

2007

Unitrans Undergraduate Fee Referendum

OVERVIEW

This referendum will provide funding to maintain the current level of Unitrans bus service and a Return to Aid (funds provided for Financial Aid to offset fees created by this referendum). In addition, this referendum will provide funding to continue to provide unlimited undergraduate student access to Yolobus regularly scheduled bus services.

The passage of this referendum will require a voter turnout equal to at least twenty percent (20%) of the undergraduate student population and at least a sixty percent (60%) plus one approval. For more on these provisions, see "Referendum Provisions" (attached).

If passed, the fees outlined in this referendum will be assessed starting fall quarter, 2007.

DESCRIPTION

Unitrans: This fee will allow Unitrans to pay employee wages at a level that is commensurate with the California State minimum wage increase that took effect on January 1, 2007. Unitrans cannot offer the same level service with the higher hourly wages. If passed, this fee will allow Unitrans to maintain the current level of service and to continue to provide unlimited undergraduate student access to Yolobus regularly scheduled services. This fee will also permit Unitrans to replace and/or rebuild its fleet of aging buses according to Federal Transit Administration replacement standards, and to provide advanced information technologies that will enhance the riding experience for bus riders. Finally, this fee will permit Unitrans to develop an appropriate budgetary reserve amount, which has been depleted over the past several years in order to maintain current service levels.

Return to Aid: The undergraduate fee will provide funding to support first those students with the greatest financial need (those who are eligible for support from Pell Grants). Any remaining balance of the financial aid funds will be allocated by the Financial Aid Office based on student need.

	Fees Per Quarter*
Unitrans	\$4.50
Return to Aid	\$1.50

*These amounts are in addition to quarterly fees and other future fee changes that may be assessed by the Regents of the University of California or other authority.

_____ **YES**, I approve of the Unitrans Fee Referendum.

_____ **NO**, I do not approve of the Unitrans Fee Referendum.

Initiative Provisions – Unitrans Undergraduate Fee Referendum

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

Voting – “Minimum voting pools” have been determined in accordance with University regulations. A minimum voter turnout of 20 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 in advance of the election, and will be based on the winter quarter 2007 census data. In addition, this referendum requires ratification by at least sixty percent (60%) plus one for approval.

Life of Fee – This fee does not have an “expiration” date after which the fee is void. As such, this fee will continue in perpetuity unless it is altered through a future referendum.

Adjustment of Fee – No escalator is included in the fee referendum. As such, this fee will remain at \$6.00 per undergraduate student per quarter. An adjustment to this fee would require a future referendum.

Use of Funds Derived from the Fee – This fee will be collected in order to maintain existing Unitrans service levels, and to continue unlimited access to YoloBus regularly scheduled services. In addition, this fee will assist Unitrans in replacing and/or rebuilding its fleet of aging vehicles according to Federal Transit Administration replacement standards. This fee will also permit Unitrans to maintain an appropriate long-term reserve balance. Finally, this fee will permit Unitrans to provide advanced information technology systems that will provide operations staff and bus riders with real-time information on vehicle schedules.

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.

Financial Aid Grant Funds – This fee will provide funding available in 2007-08 (and thereafter) of 25 percent of this fee annually to support first those undergraduate students with the greatest financial need (those who are eligible for support from Pell Grants). Second, any balance of the financial aid grant funds will be allocated by the Financial Aid Office based on undergraduate student need.