-term sustainability.
The Campus Review

“SASI fee may continue to support athletic scholarships for student athletes”
- Yet, SASI has never been budgeted to support athletic scholarships

“CEI fee may continue to support ICA staff and student employees”
- Yet, CEI has only ever been used to fund athletic scholarships
Please give the campus administration and COSAF your feedback on the proposed referenda by taking this short survey.
All student referendum results are advisory to the Chancellor and, conditional on the Chancellor’s recommendation, are subject to final approval by the President under the authority delegated to the President by The Regents.

Talks a lot about creating a new student fee and ensuring there is a mechanism to increase the fee (CPI)

- But nothing about decreasing or eliminating a fee...
What Admin Said

September 10, 2021

00:16:37 Cory Vu
Spring quarter OK.

00:16:38 Cory Vu
OK, OK and so that's that's the process, so we kind of kind of work backwards.

00:16:42 Cory Vu
You know, you know with that timeline and then trying to get everything done so that we can make sure that we get the referendum on the ballot in the spring for the students.

00:16:53 Cory Vu
To vote on.

00:16:54 Cory Vu
So that's that's the process.
UC Davis athletics fee question goes to student vote

by Caleb Hampton • April 16, 2023 • 4 shares • 7 min read

Chancellor pulls support for elections over dispute with student government