

Graduate Student Fee Referendums

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Unitrans Fee Background

1. Every year the GSA receives requests for Unitrans access.
2. Groups consulted include Unitrans, the GSA Executive Council (EC), the Graduate Student Advisor to the Dean and Chancellor (GSADC), United Autoworkers (UAW), Graduate Studies, and the constituents who emailed.
3. Provides graduate students with unlimited access to Unitrans and Yolo bus service.
4. Expand service to West Campus and Woodland.



To be done by Feb 13

1. Focus groups and surveys for all impacted graduate and professional students.
2. Town halls with GSA general assembly (GA), MBA, Vet Med, Nursing, and Medicine.
3. Continue to work with ASUCD, Government Relations, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Unitrans. Feedback from COSAF, Campus Council, Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, Chancellor, and Provost.



Unitrans Fee Ballot Overview

YES- A yes vote approves the \$245/year Unitrans fee and provides graduate students fare-free unlimited access to Unitrans and Yolobus through the entire year. The fee referendum will cover the period from Fall 2025 to Summer 2030. A yes vote provides a Unitrans GSA Advocate who will advocate for expanded intercity services to West Campus and Woodland. Subject to a vote by City Council, it includes a GSA representative on the City of Davis Transportation Commission and graduate student representation concerning Unitrans services.

NO- A no vote rejects the Unitrans fee. Graduate students will continue to pay individually for access to Unitrans and Yolobus.



Life of Unitrans Fee

- The fee and its impact will be reviewed in 2029-2030 and a new fee referendum will be proposed by the GSA in Spring 2030 for implementation in Fall 2030.
- While a five-year fee is unusual, it will provide graduate students with the opportunity to evaluate whether the Unitrans fee has adequately served the graduate student body. A vote after five years on the continuation of the fee is needed to evaluate whether representation in transportation policy and expansion of intercity services has been met.

Use of Funds: Intercity Expansion

- In consultation with Unitrans, the GSA, and graduate students in an outreach process consisting of focus groups, surveys, and town halls with the GSA GA, the MBA, Vet Med, Nursing, and Medicine, a portion of the collected fees will be allocated to:
 - EITHER expand intercity transportation services in Woodland through Yolobus facilitating easier travel between Davis and Woodland for academic, professional, and personal purposes. Expansion of services by Yolobus in Woodland makes affordable housing more accessible,
 - OR expand intracity transportation services through the addition of a Unitrans route to West Campus. This will better serve graduate and professional students.

Use of Funds: Unitrans GSA Advocate

- The proposal allocates \$9,600/year (8 hour work/week) for a Unitrans GSA Advocate who will work with the University representative to the Yolo Transportation District to advocate for expanding services to Woodland. The Unitrans GSA Advocate will act as an advocate for graduate students to voice their concerns and contribute to the development of improved transportation services to Woodland. By February 13, this portion will be reviewed by Mabel Salon in Government Relations.
- In consultation with Unitrans, a portion of the collected fees can be used for capital needs including bus fleet, facilities, stops and other capital needs to serve students.



Use of Funds: Advocacy

- Through the GSA, a Graduate Student Unitrans Services Committee will be formed to work with Unitrans, the City of Davis, and Campus Planning to collect graduate student data to evaluate the addition of bus stops in Davis and campus that will better serve graduate students.
- In consultation with the City and subject to a vote by City Council, the GSA will have one graduate student representative on the City of Davis Transportation Commission to ensure that the interests and needs of graduate students are considered in city transportation policies and services as it relates to Unitrans service. GSA appointees would only vote on Unitrans specific items, any non-Unitrans items, GSA appointees would have no vote.
- In consultation with the GSA, ASUCD will review how graduate students can best fit into Unitrans and student government. By February 13, this portion will be reviewed by Gaius Ilupeju.



Use of Funds: Graduate Student Employment

- Unitrans will open employment opportunities to graduate students, providing them with the chance to work as drivers, administrative staff, and in other roles within the organization. This offers graduate students valuable work experience, flexible job options, and additional income opportunities

Questions?

GSA Fee Background

1. GSA is expanding to support graduate student needs.
2. Groups consulted include the GSA EC, the GSADC, the RSO Graduate Students of Color+ (GSOC+), Student Parent Working Group, the GSA Pantry, and Graduate Studies.
3. Expands access to meet basic needs through the GSA Pantry, supports student parents through staff support, and merges GSOC+ with the GSA for a DEI division.



To be done by Feb 13

1. Focus groups and surveys
2. Town halls with GSA GA, the MBA, Vet Med, Nursing, and Medicine.
3. Continue to work with student parents, the GSA Pantry, Graduate Studies, and GSOC+. Feedback from COSAF, Campus Council, Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, Chancellor and Provost.



GSA Fee Ballot Overview

YES

A yes vote approves the annual \$97/year adjusted for CPI GSA fee and provides support to graduate student parents, graduate students of color, and the GSA Pantry. A YES vote allocates \$34,200 to the GSA Pantry for year-long operations, \$20,000 to the GSA for a new GSOC+ division, and earmarks \$48,500 for student parents.

NO

A no vote rejects the increase in the GSA fee.



Use of Funds: GSA Pantry

- The proposal provides an increase in the allocation of money towards the GSA Pantry of \$34,200/year. The Pantry Coordinator would be paid \$9,600/year (8 hours work/week) and the two Pantry Assistants paid \$4,800/year (4 hours work/week). An additional \$15,000 would be committed to the GSA Pantry.



Use of Funds: GSOC+

The proposal provides \$20,000/year for GSOC+. GSOC+ would shift from an RSO into a subdivision of the GSA. These additional funds are earmarked explicitly for use by GSOC+ and DEI initiatives and are enshrined to ensure GSOC+ can retain its role as a vital counterspace for students of color. Use of funding is broad, but it is strongly recommended that funding is used to support community dinners, initiatives, programs, resources, and for labor that promotes the academic, professional, and personal success of Graduate Students of Color+. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Community dinners.
- Professional development workshops and networking events.
- Cultural and community-building events that provide spaces for students of color.
- Labor by members of GSOC+ including a GSOC+ advisory committee.



Use of Funds: Student Parents

- The proposal provides \$48,500 earmarked for student parent support. The proposal provides a 0.5 FTE for an office coordinator to serve Student Parents. The projected cost is \$38,500/year. Base salary is 27,500 and benefits of 11,000. The salary will be adjusted to CPI.
- The proposal provides \$10,000 to be earmarked for the construction of a Student Parent Center.



GSA Fee Oversight and Accountability

A GSA Fee advisory committee comprising representatives from the GSA and other relevant stakeholders will be established to oversee the allocation of the additional funds. This committee will ensure that the funds are used effectively and transparently to support the intended initiatives.

- The advisory committee will provide an annual report detailing the allocation and impact of the additional funds that will be presented to the GSA General Assembly.
- This report will be made available to all graduate students and will include information on funded programs, expenditures, and outcomes.
- Graduate students will have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggest improvements to ensure that the funds continue to meet the evolving needs of the GSA Pantry, GSOC+, and graduate student parents.



Questions?

