



May 27, 2015

**CHANCELLOR NICHOLAS B. DIRKS****RE: ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SERVICES AND FEES**

The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Services and Fees (CACSSF) respectfully submits this annual report as a summary of key student fee issues from 2014-15. Specific recommendations are in bold.

Background

The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Services and Fees (CACSSF) was convened in fall 2006 as a standing committee. The committee regularly advises the Chancellor and senior administration on student services funding and fee issues. The committee supports students through multi-year planning, closer partnerships with administration, and a coordinated process on student fees. CACSSF's voting membership includes nine student representatives (three each from the ASUC, Committee on Student Fees and Graduate Assembly), six representatives from campus administration, and two Academic Senate-appointed faculty members.

Student Services Fee

The Student Services Fee (SSF), like tuition, is set by the Regents. In fall, CACSSF distributed \$500,000 in one-time funding from its annual discretionary funds allocation to support student service initiatives (attachment). Committee members devoted over fifteen hours each to this process. During deliberations, CACSSF considered UC policy guidance on SSF, including whether proposals were: (1) aligned with the intended uses of the fee, (2) allowable but not considered a priority use per policy, or (3) not for purposes specified in the guidance. CACSSF was also guided by values for funding campus services that the committee developed.

CACSSF was presented with a request for a no-cost extension to the back-up childcare program pilot that has Student Services Fee funding originally approved by the Chancellor. **CACSSF recommends that the no-cost extension be approved.**

CACSSF reviewed the stagnation of the Student Services Fee (attachment) and the systemwide discussion of potentially raising the fee by 5%. The Campus Budget Office updated the SSF central funding model and shared it with CACSSF. Unknowns at the time included whether UCOP will increase the SSF and whether there would be an UCOP-required "earmark" for student mental health. If there is no funding for increases in salaries and benefits, this will mean hard decisions about student services.

According to UC EVP-CFO Nathan Brostrom at the May Regents meeting, the Student Services Fee will increase 5% in 2015-16 and each year thereafter. This represents a \$48 per student increase for 2015-16. After the adjustment for student financial aid, Nathan said the new revenue will be split between student mental health and other critical student service programs.

Course Materials and Services Fees

The Course Materials and Services Fees (CMSF) Committee recommends fee proposals to the Chancellor. Currently, we have 106 approved CMSF across 18 departments charged to more than 9,000 students. For 2015-16, the committee is recommending increases to three existing fees and the creation of one new fee.

During spring 2015, CACSSF began to study the issue of CMSFs and financial aid. The average CMSF level is \$86, excluding a few large field trips fees that range from \$1,200-\$4,806. Students may be charged multiple CMSFs for different courses in a single academic year, depending on their major or degree program. Because the student budget used for financial aid does not automatically take into account multiple CMSFs that some students are assessed and there is no grant aid to cover these fees, there is concern that they may have a disparate impact on students of lower socioeconomic status. In

addition, a UCOP policy change strongly encourages campuses to use at least 25% of CMSF revenues for need-based financial aid.

After considering multiple alternatives, **CACSSF recommends that the campus create a “central bank” of funding to cover the departmental costs for course materials and services.** Departments could apply for funding, CMSFs and the need for \$240,000 in financial aid would be eliminated. The current revenue from CMSFs is \$800,000.

#### Campus-Based Fees

Campus-based fees are mandatory fees charged to all students. With the exception of the Life Safety Fee which does not require a vote by students, campus-based fees are voted on during student referenda and ultimately must be approved by the Chancellor and UCOP.

During April 2015, students voted on three potential fee referenda. The following two were approved by students:

- The Wellness Referendum Fee will fund a new wellness program and replace two mandatory Recreational Sports fees that support existing services offered at RSF and the California Memorial Stadium Fitness Center, including operations, existing debt service, and a reserve fund for equipment replacement and maintenance.
- The Giving Opportunities and Leadership Development (G.O.L.D.) Fee will provide more comprehensive support for the success of non-traditional students (including first generation, low-income, underrepresented, transfer, undocumented, student parent, re-entry, student veteran, and foster youth) at UC Berkeley.

Assuming your approval and that of UCOP, collection of these fees will begin in fall 2015. For these two fees, new governance language was written into the fee documents that states that increases to the fees are subject to review by CACSSF and the Chancellor's approval.

The Life Safety Fee was renewed for five years and will continue to be assessed at the level of \$46 per semester and \$23 for Sumer Sessions. The funding will be used to upgrade three buildings and enhance campus lighting.

Attached are projections from the Campus Budget Office for campus-based fee costs for 2015-16.

#### Miscellaneous Student Fees

There were no requests for new miscellaneous student fees (MSF) or increases to existing fees. However, an initial audit by the Committee on Student Fees revealed that some fees are increasing without proper approval per campus and UC policy. CACSSF will take up this issue during 2015-16.

Sincerely,



Harry Le Grande  
Co-Chair  
Chancellor's Advisory Committee  
on Student Services and Fees



Joy Chen  
Co-Chair  
Chancellor's Advisory Committee  
on Student Services and Fees

#### Attachments

cc: EVCP Steele  
VC Basri  
VC Koshland  
VC Wilton  
VP Szeri  
AC Gilman  
AVC-CFO Rae  
AVC Heller  
Graduate Dean Doyle  
Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Services and Fees