QUESTIONS and ANSWERS ABOUT THE 2015-16 STUDENT SUCCESS, EXCELLENCE and TECHNOLOGY FEE

Didn’t students ask that the fee for 2015-16 be reduced?

Some Associated Students (AS) leaders suggested reducing the “student success” unbundled portion of the fee from $118 to $95 per semester.

Also, it is worth noting that a majority (nearly 60 percent) of students who participated in a survey commissioned by Associated Students expressed a willingness to see the fee remain unchanged or be increased.

Then why wasn’t it lowered?

Setting the student success fee is based on numerous factors. Lowering the fee would have made it impossible to sustain the current level of programming. It’s worth keeping in mind that the fee supports services that are aimed at reducing students’ time to degrees.

What does the student success fee fund?

The resources help facilitate infrastructure to support student academic success, increase retention, and reduce time to graduation. This includes support to the college academic success centers to hire more advisors and offer more programs such as peer mentors, tutoring, and professional development workshops; campus wide resources to improve writing; and multiple leadership and professional development workshops. The funding supports new initiatives in the classroom to engage students and enhance learning such as projects that bring active, service, or global experiences into the classroom. A full list of the proposals along with which ones were funded is online.

How long have these fees been assessed?

The student success, excellence and technology fee was approved by the CSU in June 2012 and implemented that fall as a single, “bundled” fee. In fall 2014, the fees were “unbundled” into three component parts to make more transparent the purposes and uses of the fees.

Doesn’t the CSU and SJSU receive sufficient funding from the state of California to cover the costs of providing basic support services?

No. State funding to public universities only covers a portion of the total cost of instruction and student support. It has not kept up with rising fixed costs. In fact, students at CSU campuses now contribute more than the state invests in their
educations. That remains the case even in the wake of recent, incremental increases in state funding since the passage in 2012 of Proposition 30.

We all want to see the financial burden on students and their families reduced. We are actively supporting efforts by the CSU to secure additional public funding.

**Did students have input into the setting of the 2015-16 fee?**

Yes. In Spring 2014, the President asked Associated Students to gather input from the student body about the fee level. Associated Students created a survey which allowed students to respond to the fee level and the type of programming they would like to support. The survey was sent to all students in February 2015. The President and other administrators met with AS leadership several times to understand the student feedback from the survey.

**What programs and services will be supported by SSETF this year?**

In addition to determining the 2015-16 fee, the campus has been gathering input and evaluating ways to refine its approach to allocating funds. Details will be forthcoming very soon.

**How will the SSETF resources be allocated?**

There is a campus-wide call for proposals through each division. The call for proposals explains the criteria that may be funded using the available resources. The proposals will be reviewed by the CFAC (Campus Fee Advisory Committee), on which a majority of representatives are students. That committee will make recommendations to the president who will determine how the resources are allocated.

**How will students be ensured the money was spent correctly?**

Each funded project will be required to submit assessment reports. CFAC (Campus Fee Advisory Committee), on which a majority of representatives are students, will review those assessment reports and make recommendations to the president as to whether funding should be continued.