

THE GREEN INITIATIVE FUND (TGIF) FEE

2024-25

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS AND FEES (COSAF)

Department Name: **UC Davis Sustainability**

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SECTION 1: TGIF FEE ALLOCATIONS

Category	2023-24 Actuals	2024-25 Estimation
a. Student Salaries (including benefits)	\$1,470.41	\$5,360.02
b. Career Staff Salaries (including benefits)	\$27,323.25	\$42,704.68
e. Supplies & Expenses	\$11,536.17	\$8,012.56
f. Student Committee Stipends	\$4,200.00	\$-
Subtotal - Operating Expenses	\$44,529.83	\$56,077.26
c. Current Year Award Distributions	\$(28,149.43)	\$(178,300.00)
d. Prior Year Grants Remaining Fund Distribution	\$(7,002.50)	\$(21,646.79)
h. Return of Unused Grant Funds	\$21,540.69	\$746.31
i. Other - Fee Revenue	\$8,840.45	\$253,867.84
Subtotal - Awards and Fee Revenue	\$(4,770.79)	\$54,667.36
g. Contribution to Reserves	\$-	\$-
Total - Current Year Position	\$(49,300.62)	\$(1,409.90)
I. Starting CF	\$80,719.70	\$31,419.08
Net Position	\$31,419.08	\$30,009.18

SECTION 2: DEPARTMENT CARRY FORWARD

(See prior section, line L. Note that we do not contribute to reserves)

SECTION 3: DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

1. Please describe the department's programs and services funded by the TGIF Fee.

The Green Initiative Fund, a campus program hosted by UC Davis Sustainability and supported by undergraduate student fees, offers students the opportunity to develop and launch innovative sustainability projects on campus, and to have a greater impact on sustainability within the UC Davis campus and the immediate region. The Fund has typically awarded between \$100,000 and \$200,000 each academic year to projects that positively impact students through increasing educational opportunities, promoting environmental awareness, engaging in sustainability research, advocating for climate and environmental justice, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy and water efficiency, limiting the amount of waste created on campus, and encouraging healthier, more planet-friendly lifestyles. TGIF offers mini grants of up to \$1,000 and main grants of up to \$20,000.

In Spring 2024, the undergraduate student fee that funds TGIF was up for renewal during the ASUCD elections. Student leaders created a successful campus campaign and the election results approved the student fee referendum. The undergraduate student fee referendum funds TGIF at \$3.50 per student, per quarter (with \$0.50 increase in the fee per each following quarter to address the growing interest in and demand for sustainability programming). Twenty-five percent returns to student aid.

The Green Initiative Fund is hosted by UC Davis Sustainability within Finance, Operations, and Administration (FOA) in recognition of the office's central role in campus operations, academic projects, planning, design, and policy. TGIF outreach, proposal coordination, and grant management are managed by a staff member, the TGIF Grant Program Manager, at 50% part-time which is also funded by TGIF. TGIF also supports voting members of the student committee via a \$500 stipend per quarter and provides the necessary funds for marketing and promotion supplies.

2. Referencing **Section 1**, please provide information on any substantial variance between 2023-24 and 2024-25:

With the passing of the referendum, TGIF was reinstated in Spring 2024. Therefore, TGIF resumed receiving student fees in Fall 2024 starting at \$3.50 per student per quarter. Key changes since the passing of the referendum:

- Starting October 1, 2024 TGIF hired a Grant Program Manager in a contract career position
- TGIF continued to employ 23/24 year's student assistant hire who has provided invaluable help to the everyday administrative tasks
- TGIF instituted \$500 per voting TGIF Committee Member per quarter (which compensates them for 2-5 hours of work per week)
- As of January 2025, TGIF has approved 6 main grant proposals and 2 mini grant proposals totaling **\$75,053.05** for Fall 2024
- TGIF adopted significant changes to our award programming to adjust to our reorganization within Design and Construction management (DCM) and adapting to the new Aggie Enterprise system
 - We are maintaining awarding TGIF funds up front for mini grants (<\$1,000)
 - Guided by our DCM business partners, we now award main grants (<\$20,000) at the conclusion of a project (adopting a practice most common to other internal awards distributed on campus)

3. Please provide planned uses for **total estimated carry forward**. Information provided here must match total on **Line L** in chart on previous page.

Line L is titled our "starting carry forward". We define this internally as the carry forward from the prior year which includes any encumbered funds to prior projects. All carry forward funds from the prior year, that are not encumbered to prior projects, are "returned to the pot" of funds that can be given out to support sustainability

projects. We are encouraged by the fact we received more proposals than being able to fund for Fall 24, indicating the demand for funding will likely mean significantly less total carry forward funds (starting CF – encumbered =total CF) in the future.

However, given recent programmatic changes in our awarding timeline for our main grant, we expect to see increases in TGIF’s encumbered funds. In prior years, TGIF awarded ½ of approved funds at the beginning of the project and the other ½ at the mid-point report, then TGIF would request back any unused funds at the conclusion of a project. After deliberating closely with our business account managers, TGIF will now only be awarding eligible expenses at the conclusion of a project’s final report to align with other internal campus award programming and the transition to Aggie Enterprise. This change reduces the number of transactions made by account managers and the need to hunt down unused funds. As a result of this change, we believe prior year carry forward for *campus grants*² (as defined in Sources and Uses) will decrease, but TGIF’s total prior year carry forward will increase due to holding encumbered funds until the conclusion of a project’s final report (as many project timelines carry across multiple academic years). We have also provided an option for departments to reconcile their eligible expenses at fiscal close, given they need to do so.

4. Describe TGIF’s role and function on campus. What impact does it have on students and the UC Davis campus community?

TGIF provides grants to projects that improve educational opportunities, promote environmental awareness, engage in sustainability research, advocate for climate and environmental justice, increase energy and water efficiency, reduce the amount of waste created on campus, and similar sustainability efforts.

TGIF funds are available to UC Davis students, faculty, and staff. Undergraduate students are encouraged to submit proposals, but staff, faculty, and graduate students may also submit proposals. To be considered, proposals must articulate the undergraduate student's role in the project proposed for funding. Priority is currently given to projects that involve undergraduates and that are located on the central UC Davis campus. Grant proposals are currently accepted three times a year. The proposals are evaluated by an annually appointed Grants Committee that includes students (who hold a majority), faculty, and staff.

NOTE: TGIF ceased to collect student funds after spring quarter 2021. A renewal referendum was placed on the Spring 2021, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023 ASUCD Election Ballot, but low voter turnout in all ASUCD election meant the measure failed to pass, despite two-thirds (about 81% in favor in Spring 23) majority support among those students who voted, resulting in the sunset of the 2016 referendum. TGIF will attempted a reinstatement through referendum in the Spring 2024 ASUCD Election which was passed.

5. Is there information this department would like to provide regarding the scope of student use of the programs/services/facilities funded by the TGIF Fee?

TGIF is excited to report that since the passing of the Spring 2024 ASUCD referendum, 14 main grant proposals and 2 mini-grant proposals have been submitted totaling \$165,919.21 in funding requests for our Fall ‘24 application cycle. With the assurance of available funding for the next ten years, we are now able to focus our marketing efforts on promoting TGIF, further expanding awareness and encouraging participation in our grant opportunities. We expect a high turnout of applications for Winter and Spring 2025 given our focused marketing efforts and the Fall 2024 turnout. We are also developing a new process to help support RSO applications utilize their agency accounts to facilitate RSO applications to TGIF.

For Fall 2024, six sustainability project proposals have been approved along with 2 mini-grant proposals:

Project Title	Approved Funds	Short Description
F24-122 Village Homes	\$12,963.35	Create a public exhibition featuring a short film and interactive tabletop map showcasing Village Homes, a West Davis community renowned for its sustainable living, energy-efficient design, and

		<i>adaptability to the climate crisis.</i>
<i>F24-124 Campus Canopy</i>	<i>\$19,997.95</i>	<i>Plant and establish heat-tolerant tree species to renew the Davis tree canopy, enhancing sustainability, providing ecological benefits, and offering educational opportunities for interns and the Davis community.</i>
<i>F24-126 Cooling Pavilion</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>	<i>Install an outdoor structure at Cruess Hall using modular clay forms to create a bio-inspired, low-tech evaporative cooling system. The project enhances thermal comfort, provides shade, and fosters community engagement in a relaxing and scenic space.</i>
<i>F24-128 Solar Maintenance</i>	<i>\$3,664.75</i>	<i>Design and install educational branding (vinyl wrap) for the Whole Earth Festival's solar light towers, which will be used at WEF and other campus events.</i>
<i>F24-132 Earth Building</i>	<i>\$14,827</i>	<i>Fund a trip for up to eight students to Pioneertown, CA, to learn adobe architecture techniques from expert Ben Loescher. Students will document their experience for future design students and create an adobe-themed exhibit in Cruess Courtyard.</i>
<i>F24-119 Sprout Up</i>	<i>\$2,400</i>	<i>Teach environmental education lessons to local 1st-3rd grade students and expand their operation to Woodland and surrounding areas, thus garnering more excitement for environmental causes in a larger, more diverse array of students.</i>
<i>F24-133M Aggie Trading Post</i>	<i>\$500</i>	<i>Purchase supplies to support Aggie Trading Post's sustainable, student-run clothing swaps. These events allow participants to exchange used clothing, promoting a "give one, take three" model to combat fast fashion.</i>
<i>F24-134M Grow Guide</i>	<i>\$700</i>	<i>Collaborate with Grocery Croppers to develop a comprehensive Grow Guide with care instructions for 60+ flowers, herbs, and vegetables. The guide will also feature printable plant markers to help students and community members label and manage their gardens.</i>
Total:	\$75,053.05	