



D-01: Decision of the Elections Officer Regarding the Safeguarding our Cultural and Identity Centers Student Fee Referendum

April 18, 2026

Background

Under Art. XI § B of the Elections Code of the Associated Students of the University of California, Irvine (ASUCI), “All Candidates and Initiative Coordinators shall submit a Candidate Financial Statement or Referendum Financial Statement respectively to maintain a degree of transparency as to the fiscal nature of their campaigns.” The section further states that “Financial Statements shall be open on the Elections website no later than Monday of Winter Week 8 at 9:00 am and close on Friday of Spring Week 3 at 5:00 pm.”

On April 17, 2026 — the Friday of Spring Week 3 — at 6:09 p.m., the AGS Elections Officer reached out to the Senior Architect and Technical Lead from OIT, who oversees the submission and posting of Referendum Financial Statements, to inquire about the absence of a Referendum Financial Statement for the Safeguarding our Cultural and Identity Centers Student Fee Referendum. The AGS Elections Officer received confirmation that Nasser Ssenyange, the Initiative Coordinator for the Safeguarding our Cultural and Identity Centers Student Fee Referendum, did not submit a Referendum Financial Statement prior to the 5:00 p.m. deadline on April 17, 2026 for Candidate and Referendum Financial Statements. This information was shared with the ASUCI Elections Commissioner.

On April 18, 2026, the ASUCI Elections Commission released *D-08: Decision of the Elections Commission Regarding Initiative Coordinator Nasser Ssenyange*, which “deemed the Initiative Coordinator Nasser Ssenyange in violation of Art. XI § B of the ASUCI Elections Code. Accordingly, the Elections Commission has levied a Level 5 sanction - Disqualification - on their campaigns.”

Analysis

UC Irvine’s policies on student fee referenda require that joint fee referenda be on both Associated Graduate Students of UCI (AGS) and ASUCI ballots in order to be eligible to pass when affecting both groups of students. *Guide to Creating a Student Fee Referendum at UC Irvine [Revised*

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October 2025], the official guide for creating referenda on the Student Government Student Media website, outlines that joint fee referenda must receive approvals from both AGS and ASUCI (whether through Council/Senate vote or by petition).

The Safeguarding our Cultural and Identity Centers Student Fee Referendum was for “the creation of a \$10.00 per undergraduate and graduate student per quarter fee.” Since the proposed fee would have applied to “undergraduate and graduate” students, the Referendum is a joint fee referendum, and thus requires approval from both AGS and ASUCI.

By disqualifying the Safeguarding our Cultural and Identity Centers Student Fee Referendum from the ASUCI ballot in *D-08: Decision of the Elections Commission Regarding Initiative Coordinator Nasser Ssenyange*, ASUCI has withdrawn its approval of the Referendum. As a result, the Referendum no longer meets UC Irvine’s requirements that it have approval from both AGS and ASUCI.

Holding

The Safeguarding our Cultural and Identity Centers Student Fee Referendum is ineligible under University policy to remain on the AGS ballot. As a result, the AGS Elections Officer issues the following sanction as allowed under Art. XIII § B of the AGS Elections Code: **Disqualification**.