

UC Irvine

Student Government Student Media

March 6, 2026

BRICE KIKUCHI
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR
STUDENT AFFAIRS

RAMEEN A. TALES, ED.D.
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR, STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP
DEAN OF STUDENTS

RE: Pre-Election Approval of the *Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum*

On behalf of Student Government Student Media (SGSM), I am submitting the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum pre-election packet for review and subsequent final approval to be eligible for ballot during the 2026 ASUCI Spring Election to be held April 13-17, 2026.

At your earliest, please have the Vice Chancellor review, and if he approves, I would like to request the Vice Chancellor's signature on the noted letter. Thereafter, at your earliest convenience, please send the letter to the Chancellor for his review, and if he approves, I would like to request his signature on the noted letter.

I have a firm deadline of Friday, March 13, at 5:00pm to ensure the student representatives have submitted the approved packet to the official Election Commissioner to declare on the official ballot. I would appreciate receiving the final packet by Friday, March 13, at 12:00pm.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,



Stephanie N. Van Ginkel, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Associate Dean of Students
Student Government Student Media

UC Irvine

Student Government Student Media

March 6, 2026

HOWARD GILLMAN
CHANCELLOR

Re: Approval of the *Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum*

In accordance with the "Guidelines for Compulsory-Based Fees," your approval is requested for the following student fee referendum approved by the ASUCI Senate accordingly:

ASUCI Senate: Approval of the *Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum* for the 2026 ASUCI Spring General Election on March 3, 2026, by a vote of 21-0-0.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) reviewed and provided any necessary feedback on February 13, 2026, with full Board approval.

Attached is the final & approved ballot language for the student fee referendum, which outlines the fee's purpose, amount, and ballot wording. The fee will be effective in the Fall Quarter of 2026, if passed and approved.

Balloting will take place during the 2026 ASUCI Spring Elections, which will be held April 13-17, 2026, and in accordance with the 2026 ASUCI Spring Election procedures. In order to pass, this referendum will require a 20% affected, eligible, total registered undergraduate student body voter turnout rate ("voting pool") by submitting a ballot, of which at least a majority (50% + 1 vote) of those students who voted "yes" or "no" on this referendum must have voted "yes."

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Stephanie N. Van Ginkel, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Associate Dean of Students
Student Government Student Media

On behalf of the lead students representing the *Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum*:

Anber Tahmas
tahmasa@uci.edu
Basic Needs Center

Lauren Hsu
hsule@uci.edu
Basic Needs Center

Recommended for Approval:

Willie L. Banks Jr., Ph.D. /12/2026

Willie L. Banks, Jr., Ph.D. Date
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

Howard Gillman 3/12/2026

Howard Gillman Date
Chancellor

Attachments:

- Final Ballot Language - *Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum*
- Accompanying Documents for the Referendum
- Guidelines for Compulsory Campus-Based Fees (Current October 2025)
- SFAC Review Documentation
- Passed ASUCI Senate Resolution 61-90

UNDERGRADUATE BASIC NEEDS STUDENT FEE REFERENDUM

Do you approve the creation of a \$15.00 per undergraduate student per quarter fee (\$45.00 annually), effective fall quarter 2026, and with annual inflationary increases starting in fall quarter 2027 to support the Basic Needs Center's services for undergraduate students? This fee will replace the Food Pantry Fee, currently \$4.09 per quarter, which is set to sunset at the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

The Basic Needs Fee expands the scope of the sunseting Food Pantry Fee by supporting the UCI Basic Needs Center, a centralized, on-campus resource that provides basic needs services to students, including supplementary food security programs and emergency services. Of the total student fee, 40% will be allocated towards the food pantry operations, 23% towards emergency services, 10% towards administrative costs, and 2% towards CalFresh application assistance; 25% will be return-to-aid. This student fee will be used to cover the operational expenses of the food pantry and the mobile food pantry, which offer a variety of food to any UCI student experiencing food insecurity. These expenses include, but are not limited to, the cost of food and operational equipment. Additionally, the funding from this initiative will be used to bolster programs that support student enrollment in CalFresh, and to explore CalFresh alternative grocery programs. The referendum will support emergency services beyond the food pantry and CalFresh programming, such as emergency transportation services, grocery cards and meal swipes, and emergency housing, which provide comprehensive basic needs support for students in crisis. If the referendum fails to pass, the Basic Needs Center will be forced to cut staffing and hours of operation, and reduce the frequency, variety, and reach of services offered to students in order to accommodate a decreased budget. These changes will significantly and negatively impact the ability of the Basic Needs Center to support our students.

- The fee will be assessed to all undergraduate students.
- The fee will be assessed during the fall, winter, and spring quarters, starting fall 2026.
- The fees collected will be managed by the Basic Needs Center. An audit of the use of these fees will be provided by a professional staff designee of the Basic Needs Center upon request.
- The proposed fee level is intended to fund student services as described in this referendum. However, in the event there is a year-end balance, the balance will be carried forward to the next year. The Basic Needs Advisory Board will make recommendations on how the carryforward should be used, consistent with the scope of this fee.
- In accordance with University of California policy requiring a minimum return-to-aid of 25% for new or increased campus-based fees, a portion of this fee will be provided for aid. This fee will have 25% of the fee returned to financial aid to help offset the cost of this fee for undergraduate students who are eligible for financial aid.
- Starting fall 2027, the fee will increase annually based on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI will be taken from the California Department of Finance's calendar year annual average of all urban consumers' CPI-U. CPI-U is a measure of the average change over time in prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.
- The Basic Needs Center is responsible for providing an annual report to the Chancellor on its programming and operations to ensure the proper and effective use of the fees collected. In

addition, the report will be presented to the ASUCI Senate and AGS Council. Upon request, this report will be available.

- A new majority student advisory board under the Basic Needs Center, the Basic Needs Advisory Board, will make recommendations regarding the operating budget and administration of the fee-funded activities, and will be responsible for assisting the Basic Needs Center with writing and distributing an annual report on the activities funded by this fee initiative.
- This fee will sunset (expire) on its 30th year (2055-56) unless the undergraduate student body reaffirms this fee. This fee can be reaffirmed as early as the 26th year (2051-52); otherwise, if there is no vote to reaffirm this fee by the end of its 30th year (2055-56), the fee will terminate.
- In order to pass, this referendum will require at least a 20% eligible, affected total registered undergraduate student body voter turnout rate by submitting a ballot during the 2026 ASUCI Spring Elections, of which at least a majority (50% plus one vote) of those students who voted “yes” or “no” on the referendum in question must have voted “yes.”

Yes, I support a new per quarter fee, as described in this referendum, starting at \$15.00 per undergraduate student for the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum.

No, I do not support a new per quarter fee, as described in this referendum, starting at \$15.00 per undergraduate student for the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum.

Abstain (I do not wish to vote on this item)

Guidelines Governing the Distribution of the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum

With an estimated enrollment of 30,200 undergraduate students, the Undergraduate Student Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum is projected to generate approximately \$1,359,000.00 annually, with a total of \$45.00 paid per undergraduate student (\$15.00 per quarter per student). Of that amount, 25% will be allocated for return-to-aid, leaving approximately \$1,019,250.00 annually to fund the Basic Needs Center and its services.

The preliminary budget is as follows:

EXPENSES

- 40% towards food pantry operations
 - Increase variety and quantity of food offered
 - Increase pantry hours
 - Miscellaneous operational pantry expenses
- 23% towards emergency services
 - Purchase of gas cards, grocery cards, rideshare passes, and emergency meal swipes
 - Fund the Economic Crisis Response Grant
 - Reinstate a CalFresh alternative program for students ineligible for public benefits
- 10% towards administrative costs
 - Professional and student staff pay
 - Replacement or repair of equipment and supplies as needed
- 2% towards CalFresh application assistance
 - Conduct Enrollment Parties and OCSSA Support Hours events
 - CalFresh Outreach

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
GUIDELINES FOR COMPULSORY CAMPUS-BASED FEES

This memo supersedes the memo entitled "Guidelines for Compulsory Campus-Based Fees" signed by Chancellor Gillman on January 9, 2025.

These guidelines apply to the establishment, increase, decrease, modification, or cessation of student compulsory campus-based fees for supporting student-related programs and services. Examples include sports programs, child care programs, and student fee-funded facilities. These guidelines apply to all compulsory campus-based fees for student fee-funded facilities, student-related programs and services, or student governments.

These guidelines are provided in accordance with the University of California Policy 80 on Compulsory Campus-Based Student Fees, which states, "Chancellors shall establish in-campus implementing regulations, prior to any student referendum, procedures that meet at least the ... minimum system-wide standard for such referenda."

- I. Establishment or increase of a compulsory campus-based fee:
 - a. A proposal for the establishment or increase of a compulsory campus-based fee initiative may be submitted to the Chancellor for approval from one of the following sources:
 - i. Enrolled student or group of student sponsors who have received approval from:
 1. ASUCI Senate for undergraduate student compulsory fees;
 2. AGS Council for graduate student compulsory fees;
 - a. a graduate professional Council, in addition to AGS Council, for compulsory fees affecting only that specific student group;
 3. both ASUCI Senate and AGS Council for compulsory fees affecting all students;
 - ii. Enrolled student or group of student sponsors who petitioned the student body with:
 1. the petition signed by at least 8% of registered undergraduate students for undergraduate student compulsory fees only;
 2. the petition signed by at least 8% of registered graduate students for graduate student compulsory fees only;

- a. the petition signed by at least 8% of the registered graduate students from a graduate professional school for compulsory fees affecting only that specific student group;
 3. the petition signed by at least 8% of the total registered student body compulsory for fees affecting all students;
- iii. Directive of the Chancellor.
- b. Prior to submission to the Chancellor, the proposal shall be submitted to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, who will work with the Budget Office for further review by Campus Counsel and relevant campus administrative departments that may be impacted by the proposed fee (e.g., Capital Planning for facility-related proposals). The Budget Office will coordinate with the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) and the Office of the President for review.
- c. The content of the compulsory fee initiative shall be submitted to the Chancellor for approval. Information shall include, but not limited to the: student sponsor, their title, purpose of the fee, amount of the fee, return-to-aid percentage, the effective date of the fee, reaffirmation date (with the exception of compulsory fees serving debt), wording on the ballot, and voting procedures. Balloting for an initiative shall not take place without prior approval of the Chancellor.
- d. Should UC Irvine administrative office(s) spend funds to produce printed materials in support of a fee initiative, it shall make available, through student government, an equal amount of funds to produce printed material against the fee initiative. The amount of the funds shall be limited to the cost of printing these materials. A neutral "Information Brochure" about the initiative shall be exempt from this policy. Expenditures shall be administered through the student government's business office.
- e. Fee initiatives:
 - i. For undergraduate fee initiatives, at least 20% of registered undergraduate students affected by the fee must submit a ballot;
 1. At least a majority (50% plus one vote) of those students who voted "yes" or "no" on the referenda in question must have voted "yes."
 - ii. For graduate fee initiatives, at least 20% of registered graduate students affected by the fee must submit a ballot;
 1. At least a majority (50% plus one vote) of those students who voted "yes" or "no" on the referenda in question must have voted "yes."
 - iii. For initiatives that are a joint-action proposed by both undergraduates

and graduates, at least 20% of the total registered student body affected by the fee must submit a ballot;

1. At least a majority (50% plus one vote) of those students who voted "yes" or "no" on the referenda in question must have voted "yes."
- iv. For fee-funded facilities, at least 20% of the total registered student body affected by the fee must submit a ballot;
 1. At least 60% of those students who voted "yes" or "no" on the referenda in question must have voted "yes."
 - v. If approved by students, the results shall be sent to the Chancellor for approval. The Chancellor will then forward the compulsory fee recommendation to the Regents for their approval.

II. Decrease or Elimination of an existing compulsory campus-based fee:

- a. Compulsory fees not tied to debt services or necessary to meet legal requirements and contractual obligations may be reduced, eliminated, or increased by amending referenda governed by the above guidelines. In addition, all proposals for elimination, reduction, or increase shall be submitted to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) and relevant campus administrative departments for review and recommendation before submission to the Chancellor by applicable student government(s) for final review and approval.
- b. Prior to submission to the Chancellor, the proposal shall be submitted to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, who will work with the Budget Office for further review by Campus Counsel and relevant campus administrative departments that may be impacted by the decrease or elimination of the fee (e.g., Capital Planning for facility-related proposals). The Budget Office will coordinate with the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) and the Office of the President for review.
- c. If referenda fees are tied to debt service, those fees must end when the debt obligation has been retired. If fees are not tied to debt service, the fees must be reaffirmed through referenda starting at a maximum of 26 years after the fee is enacted. If there is no vote to reaffirm a fee by the 30th year after the fee's initiation, the fee will sunset. If referenda debt is refinanced, it should be done so in good faith, and the fee tied to that debt should be reduced or adjusted accordingly.

III. Waiver of an existing compulsory campus-based fee:

- a. Compulsory fees may be considered for a waiver if the following conditions are met:
 - i. The campus has a vested interest in students taking a course or set of courses and/or requires students to take a course or set of courses

that trigger a compulsory campus fee; and

- ii. The purpose of the campus requirement or reason for students to take the course(s) includes the explicit expectation that students not be charged for the activity. In particular, there needs to be no other costs to the student imposed by the campus for taking the course(s).
- b. If these two conditions are met, a proposal for waiving the compulsory fees may be sponsored by:
- i. Academic Senate Chair;
 - ii. A Vice Chancellor or a Vice Provost; and/or
 - iii. Directive of the Chancellor
- c. Any proposal shall include the justification of the activity, including what it is a requirement for and how it services the mission of the University and a justification of the activity not having any associated charges. The proposal will be submitted to SFAC and relevant campus departments for review and recommendation prior to submission to the Chancellor for a final decision.
- d. Any waiver of compulsory fees under this provision shall only apply to the specific course(s) required by the activity. If additional activity or courses on the part of a student triggers compulsory fees, the student will be responsible for the fee.


The Chancellor has the authority to change this process as per PACAOS 85.00.

Recommendation for Approval:


DocuSigned by:

 E1E7C37689624F...

Alondra Arevalo
ASUCI President, 25-26


DocuSigned by:

 CFB830323E0A44...

Amelia Roskin-Frazee
AGS President, 25-26

DocuSigned by:

 4F3D62343273419...

Willie L. Banks Jr., Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

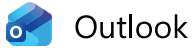
Approved:



 Howard Gillman
 Chancellor

10/15/2025

 Date



RE: Spring referenda at UC Irvine

From Katherine Warnke-Carpenter <kcarpent@uci.edu>

Date Fri 2/13/2026 5:13 PM

To Brice Ken Kikuchi <brice@uci.edu>; Stephanie Noëlle Van Ginkel <svangink@uci.edu>

Cc Tricia Yumi Saito <tysaito@uci.edu>; Andrew Michael Shigenaga <shigenaa@uci.edu>; Kristina Doan Strottman <kstrottm@uci.edu>; Katherine L Gallardo <klgallar@uci.edu>; Kyong Salmons <ksalmons@uci.edu>

 4 attachments (12 MB)

UCI DREAM Center Student Fee Referendum - UCOP_SFAC.docx; Safeguarding Our Cultural and Identity Centers Student Fee Referendum - UCOP_SFAC.docx; Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum - UCOP_SFAC.docx; Support the New University's_Support Student-Run Newspaper Student Fee Referendum - UCOP.docx;

Hello,

SFAC reviewed and added comments at this afternoon's meeting to the 4 attached referenda. They also voted to support as revised by Stephanie, so these would not need to go back for SFAC re-review. They did add some clarification questions they hope UCOP will answer, but nothing that would require them seeing these again. They didn't have any additional comments for New University.

These 4 were sent as attached to UCOP this afternoon at 5pm at the conclusion of the meeting. I had given them a heads up yesterday. I have requested to have the graduate student ones (2) returned by 2/20 and the undergrad only (2) could follow early the following week, if necessary but no later than 2/27 to meet elections deadlines.

KWC

Katherine Warnke-Carpenter (KWC)
Assistant Director, Academic Resources Planning
Division of Finance & Administration | With U • For U
Budget Office
(949) 824-5473
kcarpent@uci.edu

UC Irvine

University of California, Irvine
455 Aldrich Hall, 415H
Irvine, CA 92697-3025

From: Brice Ken Kikuchi <brice@uci.edu>

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 9:22 AM

To: Stephanie Noëlle Van Ginkel <svangink@uci.edu>; Katherine Warnke-Carpenter <kcarpent@uci.edu>

Legislation: R61-90

Approval of the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum for the ASUCI Spring General Elections

Item #: **95**

Author: **Jayla Kamilla Pete – Social Science Senator**

Second: **Naomi Paskowitz – Social Science Senator**

Date of Presentation: **March 3, 2026**

Whereas, Article XIII, Section 2(a) of the ASUCI Constitution establishes the undergraduate student body's power to "create self-assessed fees" (1);

Whereas, Article XIII, Section 2(c) of the ASUCI Constitution establishes that "[f]ee initiatives may be proposed by ... [a]pproval of a proposal by a ⅔ vote of the Senate" (1);

Whereas, Article XIII, Section 2(e) of the ASUCI Constitution establishes that "fee initiative[s] must also be reviewed and approved by the Student Fee Advisory Committee, the UC Office of the President, and other campus bodies as necessary, in addition to complying with University policies on student fees" (1);

Whereas, the UC Irvine Basic Needs Center, established officially in 2018, is a centralized campus resource that provides essential support services to undergraduate students, including food assistance, CalFresh enrollment, emergency housing, emergency transportation, grocery cards, meal swipes, and crisis response funding (2);

Whereas, in the 2023–2024 academic year, the UCI Basic Needs Center served 7,016 students, and external reviewers determined in 2025 that more than 15,000 UCI students experience basic needs insecurity, including approximately 45% of undergraduates experiencing food insecurity and 6% experiencing housing insecurity (2);

success, and students whose basic needs are met demonstrate significantly higher GPAs and persistence toward degree completion (2);

Whereas, during systemwide financial aid delays in Fall 2024 and CalFresh processing delays in 2025, the UCI Basic Needs Center served as a primary emergency response unit for students facing food, housing, and financial crises despite operating under limited funding (2);

Whereas, the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum proposes the creation of a \$15.00 per undergraduate student per quarter (\$45 annually) beginning Fall 2026, with annual CPI-based adjustments beginning Fall 2027, to support Basic Needs Center services (2);

Whereas, this fees would fund food pantry operations, mobile food pantry services, CalFresh enrollment programs, emergency housing, emergency transportation, grocery cards, meal swipes, and economic crisis response grants for undergraduate students in need (2);

Whereas, consistent with UC policy, 25% of all revenue from this fee will be returned to financial aid to offset costs for undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need (2);

Whereas, if the referendum fails, the Basic Needs Center will be required to significantly reduce or modify its services, limiting the campus's ability to support students experiencing food, housing and financial insecurity;

Whereas, if the referendum is approved by the 50% + 1 of the undergraduate students who vote in the 2026 ASUCI General Elections, following an overall voter turnout of 20% of the undergraduate student body, 25% of the fee will be returned to financial aid to help offset the cost of the fee for the undergraduate students who are eligible for financial aid (2);

Whereas, if the referendum is approved by 50% + 1 of the undergraduate students who vote in the 2026 ASUCI Spring General Elections, following an overall voter turnout of 20% of the undergraduate student body, the fee will be implemented in Fall 2026 (2);

Whereas, the approval of the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum by the ASUCI Senate is a procedural action to place the referendum on the 2026 ASUCI Spring General Elections ballot and not a formal endorsement of the referendum (2);

Therefore, be it resolved that, the ASUCI Senate approves the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum to be placed on the 2026 ASUCI Spring General Elections ballot with the final language of

Therefore, be it ordered that, the ASUCI Elections Commissioner places the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum on the 2026 ASUCI Spring General Elections ballot;

Therefore, be it finally resolved, that the ASUCI Senate recognizes Anber Tahmas and Lauren Hsu as the official representatives of the Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum for the purposes of campaigning during the 2026 ASUCI Spring General Elections.

References:

1. ASUCI Constitution
2. SA_UCI_UCOP Review Packet – Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum
3. Undergraduate Basic Needs Student Fee Referendum – FINAL VERSION

Attachments: undergraduate-basic-needs-student-fee-referendum-final-version-1.pdf

Vote Required: **Majority**

Yea: **21**

Final Vote: **Passed**

Nay: **0**

Date Voted On: **March 3, 2026**

Abs: **0**