



2009 Campus Elections

Please obtain the appropriate signatures from your sponsoring organization(s) and submit by the deadline, April 17, 2009, 5:00 pm, to Office of Campus Life/Dean of Students, 245 Hahn.

SPONSOR AUTHORIZATION FORM FEE MEASURE/OPINION POLL

For UCSC Campus Student Elections
Spring 2009 May 13-20

Application Due: Monday, April 17 by 5:00 p.m.
At Office of Campus Life / Dean of Students, 245 Hahn

Measure Number: 41

Measure Name: Provide continued support and funding for the campus Sustainability Office

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Funding: Physical Planning and Construction
FOAPAL: 641002

Approvals:

SPONSOR APPROVAL - SIGNATURE & ORGANIZATION DATE

DEAN/VICE CHANCELLOR APPROVAL DATE

AUTHORIZED BUDGET APPROVAL DATE

Measure 41: Provide continued support and funding for the campus Sustainability Office

Ballot Information

Shall the undergraduate and graduate students of UCSC provide funding for the continued support and function of the campus Sustainability Office by establishing a new compulsory fee of \$3.75 per quarter, per student, beginning Fall 2009?

Summary Points

- New undergraduate and graduate compulsory fee of \$ 3.75 per quarter, per student.
- Fee begins no sooner than Fall Quarter 2009 and is a temporary fee with an ending date of summer Quarter, 2017.
- Fee will be assessed to all undergraduates and graduates enrolled in the fall, winter, and spring quarters, as well as State-funded summer quarter.
- Fee will generate approximately \$ 171,518* in AY 2009-10, the first year it is in effect.
- This fee includes a 33% Return-to-Aid component, in which 33% of all fees collected will go to financial aid to help those students who are on financial aid, cover the expense of the fee. This will be approximately \$ 56,600 per year.
- Fee is sponsored for undergraduates on the ballot by 2/3 of College Governments (7 of the 10 Colleges).
- Fee is sponsored for graduates on the ballot by Graduate Student Assembly.
- Student consultation method: In addition to recent consultations with students and administration that encouraged such a fee, students voted in favor (2,569 voted yes versus 903 who voted no) of a 2005 opinion poll that asked "Would the undergraduates and graduate students of UCSC support the creation of an Office of Sustainability, which will facilitate collaboration between students, the administration, faculty, staff, and the community to create, implement and monitor sustainability practices on campus to be outlined in an official campus sustainability plan?" Students also voted in favor (1,065 voted yes versus 304 who voted no) on a similar 2004 opinion poll that asked "Do the students of UCSC support funding for two Campus Sustainability Coordinators who will work with students, staff, faculty, administration, and the community (specifically University Dining Services) to reduce energy usage, improve resource conservation, and increase the overall sustainability of the UCSC campus through education, outreach, data collection, and program implementation?".
- The fee will be assessed only in coordination with an agreement from the administration to contribute funds to the Sustainability office that equal no less than 75% of those funds contributed by the student body through the proposed measure after the return to aid component is removed. Currently, the administration has agreed to contribute funds for a Sustainability Coordinator's salary, benefits and office operations costs estimated at \$150,000 a year for three years. (2012) This commitment would fulfill the aforementioned request for an administrative contribution. In following years until summer 2017, the fee will be assessed in each year that the administration contributes funds equaling no less than 75% of those contributed by the student body through the proposed measure after the return to aid component is received. In years in which the administrative contribution is not met, the fee will not be assessed.
- The funds would be used by the Sustainability Office which is currently housed in the Division of Business and Administrative Services.

*Based on 2007-08 three-quarter average enrollment of 15,246 FTE students.

Why is the Fee Needed?

UCSC students have a history of publicly supporting sustainability measures and have shown a willingness to devote student fees to the support of a Sustainability Office. In light of budget cuts, particularly to operations, such a fee would be an important step in preserving the Sustainability Office, encouraging administrative action, promoting student involvement, and of critical importance, furthering sustainability. Funding the office is a critical step towards achieving sustainability, especially as the Sustainability Office is quickly growing towards filling a particular need for institutional change and working with administration and the UC system. Having such a central office encourages collaboration and organization, and office staff provides an important informational and advisory resource. Already the office has played a role in creating important evaluation documents such as the Campus Sustainability Assessment, coordinating key groups such as the Committee on Sustainability and Stewardship and related working groups, and in advising campus actions to achieve the most sustainable results. Interns may also help foster these efforts by providing a valuable student connection, workforce, and will receive important training as well. Many other UC and college campuses maintain or are establishing Sustainability Offices and staff/coordinating positions to support the ever increasing need for sustainable practices. Current examples in California alone include: Stanford, Chico, Humboldt, Asusa Pacific, California Institute of Technology, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC riverside, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego and UC San Francisco.

Who Will Benefit?

Students, faculty and staff concerned about furthering sustainability and preserving the natural environment of UCSC and the surrounding area will benefit. Funds will go towards to support not only sustainable projects that could lower costs for both students and offices alike, but may also go to directly fund student positions and education.