Student Excellence Funding  
Friday, February 20, 2015

SEF was implemented in two parts: Part I in 2011, and then Part II in 2013.

- SEF part I supports:
  - Student success, student health and welfare, student centers, student transportation (U-PASS), athletics, and a small amount for academic department chairs
  - Student success dollars replaced a funding source for improving outcomes for students that was lost to budget cuts and protected academic advisors from layoffs
  - Athletics dollars helped cover the rising cost of athletic scholarships as tuition fees increased

- SEF part II supports:
  - Supported "technology that touches students"
  - This has been an effort to modernize the campus with respect to digital technology for teaching and learning
  - Modernizing instruction in digital technology is very costly to implement and maintain and there are very large costs to train faculty to effectively utilize the technology
  - The results however, are very welcome by students; our new high technology classrooms are among our most popular venues for teaching and learning

SEF dollars have therefore been a mixture of funds that offset budget reductions and funds that provided critical modernization.

CSULB budgets are by no means fully restored in inflation adjusted dollar terms and remain well short of funding needed to modernize instruction with digital technology that is so costly to implement and maintain.

Academic Affairs Student Excellence Funding

In Academic Affairs SEF funds are distributed in three categories: Highly Valued Degree Initiative, Academic Chairs Educational Services Fund, and Student Technology Services & Academic Equipment & Lab Facilities.

Highly Valued Degree Initiative

The use of the Student Excellence Funding is to continue CSULB’s student success projects and to meet our academic purpose to “graduate students with highly valued degrees.” Successful proposals for SEF-HVDI included a variety of effective programs and initiatives:

- Academic advisors
- Tutors in low-completion rate courses
- Peer advisors/mentors and graduate assistants in college and university advising centers
- Programs for university and engineering honors students
- CSET Test preparation for upcoming teachers
Electronic learning enhancements for math
Men’s Success Initiative for African American and Latino males
Internship development
Beach Learning Community tutors and writing support
Spanish Parent and Family Orientation

Since the implementation of SEF-HVDI, the university and its colleges have increased student retention and graduation rates to an all-time high (7% increase in the 6-year rate to 64% corresponding to about 300 more students graduating each year). All ethnic groups have increased. The graduation rate for transfer students has also reached an all-time high (4-year rate: 78%).

Academic Support: Efforts at course redesign, supplemental instruction and tutoring are also improving student success by reducing the number of low-completion rate courses. In Fall 2012 4.8% of our course sections had low completion rates (defined as 30% of students earning DFWU). In Fall 2013 that number fell to 4.4%.

Consultation process: Under the leadership of the deans, all seven colleges submitted proposals, as did the chairs of two of the HVDI Task Forces. Proposals were reviewed by the HVDI Steering Committee and assessed based on evidence of prior success at CSULB or support in the national literature and the extent to which they directly supported the goals of HVDI. The provost reviews the recommendations and submits them to the president for final approval.

**Academic Chairs Educational Services Fund**

The use of the Academic Chairs Educational Services fund is to provide department chairs with some professional development for their faculty. This enables faculty to attend professional conferences, and provide students with timely instructional materials.

Consultation process: Funding is provided to each department based on the number of full-time equivalent faculty with a minimum of $750. Department chairs reviews faculty requests and allocate the funding to benefit faculty development and student success.

**Student Technology Services & Academic Equipment & Lab Facilities**

The use of SEF-TECH is intended to enhance “technology that touches students” and meet the following criterion: The main criterion for awards is technology uses directly benefitting student learning. Highest priorities include student computer labs, high technology classrooms, and other instructional equipment such as science and engineering instructional equipment. Second priority is assigned to maintenance, support, and training for instructional technology. Other requests may be supportable, if funds are available, so long as uses involve “technology that touches students”.

Funded requests include the following items:

- Improve classroom instructional delivery, simplify information sharing, and provide lecture capture
- Implement new software to support student success. Update and upgrade student computer labs and add technology collaboration spaces
- Students will be able to use academic licensed software on personal devices (smartphone, home computer) for classroom assignments - BYOD
- Enhance wireless access, improve bandwidth, and add more coverage and allow multiple student device connectivity
- Smart technology for instructional spaces
- Smart room maintenance and refresh
Upgrade old class room with new smart room technology
Computer refresh every three to four years in student open access labs, teaching labs, computer labs, and computer classrooms
Software (site licenses) warranties and contract maintenance
Miscellaneous technology needs, e.g. servers
Miscellaneous course fees for general services courses
Replace, maintain, upgrade instructional lab equipment and facilities to meet and enhance student learning experiences

Consultation process: Deans and directors are requested to develop proposals with appropriate student and faculty consultation. Student consultation should include one or both of the two ASI elected senators from the respective college. The provost will review the baseline plans and proposals with the ASI and academic leadership and submit the recommended allocations to the president for final approval.

**Student Services – Student Success, Health and Welfare**

The funding provided the Student Services division to continue to provide and enhance services to students and student groups. Student success, health and welfare programs include:

- Expand Summer Bridge residential program
- Interpreter services for deaf students
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Recruitment efforts for first-generation, low income students
- Veteran student advisor position
- Program support for an initiative that targets African American and Latino men
- Graduate assistant to support programs for diverse student groups
- Multicultural Center programming and administration

**Administration and Finance – Upass program and campus shuttles**

The university provides two important transportation related services to the campus community.

- The UPass program is a contractual agreement between Long Beach Transit and CSULB that allows qualifying students, faculty, and staff unlimited boardings on all Long Beach Transit buses. The UPass program is an important form of alternate transportation that provides a valuable service to our campus community while reducing our parking demands and greenhouse emissions.
- The campus provides shuttle services on campus and around the surrounding community to assist with ingress and egress and reduces on-campus traffic. Due to the size of the campus and the many students who live nearby, this has proven to be a very valuable and popular service.

Between the UPass program and the campus shuttle services, the university spends approximately $1.6 million annually. The allocation of Student Excellence Fees helps defray the ongoing cost of providing these valuable services to the campus community.
Athletics Department - Student-Athlete Scholarships

The CSULB Athletics Department supports over 350 student-athletes on 19 different men’s and women’s teams. The majority of these student-athletes receive some form of financial assistance (scholarship) from the Athletics Department. These scholarships allow some who may otherwise not have the opportunity to attend college, to obtain their college degree while participating in athletics. Moreover, athletic scholarships help recruit better student-athletes, thereby producing successful teams and bringing added notoriety to CSULB. The annual total of scholarship expenditure for student-athletes exceeds $2.7 million. The allocation of Student Excellence Fees helps defray the ongoing cost of providing athletic scholarships.