

UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION FEE REFERENDUM

VOTER PAMPHLET AND SAMPLE BALLOT

VOTER INFORMATION

The University Student Union Board of Trustees (USUBOT) has requested that the university's Student Fee Advisory Committee conduct a referendum to cover the cost of construction, renovation, expansion, and continual operation of the University Student Union by increasing the student body center (USU) fee. The fee referendum will be conducted as an online election on Wednesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 26, 2015.

BACKGROUND

For the past four years, the USUBOT has been researching and considering the possibility of renovating and expanding the USU. The facility was constructed in the late 1960s and opened in 1972, with an additional renovation in the mid-1990s. With the increasing age of the USU (i.e., over 40 years), the cost of major repairs has exceeded the available operating funds. Currently, the USU is faced with the possibility of having to decrease and/or eliminate certain programs and services in order to address needed facility improvements, such as plumbing, electrical, heating/air conditioning, and internet services.

The USUBOT conducted two formal assessments of CSULB students' needs and desires for the USU. The assessments, conducted in 2011 and 2014, included numerous focus groups, intercept interviews, and online surveys of the entire student body. The 2011 survey had 37% of the student body participate; the 2014 survey had 24% participate. Additionally, the assessment examined the needs for facility improvements. As a result of the data collected, the USUBOT is proposing the construction, renovation, and expansion of the USU with the following improvements and modifications:

- Renovate/replace all electrical, internet, plumbing, heating/air conditioning, and sewage systems
- Increased informal student lounge space
- More study space, including group study rooms
- Expanded food service seating
- Centralized Student Resource Centers (e.g., cultural, religious, AB 540, LGBTQIA, Women's Resource Center, etc.)
- Increased student organization office/meeting space
- Sustainability Resource Center (One-stop shop for learning about sustainability/environmental efforts and events on campus)
- Expanded student conference, ballroom, and meeting facilities
- Improved Beach Auditorium (i.e., additional seating, movie theatre quality A/V, ADA accessibility, etc.)
- Possible extended hours and 24-hour study lounge location

If approved, specific configurations and programs will be determined during the design phase of the construction project anticipated to occur in summer 2015. To minimize the impact to the campus population, every effort will be made to keep the USU services and programs available during construction which will likely last four to five years. The proposed USU fee increase will be \$165 per semester (\$124 per summer semester), which will not be assessed to students until the year the renovated sections of the USU open.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ARGUMENT FOR A FEE INCREASE

- The \$165 fee increase will allow the USU to address the immediate need for major facility improvements such as electrical, internet, heating/air conditioning, plumbing, and drainage, while meeting current and future student demand in terms of lounge and dining seating, study space issues, resource centers and technological upgrades.
- Students will not have to pay the new fee until the year the renovated sections of the USU open in approximately four years.
- The \$165 fee increase will prevent any cuts in USU programs and services and will maintain the integrity of the facility for years to come.
- Since the \$165 fee increase would be a mandatory student fee, financial aid could be used to cover this fee.
- Although CSULB is one of the largest campuses in student enrollment, our student fees will still rank in the lower half of all CSU campuses.

ARGUMENT AGAINST A FEE INCREASE

- The \$165 per semester fee increase is in addition to other fee increases such as the recent increase in the Associated Students fee.
- Some students may believe the current USU facility is sufficient for their use.
- The \$165 per semester fee increase may impact students who do not receive financial aid or scholarships.
- Some students may not take advantage of the renovated facility and its programs and services.

*This notice is issued by the Student Fee Advisory Committee.
California State University, Long Beach
November 7, 2014*

SAMPLE BALLOT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH

STUDENT FEE REFERENDUM
SPRING 2015

SHOULD THE STUDENT BODY CENTER (USU) FEE BE INCREASED BY \$165 PER SEMESTER (\$124 IN THE SUMMER) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, AND EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION (USU)? THE FEE WOULD NOT BE COLLECTED UNTIL THE YEAR THE RENOVATED SECTIONS OF THE USU OPEN IN APPROXIMATELY FOUR YEARS.

YES

I VOTE FOR THE INCREASE TO THE STUDENT BODY CENTER (USU) FEE.

NO

I VOTE AGAINST THE STUDENT BODY CENTER (USU) FEE INCREASE.

END OF BALLOT

The Beach

CSULB

SPRING 2015

SAMPLE BALLOT FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.
ONLINE FORMAT WILL DIFFER.