

## Summer 2015 Council on Student Fees Meeting Report

The 2015 summer Council on Student Fees (CSF) meeting was held August 29-30 at UC Irvine, with Paul Tchir (SFAC Chair) and Jackie Markt-Maloney (SFAC Vice-Chair) in attendance as representatives from UCSD. Aside UCD (the latter of whom withdrew from CSF some time ago), all campuses were present. As many of the attendees represented new leadership on their respective SFACs, the first day began with an introduction to the purpose and mission of CSF and its partner organization, the University of California Student Association (UCSA), that included an explanation as to how they function independently and together. Following a brief introduction to the new UCSA President and Director, Kevin Sabo and Toni Gomez respectively, the UCI Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Dr. Thomas Parham, gave a presentation on the state of the division at his institution and made himself available for questions from the attendees. Among his points was that only 20% of Student Affairs' \$200 million budget was funded by Student Services Fees (SSFs), while the rest was provided by revenue generated by auxiliary enterprises. Priorities of Student Affairs included the funding of a Violence Prevention Coordinator and increased mental health resources, while the department was also looking to innovate on issues regarding campus climate and address concerns related to the limited availability of physical space.

Following a presentation of the CSF budget, the meeting engaged a discussion known as "Around the State", where each campus reviewed its state of affairs regarding SFAC-related issues, addressing successes and challenges experienced since the last meeting. In addition, each campus updated the committee on its status of approving CSF Standing Policy 8, which was established the previous year and dealt with standardizing involvement with and oversight of referenda on individual campuses. One issue that was raised on several campuses was that of

recruiting graduate students to SFACs, and best practices were shared by those universities that were successful in this regard.

Members were then trained on the Theory of Change, which is a long-term planning strategy for organizational campaigns. This introduced members to the planning of campaigns for the 2015-2016 year and was followed by a review of the campaigns from the previous year, of which there were five. Two, the Standardization Project Campaign, which sought to create a report of best practices for SFACs to follow, and the Student Services Fee Enforcement Campaign, which had a variety of goals that related to the internal organization within and across SFACs, were classified as long-term standing campaigns, while the other three had been initiated within the last year. The objective of the first of these, the Data Acquisition Campaign, was to find patterns of student need across campuses and discover how each SFAC gathers student input, but found that enacting SFAC surveys might not be the best use of time, since the data is usually available through other campus resources and sorting through the information was resource-intensive with limited payoff. The Referenda Campaign was designed to implement a best practices policy regarding SFAC involvement with referenda and, in particular, the optimal way to deal with sunset clauses, and led to the creation of CSF Standing Policy 8. Finally, the Funding Stream Assessment Campaign was intended to ensure that Student Service Fees were not going towards the payment of the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) tax and to determine what percentage each campus was being taxed. It was unable to produce a summary report last year, because it did not receive enough data from the individual campuses. After a review of the governing documents, the day ended with a training exercise about building teams.

The second day was devoted primarily to the campaigns for 2015-2016, with UCSB proposing a campaign that will focus on sharing best practices and resources on campus outreach, as well as the creation of a template and report that could be used in future efforts. This campaign was adopted by CSF, which also agreed to continue the Standardization Project Campaign (renamed the Best Practices Campaign, to align better with its objectives) and the Funding Stream Assessment Campaign (which would be expanded to address issues surrounding the implementation and use of the new Mental Health Fee). Concerns about the Student Services Fee Enforcement Campaign being too broad, meanwhile, led to it being broken down and its relevant elements being integrated into the other three campaigns. The Referenda Campaign was deemed as complete, since any remaining goals were too campus-specific to be engaged at the CSF level, while the Data Acquisition Campaign was disbanded because the attainable objectives could be engaged in the other campaigns.

The 2015 fall quarter CSF meeting will take place at UC Berkeley on November 14-15. The 2015 winter quarter meeting, meanwhile, will likely take place at UC San Diego.