

Student Activities and Services Initiative (SASI) Orientation

In the early 1990s, the State of California was affected by a very poor economic climate which resulted in drastic budget reductions to Higher Education. Budgets were reduced across the board by varying amounts. Some programs had their budgets reduced by 100%. These reductions had a severe impact on Athletics, Recreational Sports and Recreation Services. To respond, Associated Students sponsored a referendum in 1993, called the Student Services Maintenance Fee (SSMF), which created a \$34 per quarter fee and was approved by 66% of the vote. The fee was considered temporary and was set to sunset in 1996.

A year after SSMF was established, a special election was held in 1994 to seek continuation of the existing fee and approval of an additional fee to maintain certain student services. Students were given two choices of fee levels, both of which contained a provision to consider adjusting the fee due to inflation. The third choice was for no fee.

The first option passed by 52% which extended the SSMF indefinitely and added \$34 per quarter as the **Student Activities and Services Initiative**, or SASI.

The SSMF supported Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals and Sport Clubs, Recreation Programs, the Recreation Hall (now known as the Pavilion), the Equestrian Center, the Cross Cultural Center, the Women's Resources and Research Center and Student Health Services. **The SASI initiative added additional fee revenue to Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramural Sports, Sport Clubs and Recreation Programs. SASI also redirected the Student Health fee to Intercollegiate Athletics.** This fee only applies to undergraduates.

In 1996, Campus Recreation and Unions Board (which was deemed the oversight board and has now morphed into COSAF) **mandated an operational reserve to be no lower than 3% of the total SASI fee allocation.** This reserve was meant to protect the programs against inflationary pressures not accounted for by the CPI adjustment. This operational reserve requirement is a unique feature of SASI compared to most other fees.

The Return to Aid requirement was not in place during the period in which the SSMF and SASI were created.