

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

SS-F13-7, Sense of the Senate Resolution, Distribution and Spending of Funds from the Student Success, Excellence, and Technology Fee (SSETF)

Legislative History: At its meeting of December 9, 2013, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Senator Frazier for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee.

**SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
DISTRIBUTION AND SPENDING OF FUNDS FROM THE STUDENT
SUCCESS, EXCELLENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY FEE (SSETF)**

Background: SJSU has begun, since Fall semester 2012, charging students a new “Student Success, Excellence, and Technology Fee” (SSETF), pursuant to CSU Executive Order 1078.¹ Following E.O. 1078, the fee subsumed the existing Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee as well all miscellaneous course/lab fees; in addition to supporting these existing expenses, the fee has the goals of “facilitat(ing) student and student athlete graduation and retention rates and strengthen(ing) student learning through improved use of technology.” SJSU’s own guidelines outline six priorities that SSETF is meant to support.²

During Fall 2012, the initial semester the fee was charged, students paid \$215. The fee is scheduled to increase by \$40 every semester over the ensuing three years until reaching a maximum of \$415 per semester in Spring 2015.

However, since the fee’s inception, the campus community has been concerned that there is not enough university-wide oversight of the collection and systematic disbursement of SSETF monies.

¹ Available at <http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1078.html>

² The six priorities, as per SJSU’s SSETF site at http://www.sjsu.edu/finance/policies_guidelines/ssetf/, are: “Student Success Services & Graduation Pathways,” “Academic Technology,” “21st Century Teaching Spaces,” “Retention & Graduation,” “Course Support,” and “Instructionally Related Activities.”

- Resolved:
1. That the SSETF advisory board (a group that should comprise a student majority) make an annual report to the Senate, separate from the university financial report, with a transparent and comprehensive accounting of income (including any interest) and distribution of all SSETF funds; this report shall contain clear line items indicating precisely what has been funded and what has not, with explanations especially for the latter, as well as the advisory board's original recommendations for funding and any deviations from those recommendations, with explanations.
 2. That all precepts of E.O. 1078, as well as E.O. 1054³, with which E.O. 1078 is consonant, be followed closely in letter and in spirit; including careful adherence to the fee schedule (i.e. summer sessions are not explicitly mentioned on E.O. 1078); "meaningful consultation" with SJSU's entire student body; and the suggestion to "reduce or suspend the fee" if fee revenue has not been spent during an annual cycle.
 3. That because the SSETF is now collected from all students, a significant portion of the net revenue increase continue to be allocated to the Division of Academic Affairs; the specific proportions to that Division, and the amounts of the disbursements within that Division, are to be determined by the SSETF advisory board.
 4. That departments that had their Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fees and miscellaneous course fees subsumed into the SSETF continue to receive funding *per student* equivalent to the amounts that were previously collected through those fees.
 5. That departments with existing approved fees have a regular mechanism for requesting fee adjustments on an annual basis; alternatively, that adjustments be automatic and based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) or the like.
 6. That there be a mechanism to request such fees for any additional courses that require them.

Rationale: As the SSETF increases over the years, there will be increasing requests from units across campus for access to the fee monies. Hence, there is a need for university commitment to a systematic, open, fair, and student body-approved procedure for distributing and spending the monies. Students paying the fee deserve to know, in sufficient detail, how the money is being collected and spent as well as the evaluative metrics for determining effective use. Also, departments previously had, via the

³ Available at <http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1054.html>

IRA and miscellaneous course fees, detailed ways of requesting fee adjustments on an annual basis, and requesting fees for new courses; they should retain such a process.

In the discussion of the “six priorities” listed in SSETF documentation (see footnote 2), almost all fall within the purview of the Division of Academic Affairs. A consequently large proportion of SSETF-generated funding should therefore be allocated within that Division.

The members of the University Council of Chairs and Directors (UCCD), at its meeting of June 12, 2013, approved a resolution for all above-mentioned procedures. This Sense of the Senate resolution is an adaptation of the UCCD’s version.

Approved: November 25, 2013

Vote: 13-0-0

Present: Branz (non-voting), Brooks, Campsey, Frazier, Goyal, Gupta, Hernandez, Hebert, Jeffrey, Jabaghourian, Kelley, Kress, Sofish, Wilson

Absent: Ayala, Bruck (non-voting), Culatta, Fujimoto, Walters