

VOTERS GUIDE

CAMPUS ELECTIONS COMMISSION

SPRING ELECTION 1993

GRADUATE STUDENTS • APRIL 8 - 21

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS • APRIL 20 - 21

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP (CALPIRG) VOLUNTARY FEE

The California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) is a statewide organization funded and directed by students. CALPIRG conducts research, public education, service projects, and advocacy activities on issues of environmental quality, consumer protection, and governmental responsiveness.

CALPIRG is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that is governed by a Board of Directors elected from the student membership at campuses in the UC system. If the CALPIRG chapter is reestablished here, UCSB would elect 5 of the members to the State Board of Directors. The Board hires the Executive Director, adopts the annual budget, chooses issue areas within its legislative program, and coordinates projects statewide and at participating schools.

The UCSB CALPIRG chapter will hold General Interest Meetings each quarter and will encourage students to work on organized projects or start new ones. Some of the current ideas are:

Ocean Pollution- to coordinate a county-wide beach cleanup; to enforce standards established by the Clean Water Act.

Recycling- to promote campus and community recycling; to promote a reduce, reuse, and recycle platform on the state and federal level through advocacy and educational events on campus.

Ancient Forest Preservation- to sponsor educational presentations on Ancient Forest destruction in the United States; to distribute informational leaflets and to generate postcards to Congress, encouraging Congress to act immediately on Forest Preservation legislation.

Endangered Species Protection- to sponsor educational presentations on the Endangered Species Act, which is slated for reauthorization this year in Congress.

Hunger/ Homelessness- to sponsor clothing drives, canned food drives, and fund-raising activities to benefit local, national, and international relief programs; to raise awareness on campus and in the community.

Consumer- to conduct price surveys on bicycle and car repair, school supply costs, and banking services.

Through CALPIRG, UC students have worked towards passing a law establishing stronger safety standards for public beach waters (1992) and strengthening amendments to the Federal Clean Air Act (1990).

CALPIRG was first created at UC Santa Barbara in 1980, when students voted to fund their organization through a per quarter, per student waivable fee which appeared on the campus billing statement. Students voted in support of this mechanism six times over ten years. In 1990, the waivable fee mechanism was eliminated by the UC Regents. However, negotiations between student representatives and the UC administration have resulted in a compromise pledge guidelines for voluntary student fees to support registered campus organizations.

After CALPIRG and UCSB administration agree on the terms and conditions, the voluntary pledge mechanism will allow students to again fund the CALPIRG program. No student would be billed for the voluntary \$5 per student per quarter fee unless she/he expresses a desire to do so in writing. The pledge would appear on the student's quarterly billing statement; as with any other fee, the voluntary fee would be assessed every quarter for the duration of the student's academic career. A pledging student may, at any time, submit a form which states she/he does not wish to be billed for the CALPIRG fee in future quarters.

IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE CALPIRG VOLUNTARY FEE

In January 1993, UC President Jack Peltason issued systemwide guidelines enabling campus chancellors to establish a voluntary student fee mechanism. Implementation of the voluntary fee is contingent upon a student election supporting the fee, and the acceptance of a mutually agreed upon contract among CALPIRG, student leaders, and UCSB administration

1. **If the voluntary fee is established, how can students pledge to pay it?** CALPIRG fee pledge cards will be available through CALPIRG and the Campus Activities Center. Students who wish to pay the fee must fill out the card and turn it in to CALPIRG or the Campus Activities Center, or they may pledge through the Registrar's Phone System Night-time Menu.
2. **How can students who have signed a CALPIRG pledge revoke their pledge to pay the fee?** Pledge reversal cards will be available through CALPIRG and the Campus Activities Center. Students who have pledged to pay the CALPIRG fee and who wish to revoke that pledge must fill out the reversal card and turn it in to CALPIRG or the Campus Activities Center, or revoke the pledge through the Registrar's Phone System Night-time Menu.
3. **When will students who have pledged to pay the CALPIRG fee be billed?** Initially students who pledge to pay the CALPIRG fee will be billed no

later than on the Winter Quarter 1994 BARC statement. Students who complete a CALPIRG fee pledge card by established deadlines will be billed on the next quarter's billing statement. If students have pledged to pay the CALPIRG fee but fail to include sufficient dollars with their registration fees, their course registration will not be held up nor will they be dropped from classes.

4. **Is there a minimum number of students who must pledge before any single student is assessed?** Yes. Once established, the CALPIRG voluntary pledge system is activated only if at least 10% of the student body pledges to pay the fee. This threshold will rise to 20% of the student body one year after the pledge system is initially implemented. If the percentage of students pledging to pay the fee falls below the 20% threshold, a new student body election will be held in order to reaffirm the fee for future quarters.
5. **Does Financial Aid cover a student's CALPIRG fee?** No.
6. **Who is paying for the cost of implementing and administering the CALPIRG pledge?** CALPIRG will pay for all administrative costs incurred by the establishment and maintenance of the CALPIRG voluntary fee system.
7. **Where should students go during the election with questions about CALPIRG?** The CALPIRG office on campus is located in trailer 306-B. The office phone number is 893-8319.

SAMPLE BALLOT

California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Voluntary Fee

Do you support the establishment of a voluntary student fee of \$5 per student per quarter, excluding summer, to support the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) at UCSB beginning Winter 1994? No student will be billed for the CALPIRG fee unless she/he has requested to be billed and has pledged to pay the quarterly fee for the duration of her/his academic career. A student may, at any time, reverse her/his pledge and then not be billed the CALPIRG fee in subsequent quarters. This measure will be reaffirmed by ballot voting in Spring 1998.

YES _____ NO _____

This voter information pamphlet has been produced by the Campus Elections Commission. The Commission, which is composed of student, faculty and staff members, is a neutral body which advises the Chancellor on all matters pertaining to campus-wide elections, and conducts elections in a way that the interests of the voters and the institution are well-served through the process. For further information about the election, contact the Campus Elections Commission through the Campus Activities Center, UCen 3151, 893-4551.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots will be available for undergraduate students from the Campus Activities Center, UCen 3151, beginning Thursday, April 8 through Monday April 19, 1993.

POLLING LOCATIONS

GRADUATE STUDENTS: polling locations will be in each graduate department and in the Graduate Division Office from Thursday, April 8 through Wednesday, April 21. The hours will correspond with the office hours for each graduate department except the polls will close at 3:00 p.m. on April 21.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: the four polling locations will be by the University Center, the Arbor Mall (Library), the Bus Loop, and Buchanan Hall. The hours will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, and Wednesday, April 21.

OPEN FORUM

An open forum to discuss the CALPIRG Ballot Proposal will be held on Wednesday, April 14, noon, in Storke Plaza.

PRO/CON STATEMENTS

All registered students are invited to submit written statements of support or opposition for publication in the *Daily Nexus*. Pro/Con statements must include the author's name and must be submitted to the Campus Activities Center, UCen 3151, by 12 noon on Thursday, April 8, 1993. Statements will appear in the *Daily Nexus* on Tuesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 14.

VOTER TURNOUT REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 20 percent voter turnout is required in order for the election to be considered valid. A 50% plus one voter approval is needed for the ballot measure to pass.

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