

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INC. FEE

VOTER PAMPHLET AND SAMPLE BALLOT

VOTER INFORMATION

The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) has requested that the university's Student Fee Advisory Committee conduct a referendum to provide additional support for ASI programs and services by increasing the Associated Students fee. The amount of the requested fee increase is \$16 per semester (\$12 in the summer) effective fall 2014. Additionally, to address inflationary concerns, the ASI is requesting the ASI fee be subject to adjustment every three years from the date of the referendum's passage by an amount not to exceed the corresponding increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area. All such adjustments would be subject to authorization by the Student Fee Advisory Committee, with the first adjustment being implemented in fall 2017. The fee referendum will be conducted as an online election on Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27, 2014.

BACKGROUND

The Associated Students fee has not been increased since fall 2000. In the years since then, the cost of operating ASI's various programs and services has increased by over 44% with no corresponding increase in the fee amount. In order to keep offering programs and services, ASI has had to freeze employee wages, refrain from replacing outdated property and equipment, postpone the maintenance and upgrade of ASI-operated facilities such as the Isabel Patterson Child Development Center and the Soroptimist House, and hold off on establishing any new programs or services that students have been requesting, such as a 24-hour study center, major concerts and large-scale entertainment programs, and additional scholarships.

With the upcoming increase in the California minimum wage and the need to address the deteriorating condition of ASI facilities, ASI is faced with the possibility of having to decrease the amount of funds awarded to student clubs and organizations, discontinue the funding of scholarships, and possibly eliminate certain programs or services.

Due to these challenging financial circumstances, the Associated Students, Incorporated is proposing that the Student Fee Advisory Committee conduct this referendum, allowing students to vote on increasing the Associated Students fee.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ARGUMENT FOR A FEE INCREASE

- With a \$16 fee increase, CSULB will still be among the lowest in ASI fees of any public, four-year institution in the State of California.
- The \$16 fee increase will allow ASI to provide new programs and services such as a 24-hour study center, a major concert, other large-scale entertainment programs, study abroad grants, and research grants.
- ASI has delayed many projects due to a 36% loss of buying power since 2001 and thirteen years of inflation. This fee will allow ASI to fund these projects, including bringing facilities' structures up to code, providing competitive wages for student workers, building reserves to strengthen fiscal viability, and consistently operating in the black.
- The fee will be adjusted to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) every three years, effective 2017 giving ASI consistent buying power in spite of inflation.
- The \$16 fee increase will prevent any cuts in ASI programs and services, such as student organization grants, student travel funds, club sports funding, scholarships, childcare services, and recycling services.

ARGUMENT AGAINST A FEE INCREASE

- The \$16 per semester fee increase is in addition to other fee increases such as the recent increase in the Student Excellence fee.
- Every three years, subject to the approval of the Student Fee Advisory Committee, the fee will be adjusted to match the CPI without a vote of the student body.
- The \$16 per semester fee increase will be especially felt by students who are not on financial aid or scholarship programs.
- Some students may not take advantage of the new programs and services.

*This notice is issued by the Student Fee Advisory Committee.
California State University, Long Beach
January 13, 2014*

SAMPLE BALLOT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH

STUDENT FEE REFERENDUM SPRING 2014

SHOULD THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INC. FEE BE INCREASED BY \$16 PER SEMESTER (\$12 IN THE SUMMER) EFFECTIVE FALL 2014 TO SUPPORT ASI AND STUDENT PROGRAMMING? THIS FEE WILL BE INDEXED TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(CPI) AND WILL BE ADJUSTED EVERY THREE YEARS WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE STUDENT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

YES

**I VOTE FOR THE INCREASE
TO THE ASI FEE.**

NO

**I VOTE AGAINST THE FEE
INCREASE.**

END OF BALLOT

*The
Beach*

CSULB

Spring 2014

**SAMPLE BALLOT FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.
ONLINE FORMAT WILL DIFFER.**