

Campus Elections Commission

Voters Guide & Sample Ballot 2025

May 5-9, 2025

studentlife.sa.ucsb.edu/units-initiatives/campus-elections

REAFFIRMATIONS: UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS, formerly Counseling Services) and Career Services Support Fee

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of \$5.85 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter, including summer, in order to provide funds to maintain service levels for Counseling & Psychological Services and Career Services (\$2.69 goes to CAPS, \$3.16 goes to Career Services)? If reaffirmed, the fee will continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2029.

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) currently collects an additional: \$46.01 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter (including summer), collected through a campus lock-in fee, for a total of \$48.70 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter to support CAPS.

Career Services currently collects an additional: \$20.75 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter (including summer), collected through a campus lock-in fee, for a total of \$23.91 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter to support Career Services.

_____ YES _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN

Counseling & Psychological Services receives \$2.69 (of the \$5.85 fee) to see graduate and undergraduate students who are seeking mental health services or are in emotional distress. Along with providing confidential individual counseling, groups, workshops, and other services, CAPS works with roommates, friends, parents, teaching assistants, faculty, and staff to help provide counseling for someone in need. Students also now have access to counseling 24/7 through phone consultation services.

Reaffirmation of this fee will allow CAPS to continue to support clinical positions, support staff, essential services, as well as avoid co-payments and reduced hours.

Career Services receives \$3.16 (of the \$5.85 fee) to assist students with career, major, and graduate/professional school exploration; to manage Handshake to support student access to jobs and internships; and to provide access to professional skill-building workshops and connections to recruiting employers through information sessions, career fairs, and virtual interview assistance. Specifically, these fees support one career counselor/coach, one employer outreach manager, a budget for marketing new online career tools (ex., Handshake, Big Interview, etc.), and the free 12-month grace period for students after graduation.

Reaffirming this fee will support employer outreach and engagement, professional career counseling/coaching services, and financial resources that enables Career Services to maintain and expand current service levels and support your career readiness needs.

REAFFIRMATIONS: UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE

Health & Wellness Programs Fee

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of \$7.13 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter, including summer, in order to support Health & Wellness Programs (Breakdown: \$5.35 goes to Health & Wellness, \$1.78 is for return to aid)? Of the \$5.35 for Health & Wellness, a 7% administrative assessment will be charged to all non-capital expenditures. If reaffirmed, the fee would continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2029.

_____ YES _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN

Health & Wellness offers many research-based programs that reach a substantial number of UCSB students. This fee allows Health & Wellness to fund the staff necessary to continue student-centered and student-requested programs on wellness topics such as: stress management, sleep hygiene, nutrition and body image, positive psychology, and sexual health.

Health & Wellness staff and interns facilitate over 90 workshops per quarter. These workshops include skill building around healthy living, body image, and eating disorder awareness, ensuring access to sexual health education, and teaching/practicing meditation. A reaffirmation of this fee will allow Health & Wellness to continue providing access to weekly programming (e.g., massages, fruit baskets, condoms) to all students at no additional cost. This fee preserves Health & Wellness services and helps UCSB students continue to thrive academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

Women, Gender, and Sexual Equity (WGSE) Support Fee, formerly known as the Women's Center Support Fee

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of \$8.17 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter, including summer, in order to support the Women, Gender, and Sexual Equity Department (WGSE)?

Breakdown: \$7.19 goes to WGSE, \$0.98 is for return to aid. Of the \$7.19 for WGSE, \$2.94 is subject to a 7% administrative assessment on all non-capital expenditures.

If reaffirmed, the fee will continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2029.

_____ YES _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN

The Women, Gender, and Sexual Equity (WGSE) Support Fee helps maintain staff and programs provided by Campus Advocacy Resources and Education (CARE), the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD), the Women's Center, and Non-Traditional Student Services.

The fee helps maintain public spaces and online services and programs provided by these departments (e.g., libraries, study spaces, meeting rooms) through the addition of new technology, library acquisitions, and replacement of aging equipment. It also helps improve current WGSE programs and services such as:

- 1) Intervention, prevention, and healing services for survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking;
- 2) 24-hour hotline for individuals in crisis;
- 3) Advocacy, resources, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, nonbinary, intersex, and ally communities;
- 4) Student-initiated activities and events;
- 5) Student internships and employment opportunities;
- 6) Educational programming; and
- 7) Health and wellness resources including menstrual and safer-sex products.

REAFFIRMATIONS: UNDERGRADUATE ONLY

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Student Services Fee

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of \$5.85 per undergraduate student per quarter (of which \$0.78 is for return to aid), including summer, in order to support EOP programs and services? The EOP student services fee would help continue student-centered retention programs and services that are available to all UCSB students. If reaffirmed, the fee will continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2029.

EOP currently collects an additional: \$3.05 per undergraduate student per quarter (\$2.50 in summer) , collected through Associated Students for an emergency grant fund, for a total of \$8.90 per undergraduate student per quarter (\$8.35 in summer) for EOP services and grants.

_____YES _____NO _____ ABSTAIN

For over 50 years, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) has offered a student-centered holistic retention service that has assisted students in their transition to the university, pursuit of completing a baccalaureate degree, and advancement towards attaining a professional or graduate degree. While EOP focuses on first-generation and/or low-income students, advising and counseling services as well as cultural resource center programming and services are open to all undergraduate students.

This EOP student services fee currently supports out-of-class learning experiences accessible to all students by:

- 1) Providing one-on-one and group mentoring by counselors and student staff;
- 2) Maintaining student employment opportunities through peer-to-peer and cultural services programs;
- 3) Sustaining and increasing academic, career, and leadership development
- 4) Co-sponsoring student-initiated programs and events that facilitate collaboration between students, the administration, faculty, and the surrounding UCSB community; and
- 5) Strengthening campus-wide programming that addresses issues such as the low rates of recruitment, retention, and graduation of first-generation and/or low-income students within the university system.

Reaffirmation of this fee will allow EOP to continue academic, social, and cultural programming for the general campus and student-centered retention efforts.

Student Medical Emergencies Relief Fund (SMERF)

Do you wish to continue a mandatory fee of \$0.89 per undergraduate student per quarter, including summer, in order to provide funding for the Student Medical Emergency Relief Fund (SMERF) for students who are not able to cover the costs of medical procedures? If reaffirmed, the fee will continue to be assessed until subject to reaffirmation in spring 2029.

_____YES _____NO _____ ABSTAIN

The fee augments the approximately \$2,500 per year generated from interest on the “Jack Canfield Chicken Soup Fund.” The SMERF fee provides additional funds to supplement The Canfield fund, which provides assistance for students unable to cover the costs of emergency medical, dental, mental health, or optical care. For instance, the fund supplements existing insurance coverage and/or helps students meet costs of procedures not covered by insurance.

The fund is governed by a board consisting of career staff representing several student services on campus (UCSB Financial Aid, Social Work, Student Mental Health Coordination Services, EOP, Disabled Students Program). The board meets bi-weekly to review student requests. During the 2023/24 academic year, 122 students applied for a grant from the SMERF fund and received a total of \$67,638 toward their medical, dental, mental health, and optical emergencies.

VOTING OPEN APRIL 5-9, 2025

THE ELECTION IS ONLINE!

How to vote: Go to <https://vote.as.ucsb.edu>, and follow the directions. The link is also provided on the UCSB GOLD system when you log in. Any difficulty voting should be reported to votehelp@as.ucsb.edu. These campus-wide measures will be on the ballot along with candidates for A.S. offices and A.S. new fees and fee reaffirmation items. Graduate students will vote on a separate ballot. Be sure to be a registered student by April 18, 2025, to be eligible to vote!

PRO/CON STATEMENTS

All registered students are invited to submit written statements of support or opposition for publication during Week 3. Pro/Con statements must include the author's name and be submitted electronically to emmaparker@ucsb.edu by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Statements are limited to 150 words and will be distributed via e-mail, on the Campus Elections Commission Website, and elsewhere on campus.

VOTER TURNOUT REQUIREMENTS

A minimum 20% voter turnout is required in order for the election to be considered valid. A reaffirmation passes if 50% + one of the voters vote "yes."

Definition of RETURN-TO-AID: The return-to-aid surcharge, 25% of the total fee charged, is assessed to every campus-based, student-initiated, new mandatory fee and increase to an existing fee originally passed 2006 or later. The surcharge is used by the campus to cover need-based financial aid for UCSB students whose financial aid awards would not otherwise cover student-imposed mandatory campus fees. The surcharge applies to undergraduate and graduate student fees.

Definition of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT: The administrative assessment, currently 7% of the base fee charged, is assessed to non-capital expenditures for every campus-based, student-initiated, new mandatory fee and increase to an existing fee originally passed 2009 or later. The assessment is issued by the campus to cover the administrative costs of collecting, accounting for, and disbursing the student-imposed mandatory campus fees. The assessment applies to undergraduate and graduate student fees.

Passage of the referenda on the ballot does not constitute final approval of the project. The chancellor and the University of California Office of the President must approve all referenda. In addition, all major capital building projects must be certified by the Regents for design, financing, and verification of the Environmental Impact Report, and are subject to review by the Campus Planning Committee, the Design Review Committee, and the California Coastal Commission. Fees for capital projects are based on an average undergraduate enrollment. Should enrollment drop unexpectedly, the mandatory student-imposed fees may have to be increased in order to maintain funding at a level to meet bond financing (loan repayment) requirements.

This voter information guide has been produced by the Campus Elections Commission. The commission, which comprises students, faculty, and staff members, is a neutral body that advises the chancellor (or designee) on all matters pertaining to campus-wide elections and conducts elections in such a way that the interests of the voters and the institution are well served through the process. The Campus Elections Commission is NOT affiliated with Associated Student or Graduate Students Association elections.