

Date: May 29, 2014
To: Kim Wilcox, Chancellor
From: Liam Dow, Student Services Fee Advisory Committee Chair
Re: Final Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

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SSFAC has worked diligently this year on the budget recommendations for the FY2014-2015 as well as on the composition of the committee. This has marked the second year that SSFAC has made significant steps towards allocations in accordance with all three UC policies: UCOP guidelines, Council of Student Fee Policy, and Regent Policy on student fees, despite tough budgetary constraints. It is essential that the committee continue to follow these policies in conjunction with the campus. As you may be aware, the demand for SSFAC funding has drastically increased over the years despite the fee's flat state. Thus, the student services fee continues to face restricted funding and difficult budgetary limitations. Adding to the problem, many departments have lost grants, as well as other outside funding that have previously supported student programs and essential departmental functions.

Furthermore, the committee is receiving more and more requests for state mandated functions and campus infrastructure. According to the UC Council on Student Fees Standing Policy, student fees should only be used for items that are non-essential to the core academic function of the university. Therefore, these requests do not fall on the purview of the committee. Our decisions to not fund these particular requests do not reflect the committees' disapproval, but rather a commitment to allocating the fee in accordance with policy. Our funding decisions have been difficult to make and are the result of months of consideration and review.

In addition, the committee has worked hard to streamline and improve efficiencies by creating significant changes to the budget review process and the committee's composition. The committee has introduced two new templates to create uniform proposals and collect important data from departments. The committee has also made significant changes to bylaws to help with committee composition and creating more opportunity for student participation.

Lastly, we believe that our recommendations are the most appropriate given the current budgetary situation and needs of the student body.

Allocations for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

As in previous years, the committee will continue to backstop \$100,000 for Student Special Services for their mandated services supporting student with disabilities and special needs. However, the committee would like to remind the campus the need to identify other, more appropriate funding sources for this unfunded mandate; which supports academic functions as an integral part of the campus rather than student services.

This year the committee allocated \$1,388,299 in temporary funding. The committee made a commitment to fund departments using \$800,000 from last year and \$600,000 from a three year ongoing temp commitment that ended this year to maintain functions of the departments. All funding was allocated as temp funding with the exception of \$32,143 in permanent funding for the director of the Middle Eastern Student Center. Typically, the committee only allocates temporary funding due to limited projected enrollment increases; having to pay for continuing increasing cost

of salary and benefits; and the UCOP tax. However, the decision to fund the MESC director was made in response to the overwhelming student support for this department.

Although we would like to fund critical existing and/or new positions proposed it is not practical due to increasing cost associated with salary and benefits of these expenses and our stagnate funding. The committee did support positions previously funded that were deemed critical, where possible; but lacked the appropriate funding to support all positions that had previously been supported.

Changes to Bylaws

The committee has approved five changes to the bylaws as outlined in the attached documents and summarized below:

The amendment to Article III, Sec A.8: The ASUCR Vice President of Finance, or designee, non-voting ex-officio;

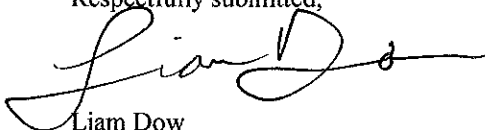
The amendment to Article III, Sec A.9: The ASUCR President, or designee, non-voting ex-officio;

The amendment to Article III, Sec B. 1: Student members of the Committee shall be selected by their respective governing bodies, the Associated Students (ASUCR) and the Graduate Student Association (GSAUCR) in conjunction with the SSFAC Chair and approval by SSFAC.

The amendment to Article III, Sec G. 4,d: The student members of the Committee may be remunerated for their service with the exception of the Ex-officio student members from ASUCR which will be unpaid appointments.

In closing, the committee would like to express its sincere appreciation and genuine respect that has come from the administrative team. They have helped us with outstanding support and answered many tough questions throughout the year. It has also been a very smooth transition since the associate vice chancellor stepped down. Ultimately, the administrative team was an integral part to the success of the committee. This year's efficiency and positive collaboration effort between faculty, staff, students and administration will affect students at UCR for years to come. I hope that, as with prior administrations and administrations across the UC system, you will accept the recommendations from the arduous year long work of this committee of students, faculty, and staff. Lastly, as said by the chair before myself, it is important that the committee continues to address the importance of following the guidelines and policies outlined for the fee and interpret them with the intent to improve the auxiliary functions that the fee is intended for and not to offset funding losses from the state or from other sources.

Respectfully submitted,



Liam Dow
Chairman, SSFAC

Cc: SSFAC Members
Attachment