

# **The Green Initiative Fund**

## Overview

The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) will finance student-developed projects and educational programs that promote sustainability at UC Davis. It is designed to encourage undergraduate leadership, involvement and innovation in environmental stewardship. The passage of this initiative will require a voter turnout equal to at least twenty percent (20%) of the undergraduate student population and at least sixty percent (60%) plus one approval. For more on these provisions, see "Initiative Provisions" (attached). If passed, the fees outlined in this initiative will be assessed starting Fall Quarter 2009.

## Descriptions

Comparable programs have recently been approved at UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Santa Cruz and a campaign is being run at UC Irvine. Some of the projects that have been conducted include:

- A system for undergraduate car sharing at UCSB to decrease road congestion and promote a sense of community.
- Energy-efficient windows in UC Berkeley's Anthony Hall, a building that houses student organizations.
- An outreach program at UCSB to educate students about the merits of reusable bottles compared to plastic bottles.

## The Green Initiatives Fund's Mission

The Green Initiative Fund shall strive to promote sustainable development by providing necessary resources to the UC Davis Community.

As an undergraduate focused entity, TGIF will involve and educate students by empowering them to develop, propose, and enact sustainable projects.

## How TGIF works

A student-majority committee, called the Grant-Making Committee, would manage the fund and allocate grants to applicants. Four of the committee seats will be held by undergraduate students, two by staff members and one by a faculty member. Any current UC Davis undergraduate, or a group with significant undergraduate involvement, may apply for funding from TGIF.

A set of TGIF bylaws will be developed and made publicly available to assure the accountability of the fund. These bylaws will outline the operation of TGIF and will include the process for dispensing funds. Any group applying for TGIF funds is required to have significant undergraduate involvement. Organizations outside of UC Davis may not submit proposals. The Grant Making Committee and TGIF staff are required to provide guidance to grant applicants so that students can easily negotiate the grant application process. Grants will be distributed the 6th week of Fall Quarter and the 2nd week of Spring Quarter. An annual report of fund distribution and allocation will be sent to the Student Services and Fee

Administrative Advisory Committee to further assure fund accountability. TGIF shall be accountable and transparent to the student body by making all approved grants available to the public via the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability website and the Associated Students of University of California, Davis website.

### Return-to-Aid

Consistent with the University of California Office of the President Policy (Policy 80.00: Compulsory Campus-Based Student Fees), an amount equal to 25% of the proposed fee shall be provided for need-based financial aid (return to aid) for undergraduate students. This will provide funding to support those undergraduate students with the greatest financial need (those who are eligible for support from Pell Grants). Also, any remaining balance of the financial aid funds shall be allocated by the Financial Aid Office based on undergraduate student need.

	<b>Fees Per Quarter</b>
The Green Initiative Fund	\$3.00
Return to Aid	\$1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>

### Initiative Provisions – The Green Initiative Fund

**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 prior to the election, and will be based on the Winter Quarter 2009 census data. In addition, this initiative requires ratification by at least sixty percent (60%) plus one for approval.

**Life of Fee** – This fee will end in ten years. However, any money remaining at the end of the fee will be distributed for additional student projects until the funds are exhausted. The fee will commence Fall Quarter 2009 and cease Summer Session II 2019.

**Adjustment of Fee** – This initiative makes no provision for a further increase of the fee. As such, this fee will remain at \$4.00 per undergraduate student per quarter for the full term of this fee. Any adjustment to this fee would require a separate student-approved initiative.

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

**Fee Participation** – This fee will be assessed to all undergraduate students as a part of their regular Fall, Winter, and Spring quarterly fees. Additionally, the fee will be assessed to all students attending summer session and will be equal to \$2.00.

**Use of Funds Derived from the Fee** – This fee will be collected solely to supply The Green Initiative Fund and will be used for no other purpose.

A portion of the fund will be used to employ staff and students who will manage the funding and allocation processes. Please note that only the student majority Grant-Making Committee will have the authority to approve applications. Also, a portion of the funds will finance promotional expenses, computers, and accounting. All other funds will be allocated to projects.

### **Distribution of Project Funds:**

- A minimum of ten percent (10%) of funds will be allocated to educational projects.
- The Grant-Making Committee is not required to initiate any projects, however a maximum of forty percent (40%) of funds may be delegated to projects initiated by the Grant-Making Committee or retained for funding larger projects in the next fiscal year. Please note that all projects initiated by the Grant-Making Committee are subject to the same approval process as other applications.
- All other funds will be used for grants.

### **Governance:**

A student- majority committee, called the Grant-Making Committee, would manage the fund by allocating grants to selected applicants. Four of the committee seats will be held by undergraduate students, two by staff members and one by a faculty member as follows:

- One undergraduate student appointed by the Associated Students of the University of California, Davis President after an application process.
- One undergraduate student living in Student Housing chosen by a committee made up of members of the Cooperative Living Community on Campus.
- One undergraduate student, hired through application process by the Grant-Making Committee after the other three Student members have been selected.
- One Faculty member selected by the Academic Senate.
- One Staff member from UC Davis Student Affairs selected by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.
- The Chair of Associated Students of the University of California, Davis Environmental Policy and Planning Commission (EPPC).
- The Assistant Vice Chancellor of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (ESS) or an appointed staff member from this office.

A set of TGIF bylaws will be developed and made publicly available to assure the accountability of the fund. These bylaws will outline the operation of TGIF and will include the process for dispensing funds. Any group applying for TGIF funds is required to have significant undergraduate involvement. Organizations outside of UC Davis may not submit proposals. The Grant-Making Committee and TGIF staff is required to provide guidance to grant applicants so that students can easily negotiate the grant application process. Grants will be distributed the 6th week of Fall Quarter and the 2nd week of Spring Quarter.

*Criteria for funding projects will include:*

- Projects must have significant undergraduate student involvement.
- Projects must promote sustainability on the UC Davis campus, including off-campus activities which influence sustainability on campus.

- Projects must have a clearly defined and measurable outcome.

*TGIF shall be accountable and transparent to the student body, and therefore shall:*

- Make all its records available to the public via the office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability and Associated Students of University California, Davis (ASUCD) websites.
- Issue an annual report of its activities to ASUCD, Environmental Policy and Planning Commission, the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (ESS), and Student Services and Fee Administrative Advisory Committee.
- Submit a year-end evaluation report to ESS and ASUCD Senate.

**Interest Income** – All interest income earned from fees generated by this initiative will be made available to spend on the projects described in the ballot.

**Coordination with the University** – Projects funded by TGIF involving UC Davis lands, buildings, and/or resources must be coordinated with the appropriate UC Davis Administrators. Part of the job of the Grant-Making Committee and TGIF staff is to assist selected applicants in this process. If this initiative passes, TGIF intends to associate with ASUCD for administrative services, such as accounting.

**Return-to-Aid** — Consistent with the University of California Office of the President Policy (Policy 80.00: Compulsory Campus-Based Student Fees), an amount equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the proposed fee shall be provided for need-based financial aid (return-to-aid) for undergraduate students. This will provide funding to support those undergraduate students with the greatest financial need (those who are eligible for support from Pell Grants). Also, any remaining balance of the financial aid funds shall be allocated by the Financial Aid Office based on undergraduate student need.