

## Social Justice Referendum of 2016

Shall the Undergraduate Students Association support the promotion of social justice efforts, including programs and services that further community service involvement, college preparation, student health and retention efforts, and cultural, spiritual, and LGBT events by increasing student fees by \$24.99 per undergraduate student per quarter, including summer. (Allocation of the fees would be as described below.)\*

The approval of the referendum would provide:

- A. \$4.45 /quarter to the **Community Activities Committee**
- B. \$4.00/quarter to the **Campus Retention Committee**
- C. \$4.00/quarter to the **Student Initiated Outreach Committee**
- D. \$2.00/quarter to the **Academic Advancement Program**
- E. \$1.75/quarter to **Cultural and Recreational Affairs to support expansion of John Wooden Center operational hours to 24 Hours/Day on weekdays**
- F. \$0.79/quarter to Assistant Vice Chancellor's Office of Campus Life to create the **Students with Dependents Child Care Services Fund**
- G. \$0.50/quarter to Assistant Vice Chancellor's Office of Campus Life to create the **Social Justice Camps Programming Fund**
- H. \$0.50/quarter to the **Community Programs Office to support the UCLA Food Closet**
- I. \$0.25/quarter to Assistant Vice Chancellor's Office of Campus Life to create the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Student Programming Fund**
- J. \$0.25/quarter to Assistant Vice Chancellor's Office of Campus Life to create the **Cultural and Spiritual Student Programming Fund**
- K. \$0.25/quarter to create the **USAC Academic Affairs Commission Academic Travel Mini Fund**
- L. \$6.25 /quarter will be returned to UCLA students in the form of **Undergraduate Financial Aid**.
- M. This fee will be subject to a Los Angeles County Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment factor (as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor) every year in order to address changes due to inflation and any rise in the cost of living.
- N. This fee will be assessed each academic quarter including each Summer Session term, beginning in Fall 2016.

YES  
 NO

## **Social Justice Referendum of 2016 Supplemental Ballot Language**

Specifically, funding would be used as follows:

A. \$4.45/quarter to the **Community Activities Committee (CAC)** to support the efforts of social justice related community service organizations that provide direct equity related services. Organizations that apply to the CAC identify disparities in labor, education, and health that exist in low-income communities. Student-initiated registered campus organizations that provide an ongoing service to a target population throughout the academic year are eligible to apply to the CAC for annual funding. The CAC currently funds 90 community service organizations that work in the Greater Los Angeles area, providing students an opportunity to participate in volunteer service.

B. \$4.00/quarter to the **Campus Retention Committee (CRC)** to support the Student Retention Center's services, including: student-run peer counseling projects, test bank operation, free printing at the computer lab, the Writing Success Program, evening van services for commuter students, the Bruin Readmission Program, student jobs, and many other services. The Student Retention Center aims to increase graduation rates at UCLA, with an emphasis on graduating students from historically marginalized communities with the lowest retention rates. CRC funds are open to all undergraduate UCLA registered campus organizations and all undergraduate students qualify to utilize these services.

C. \$4.00/quarter to the **Student Initiated Outreach Committee (SIOC)** to support social justice efforts by providing funds for student initiated, student run projects that promote community development by increasing access to higher education for students attending under-resourced K-14 institutions. Approximately 200 UCLA students work to provide academic services such as peer counseling, tutoring, educational workshops, and college tours for over 1,500 high school and community college students at over 20 different sites, on a weekly basis, throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. The ultimate goal of these projects is to increase the number of high school and community college students from historically underserved communities with the lowest matriculation rates into higher education. SIOC funds are open to all UCLA registered campus organizations and SIOC job opportunities are open to all UCLA undergraduate students.

D. \$2.00/quarter to the **Academic Advancement Program (AAP)** to support the academic success of UCLA students with an emphasis on students from underrepresented and under resourced communities who enter UCLA unprepared for its competitive and rigorous coursework. The resources offered by AAP, which include professional and peer counseling, graduate mentoring of undergraduate students, and student run outreach groups, aim to increase both access and retention of marginalized communities in higher education. AAP provides free tutoring for students, by students through peer learning facilitation that allows students to discuss course material with their peers in small, personalized sessions. AAP staff members – peer learning facilitators (tutors), peer counselors, graduate mentors, computer lab monitors, professional counselors, clerks, and administrators – inspire and challenge students to expand their personal and academic boundaries by building upon the great wealth of resources and talent

they bring to the university. As a student enrichment program, AAP serves UCLA students of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds who would benefit most from these services.

E. \$1.75/quarter to **Cultural and Recreational Affairs (CRA) to support Access to the John Wooden Center 24 Hours/Day on weekdays through expansion of operational hours.** This will create equity among students and give them the opportunity to prioritize their health. UCLA has a diverse student population that has varying interests, priorities, and schedules which make it difficult for them to all utilize the gym with the current operating hours. Those disadvantaged by the operational hours of the John Wooden Center due to the irregularity of their schedules will find a more inclusive, equitable and affordable gym with 24-hour Wooden.

F. \$0.79/quarter to create the **Students with Dependents Child Care Services Fund** to support the child care costs of students with dependents. Parenting students often overcome adversity to get to UCLA and their choice to have children should not bar them from getting involved on campus. Currently, there are no evening child care services available. This prevents parenting students from getting involved in campus clubs and organizations, from staying late to study, and from getting the full UCLA experience. The availability of evening child care services will greatly support the retention of parenting students by alleviating the added stress of locating affordable child care. This child care service will be available to all students with dependents for free and will be accessible through the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Campus life.

G. \$0.50/quarter to create the **Social Justice Camps Programming Fund** to support registered campus organizations that organize camps and other summer youth programs that address social issues faced by underserved youth communities and allow UCLA student volunteers to give back to their community: UCLA UniCamp, CampMed at UCLA, and Camp Kesem are examples of registered undergraduate student organizations that do such work. These programs challenge UCLA student volunteers to deliver unique outdoor experiences for children from marginalized communities that foster personal growth, build relationships, and teach leadership. This allows both student volunteers and campers to learn that they can reach their full potential, often beyond what they thought possible, and make a positive impact in their community. The funds would be used to support the costs of these student programs, as well as collaborations between the camps and UCLA Recreation.

H. \$0.50/quarter to the **Community Programs Office (CPO) to support the UCLA Food Closet and its food justice initiatives.** Food is a human right and students should not go without eating because they cannot afford to eat at UCLA. In recognizing student hunger and the stigma that may arise from food insecurity, the UCLA Food Closet located in the Student Activities Center (SAC) provides free food for any hungry student on a daily basis without requirements for identification. Since its inception in 2009, the utilization of the Food Closet has increased significantly. The UCLA Food Closet helped to start a movement to create food pantries at colleges and universities nationwide. In an attempt to meet the increasing food related needs of students, the UCLA Food Closet has expanded its reach to include healthier food alternatives and to branch out into a series of Food Justice initiatives that seek to ensure students have access to food. Despite this proactive approach, without sustained funding, the UCLA Food Closet cannot meet the demands of students. Students should not have to decide between paying for their books and having a meal.

I. \$0.25/quarter to create the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Student Programming Fund** to support the LGBT community's programming at UCLA. This fund would advocate for the equity and safe spaces of all UCLA students by supporting programs that highlight LGBT student issues and campus inclusion. The LGBT Student Programming Fund, which will be administered by the Assistant Vice Chancellor's Office of Campus Life, will be allocated on a weekly basis and will fund all aspects of student programming including, but not limited to, honoraria, facilities, cultural food, parking, advertising, and graphics. These funds will be open to all UCLA registered campus organizations.

J. \$0.25/quarter to create the **Cultural and Spiritual Student Programming Fund** to support the efforts of registered campus organizations by providing financial resources to programs that strengthen social ties within communities and provide avenues for cultural and spiritual expression. These cultural and spiritual programs promote mutual respect between students, cross-cultural collaboration, and the sharing of each student's cultural and spiritual identity and traditions. The Cultural and Spiritual Student Programming Fund, which will be administered by the Assistant Vice Chancellor's Office of Campus Life, will be allocated on a weekly basis and will fund all aspects of student programming including, but not limited to, honoraria, facilities, cultural food, parking, advertising, and graphics. These funds will be open to all UCLA registered campus organizations.

K. \$0.25/quarter to create the **USAC Academic Affairs Commission Academic Travel Mini Fund** to support UCLA's student body by assisting students in furthering their collegiate, social justice advocacy, and professional aspirations by funding attendance to academic and leadership-based conferences. These funds will help offset the cost of Academic-based conference travel, including but not limited to, registration, flight, and room and board. The Academic Affairs Commissioner (AAC) will appoint a committee to administer the funds.

L. In accordance with University policy, 25% of the amount collected from this referendum (\$6.25/quarter) will be returned to UCLA students in the form of **Undergraduate Financial Aid**.

### **Community Activities Committee (CAC)**

#### **History**

The Community Activities Committee (CAC) resides under the Program Activities Board as a funding body for programs and activities that focus on the elimination of poverty and poverty-related issues. Groups that apply for CAC funding identify environmental, educational and health concerns that exist in economically and socially disadvantaged communities. With this knowledge, groups provide unique ongoing off-campus services based on unmet needs of communities throughout the greater Los Angeles area and abroad. As the primary funding source for community service, groups generally rely on the CAC for items including health screening equipment, healthy foods, educational materials and transportation in the form of sedans, buses and vans.

#### **Problem**

The number of groups that apply to the Community Activities Committee (CAC) has increased

from 43 (in 2007) and 59 (in 2009) to 88 groups this past year. Each year, new and continuing groups rely on CAC for a significant portion of their annual operating budget, but suffer from reductions in the amounts they receive due to budget constraints. This past year, 36 of the 88 groups that applied received allocations that were less than half of the amount that was requested and not a single group received a full allocation. CAC groups heavily depend on allocations for transportation costs; however, surplus decreases and the addition of several applying groups have caused further difficulty for funding transportation. In 2015, the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) provided a supplement of \$100,000 to the CAC, recognizing that the committee had difficulties funding groups. The CAC was notified that this was a onetime occurrence to help shortfalls and projections anticipate that this supplement will be extinguished within the next two years.

### **Conclusion**

The Community Activities Committee is requesting for an increase of \$ 4.45/quarter. This will allow for the committee to fund groups closer to their requested amounts and accommodate for future growth in the number of organizations that apply for funding.

### **Campus Retention Committee (CRC)**

#### **History**

The Campus Retention Committee (CRC) was established in 1988 to augment university run retention programs. Since its creation, the CRC has addressed the low retention rates of underrepresented and underserved students through a unique approach to academic empowerment. Through the "Each One, Teach One" motto, students benefit in their UCLA career through a three-pronged approach: individual peer counseling, collective mentorship, and leadership through internship. Currently, six projects actively serve students through this approach: the Academic Supports Program (ASP), MEChA Calmecac, Retention of American Indians Now! (RAIN!), Samahang Pilipino Education and Retention (SPEAR), Southeast Asian Campus Learning Education and Retention (SEA CLEAR), and the Writing Success Program (WSP).

Over the past 27 years, various services have been developed by students through the CRC to meet the needs of students not met elsewhere: peer counseling, mentorship programs, wellness programs, gender & sexuality counseling, writing services through the Writing Success Program, transfer services, internships with course credit, the CPO computer lab with free printing services, test bank services, study hall with van services, commuter van services, the Bruin Readmission Program for dismissed students, a student initiated seminar with course credit in four Ethnic Studies departments, and liaison office hours with representatives from campus-wide student support departments such as the UCLA Career Center and the Financial Aid Office. With an increase in the student population, the Student Retention Center continues to grow in order to meet the increased demand.

#### **Problem**

Increasing needs of the historic population of communities that have been damaged by low graduation and retention rates, in conjunction with the growing population of the undergraduate student body that utilize services, have created a need for additional funding to meet the demand. As a result of increased demand, many of these services are at capacity. It has become extremely

difficult to meet the needs of all students. Through peer counseling components, for example, the inability to fund additional hours for student counselors has caused students who benefit from such services to have fewer sessions per quarter. This is primarily due to rising costs for job benefits and salary increases, as regulated by the state of California and Los Angeles County laws, as well as minimum wage increases mandated by the University of California beginning in 2015-2016 for the coming years. These unfunded mandates have taken a toll on the budget leading to an inability to meet the expanded demands. While projects have been innovative in creating new components and programs to address rising student needs, the current budget constraints does not allow for these programs to be sustainable. One key area of focus is the Writing Success Program (WSP), which has seen substantial increases in the number of students requesting their services. With new components forming in WSP to address the diverse needs of the UCLA population, such as services specifically targeting English Language Learner (ELL) students coming from international backgrounds, WSP is becoming one of the most widely used services on campus. The WSP staff has worked hard to address the writing needs of undergraduate students from across the campus, meeting and exceeding their objectives in the previous two consecutive years. With the growing need for WSP, the CRC is expected to support the project and contribute to its potential growth, however this is difficult due to unforeseen state mandated requirements that are forcing the CRC to cut back services.

### **Conclusion**

We are asking for an increase of \$4.00/quarter for the CRC to be able to provide every student with the necessary support in order to increase the retention rates on the UCLA campus.

### **Student Initiated Outreach Committee (SIOC)**

#### **History**

The Student Initiated Outreach Committee (SIOC) was created in the spring of 1998 as a means of funding student initiated and student run K14 outreach programs. The impetus for the SIOC's creation came in the wake of the dramatic drop of underrepresented students in the UC system, due to the passage of Proposition 209 and the UC Regent's 1995 ban on affirmative action. For students at UCLA with a history of low admissions, there had been a historic lack of adequate outreach services and relevant educational support in institutions of higher education and in K-14 education. Hence, students have continuously addressed these needs by providing tutoring, peer advising, college preparation resources, and culturally relevant workshops to empower students to apply to institutions of higher education. SIOC is the latest in a long line of collaborative student initiated programs that offers leadership development to all economically disadvantaged communities in need. The program works at different levels to encourage students to take their academic and life goals into their own hands. SIOC also promotes student and individual growth. SIOC projects are open to all UCLA students who are willing to become positive role models in the lives of underserved youth. In addition, the SIOC MiniFund provides support to student groups that carry out youth oriented programming. In recent years, the number of applicants to the SIOC MiniFund has increased as other funding bodies have cut back on allocations for these impactful youth related programs.

#### **Problem**

The current California fiscal situation has had a negative impact on the SIOC budget. The state funding that the SIOC receives has been reduced over the last few years, shrinking the overall

SIOC budget. Additionally, the SIOC faces UC mandates that further drained our resources away from student services. When the University increased wages for paid staff, the SIOC did not receive an allocation to cover the additional cost. Thus, the SIOC has to cover the wage increases through their budget, diverting resources that could be otherwise spent on servicing students. The SIOC is forced to comply with these requirements, but has received no funding to cover the cost increases directly associated with these mandates. At the same time, the current state of our economy has led to the university to hold each department accountable for covering the benefits of their fulltime staff. The SIOC has to account for the benefits of seven (7) project directors. This cost has drained resources away from student services, since the SIOC has not received funding to cover the additional cost. Full time project directors are hired to support the development of undergraduate student staff members while managing the complexities of running a SIOC project. The project directors have been a pivotal aspect of each project since they interface with community organizations and schools and are responsible for raising funds to support the services provided.

### **Conclusion**

The Student Initiated Outreach Committee is requesting \$4.00/quarter from the student body to continue supporting projects and programming that address the inequity in youth access to higher education and related endeavors.

### **Academic Advancement Program**

#### **History**

The UCLA Academic Advancement Program (AAP) is a premier student academic enrichment program open to students of all races, ethnicities, and social backgrounds whose entering academic profiles indicate that they would most benefit from AAP's innovative services. The AAP was created in 1971 by consolidating UCLA's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and High Potential Program (HPP), two early efforts by Student Affairs to widen university access for students who had historically been underrepresented. In 1986, AAP was transferred from Students Affairs to a new unit of honors and undergraduate programs in the College of Letters and Science in recognition of its major academic mission. Today AAP is a major unit in UCLA's Division of Undergraduate Education, and the Associate Vice Provost for Student Diversity reports to the Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and serves as the Director of AAP. Built on principles of social justice, AAP has a threefold mission: 1) to ensure the academic success and graduation of students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education; 2) to increase the numbers of AAP students entering graduate and professional schools; and 3) to develop the academic, scientific, political, economic, and community leadership necessary to transform society. A significant number of AAP students come from low-income families, are the first in their family to go to college, are immigrants, and are from underrepresented minority communities. All AAP students enter UCLA as high achievers who have demonstrated their potential to excel at, and graduate from, UCLA. The successful integration of our mission strengthens our commitment to access, equity and excellence.

#### **Problem**

Over the past years, AAP has faces major challenges in maintaining the quality and effectiveness of its services due to major budget cuts. The Peer Counseling division has lost two fulltime counseling positions and numerous student peer counselors in the last four years. Changes in

University rules and policies and stricter guidelines within the majors have increased not only the need for students to meet with Counselors but also the amount of time Counselors must devote to processing student petitions, reviewing appeals, and filing other paperwork. As such, the gap between availability of counselors and students needs is one of the program's primary areas of need. The Peer Learning division has had to reduce the number of peer learning facilitators, particularly in the Humanities and Social Sciences Labs, due to unfunded wage increases and operating cost. In 2009, the Humanities and Social Sciences Labs were merged, resulting in the loss of one fulltime coordinator position. In addition, between 2005-2006 and 2011-2012, the number of student facilitators in humanities and social science courses was drastically reduced from 99 PLFs to 30, a 70% reduction. Subsequently, the number of courses for which Peer Learning is offered has dropped from 137 courses to 36, a 74% reduction. As a result, the number of students enrolled in Peer Learning sessions has decreased from 3941 students to 1801, a 55% reduction. To keep up with growing demands for workshops in Math and Science, AAP reallocated funds from Humanities/Social Sciences to meet the growing need. But as workshop costs increase, the number of workshops offered have decreased, and many math/science courses can no longer be supported by the division. To compensate for reductions in the total hours each PLF can work, the number of students in each section has been increased. Nonetheless, demand for Peer Learning sessions in Math and Science still significantly exceeds capacity. Larger group sizes make it difficult to practice AAP's preferred collaborative learning pedagogy and provide the kind of individualized attention that students require.

### **Conclusion**

The Academic Advancement Program (AAP) is asking for \$2.00/quarter to continue providing free tutoring to students that face retention challenges.

### **Access to John Wooden Center 24 Hours/Day**

#### **History**

The John Wooden Center is a 95,000 square foot multifaceted recreation facility, named after the UCLA basketball coach John Wooden. The building serves UCLA students, faculty, and staff in addition to serving as the primary training facility for UCLA gymnastics. The facility includes 10 racquetball courts, two squash courts, a coed weight room, a basketball gymnasium with three regulation courts with seating for 2,000 people, a volleyball and badminton gymnasium, a dance studio, a gymnastics training center, a matted room for Judo and Karate classes and numerous meeting rooms. The John Wooden Center Board of Governors, a student majority committee, governs and provides recommendations regarding the design, use, policy, and operational issues of the John Wooden Center. The John Wooden Center operates Monday – Friday: 5:30 a.m. – 12:45 a.m., Friday: 5:30 a.m. – 9:45 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 7:45 p.m., Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 p.m.

#### **Problem**

Many low-income students and students from historically underrepresented populations exercise after business hours, with limited or nonexistent recreational opportunities. Public park facilities, private gym clubs, and other such opportunities are often underfunded, limited, unavailable, unaffordable, or unsafe. In addition, public health concerns such as higher incidences of diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, and heart disease are very prevalent in many communities represented at UCLA. A lack of access to recreational facilities that offer the types of services

that prevent many of the public health issues that come up later in life make it harder to confront a future public health crisis. The John Wooden Center, a model for student recreation centers around the country when it was first built in the 1980s, is in constant demand. Some of the students that would like to use the facility cannot because of its restricted hours. Nontraditional students such as those with dependents, students with off campus family responsibilities, students with strict daytime work hours, and students from backgrounds that may not feel comfortable using the John Wooden Center at peak hours would all benefit from a change to a 24-hour model of service that is offered at other universities such as San Diego State, where the Montezuma Center is open around the clock most of the year. Creating a 24-hour gym facility will create a more equitable and inclusive environment in which students will have access to the benefits that a physically active lifestyle can have in reducing stress, reducing comorbidities, and improving the general student health. The increase in operating hours will also be able to provide students with an increase in meeting room and dance space options for their student groups so that students choose safer venues for meetings and practices.

### **Conclusion**

We are asking for an increase of \$1.75/quarter for the John Wooden Center to be able to provide 24-hour gym access to every student in order to better support campus health and to create access to the JWC for all UCLA students.

### **Students with Dependents Child Care Services Fund**

#### **History**

There is currently no evening child care service available on the UCLA campus for Student parents of disadvantaged backgrounds. The absence of on-campus evening child care services for low income students cause conflicts with students' class schedules, their academic performance, and thus negatively impacts student retention and the social integration of students with dependents into the UCLA community.

#### **Problem**

UCLA Early Child Care and Education services are offered to students with dependents in the daytime through centers such as the Krieger Center located on the northwest part of campus. While education and child development resources are offered to children of fulltime students, the daytime service ends at 5:30 p.m. Students who pick up their children later than 5:30 p.m. receive a fine of \$1.00 per minute. Repeated lateness can result in the suspension of the service. Students who enroll in classes scheduled in between the 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. block must either leave class early to pick up their children or arrive late to class. Students often choose to take their children with them to class or work, if alternative child care options are not available. This can cause a disruption for the class or work environment, and can create additional stress for students with dependents to balance their focus on their work with caring for their child. Considering the wait list for enrollment into the Krieger Center at UCLA spans from one to three years, students with dependents must find alternative child care services off campus which can be costly, especially for nontraditional, low income students. For students that rely on family members for child care, this can add additional stress, as it adds to the students' daily commute. The current Early Child Care and Education program at UCLA is not considerate of the financial strain of student parents, single parents, and nontraditional student families seeking higher

education. A service that is designed to tailor to the circumstances of the diverse student population at UCLA is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

### **Conclusion**

There is a high need for accessible, free evening child care services at UCLA. The availability of child care services will greatly support student retention, and support the overall wellness of students with dependents by alleviating the added stress of locating affordable child care. By creating this fund, students will work with UCLA Cultural and Recreational Affairs on the development of this free after hours child care program. CRA will convene an oversight committee with representatives from Bruin Resource Center, the Campus Retention Committee, and the Community Programs Office that will ensure that the program is serving the students with the most need. We are asking for \$0.79/quarter to better support these costs.

### **Social Justice Camps Programming Fund**

#### **History**

It has been a longstanding institution within the history and traditions of UCLA that registered campus organizations organize camps and other summer youth programs that address social issues faced by underserved youth communities and allow UCLA student volunteers to give back to their community: UCLA UniCamp, CampMed at UCLA, and Camp Kesem are examples of registered undergraduate student organizations that do such work. These programs challenge UCLA student volunteers to deliver unique outdoor experiences for children from marginalized communities that foster personal growth, build relationships, and teach leadership. They create an opportunity for UCLA Students to provide a space for empowerment for youth, and motivate underserved youth to attend college, specifically UCLA. This allows both student volunteers and campers to learn that they can reach their full potential, often beyond what they thought possible, and make a positive impact in their community.

#### **Problem**

These camps typically receive no annual support from the university. In the past, iterations of Spring Sing, Jazz Fest, Ackerman Movies, and Mardi Gras have participated as campus-wide fundraisers for these programs.

Currently, UCLA students who volunteer as counselors at these camps each fundraise to participate in the program and despite constant efforts from UCLA students, alumni, and staff members, fundraising continues to be an issue every year. Funds are needed to help support the UCLA student volunteers and keep the program operating annually. Though plenty has been accomplished over the past 81 years, much more is possible.

#### **Conclusion**

We are asking for \$0.50/quarter to ensure long term funding for UCLA student-run camps, the 450+ student volunteers, and the 1,200+ urban youth they serve annually. Funds are needed to help support the UCLA student volunteers and keep the student organization sponsored summer camps operating annually.

### **Community Programs Office in support of the UCLA Food Closet**

#### **History**

In the Fall of 2008, following the massive economic downturn, the campus first began receiving anecdotal reports about students moving out of residence halls or apartments and couch surfing or sleeping in their cars, skipping meals in order to buy books, using their financial aid to help their families, and other such scenarios. An unused utility closet near the CPO offices was identified, and used catering from student events became one of the first significant sources of contributions to the Food Closet. The need for the Food Closet soon became clearer, and outreach efforts in several areas developed, including awareness within the campus community, outreach to local markets for donations of nonperishable items that were near expiration, and networking with various off campus agencies. The small closet in the UCLA's Student Activities Center soon became the source of a nationwide "wake up call" on the issue of economic distress among college students and on the many invisible victims of the economic downturn. The Food closet was featured in an article in the Los Angeles Times and another in The Atlantic magazine; received coverage by Diana Sawyer on ABC's World News Tonight; was the subject of two programs on National Public Radio; and was even featured in a broadcast by Germany's National Public Radio. Institutions throughout the state and across the nation have contacted UCLA for information about steps that may be needed to start similar services on their own campuses. Campuses that have started or are working to start their own programs include UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, the University of Southern California, Pasadena Community College, Southwestern Community College, Fresno State University, the University of Texas, and the University of Oklahoma.

### **Problem**

According to a 2012 study from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 3.8 million low-income adults in California could not afford sufficient food – an increase of 1.4 million people since 2001. In the same period of time since 2001, food insecurity has disproportionately increased among communities of color and low-income communities in California. The UCLA Food Security Work Group was originally convened in May 2015 to develop a plan for investing \$75,000 from the University of California Office of the President (UCOP)'s Global Food Initiative grant and to create a centralized food security operation. Including 11 undergraduate students, 6 graduate students, 16 staff members, 1 faculty advisor, and 6 external community members, the work group has moved forward with implementing the Food Closet Healthy Food Program, hiring of student logistics coordinators, establishing a graduate student researcher (GSR) position to ensure UCLA representation in the Global Food Initiative, seeking additional funding for the food voucher program, and more. In order to continue the work of implementing sustainable food security projects, a permanent source of funding for the GSR position and Food Logistics Coordinator must be found. Additionally, piloting of the student initiated grocery coop will require funds to support volunteer efforts of student leaders. As the \$75,000 from UCOP was a onetime grant to explore such efforts, food insecurity remains to be an issue on campus without proper resourcing to sustain services. From the same 2012 UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study, the primary recommendation was to increase participation in nutrition assistance programs –including CalFresh – therefore evidence of an ongoing need for implementation resources.

### **Conclusion**

We are asking for an increase of \$0.50/quarter for the Community Programs Office to support the Food Closet and its food justice initiative to be able to provide food for UCLA students

facing severe financial difficulty.

## **LGBT Student Programming Fund**

### **History**

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender student leaders on the UCLA campus continuously strive for equity, safe spaces, and inclusion. Through activism, programming, and the LGBT Resource Center, many programs and spaces have been created to serve the LGBT community and help them maintain wellness, retention, and academic success. LGBT students on campus participate and show solidarity with other historically oppressed groups on campus, and continue to show their support for other communities as well.

### **Problem**

While the fight for equity, safe spaces, and inclusion has not ended, there is an urgent need for funding to provide services for the LGBT community that is unmet. Gender inclusive restrooms, non-binary, genderqueer, and inclusive dormitories, STD/HIV testing education and opportunities, medical, wellness, and mental services, and the list goes on. LGBT students at UCLA are under resourced and there must be an effort to maintain an inclusive environment for all students at UCLA.

### **Conclusion**

We are asking for \$0.25/quarter to be able to create a fund for LGBT students and their efforts in voicing and implementing mental, wellness, and educational programming on the UCLA campus for all students.

## **Cultural and Spiritual Student Programming Fund**

### **History**

Cultural and spiritual programming and developmental opportunities challenge students to recognize the presence of and validity of other communities and their practices. This type of programming encourages the campus to respect various cultures and identities, creating more open-minded students who are knowledgeable and embracing of other heritages. These cultural and spiritual programs promote a vision of the UCLA student body that values mutual respect between students, cross-cultural collaboration, and each student's spiritual identity and traditions.

### **Problem**

The rising cost of facilities and operations has made it more difficult for student organizations to maintain the quantity and quality of cultural and spiritually based student programs on campus. As the number of student organizations increases each year, student funds are continuously stretched thin. Events that promote the history, culture, and traditions of spiritual groups are important to students' identities as well as to understanding of such identities. Spiritual groups provide UCLA with a unique opportunity to celebrate beliefs and find commonalities and differences between other communities. These programs are valuable ways by which campus dialogue and improvement takes place between those of difference cultural, religious, or spiritual backgrounds. However, such programs are inhibited in their ability to promote cultural and spiritual diversity and awareness within the student body because of waning funding sources that

can cover all elements of a program. In efforts to create a more equitable campus for all backgrounds, more avenues of funding should be provided to encourage such programming.

### **Conclusion**

On a campus that prides itself on diversity, it is important that programs that highlight and celebrate different cultures and spiritual traditions are prioritized. The Cultural and Spiritual Student Programming Fund will support programs that provide students with the adequate resources to understand the historical, cultural, spiritual, and political contexts of various communities and heritages. This fund would help to bring about a safer campus climate that is more inclusive of the diverse student population that is unique to this campus. Upon the passing of this referendum, \$0.25/quarter will go towards the creation of this fund.

### **USAC Academic Affairs Commission Academic Travel Mini Fund**

#### **History**

The Academic Affairs Commission (AAC) has been a part of the Undergraduate Student Association Council since 1982 and has been an avenue for the student voice regarding academic affairs at UCLA ever since. The commission has worked on a countless array of issues affecting student academics, including the access of students from underrepresented backgrounds, curricular reform, the improvement of UCLA graduation rates and the diversity requirement. Every year, there are numerous events and forums for students to attend that complement their academic, leadership, professional development. These events provide students with the ability to grow while securing valuable connections and knowledge of opportunities that will help students expand their post-graduation options.

#### **Problem**

The cost of academic, leadership and professional development conferences, which include registration, air/ground transportation, and room and board, can be expensive depending on the location and length of the conference. Because of these costs, students from low income and nontraditional backgrounds have not been able to participate in these important opportunities. While there is a travel grant through the External Vice President's office, the grant only funds travel to events that are for student advocacy. There is no source of funding for academic travel administered through the AAC and this is an issue of equal opportunity that must be addressed. Students from all backgrounds who attend UCLA should be able to participate in opportunities that might help identify connections and future resources. Currently, only students who can afford these opportunities take advantage of them. This funding will help to support all students in their participation in these opportunities.

#### **Conclusion**

Upon the passing of this referendum, \$0.25/quarter will go towards the creation of a travel fund accessible by all students for academic travel purposes.

**Quarterly Levels (including the summer)\*** The Social Justice Referendum Fee will be adjusted for inflation each fall quarter, beginning in Fall 2017.

	% share	16-17	17-18 and so on*
<b>Social Justice Fee</b>		\$24.99	\$24.99 + CPI
Percentages allocated to:			
Community Activities Committee	17.8%	\$4.45	\$4.45 + CPI
Campus Retention Committee	16%	\$4.00	\$4.00 + CPI
Student Initiated Outreach Committee	16%	\$4.00	\$4.00 + CPI
Academic Advancement Program	8%	\$2.00	\$2.00 + CPI
Cultural and Recreational Affairs	7%	\$1.75	\$1.75 + CPI
Students with Dependents Child Care Services Fund	3.2%	\$0.79	\$0.79 + CPI
Social Justice Camps Programming Fund	2%	\$0.50	\$0.50 + CPI
Community Programs Office Food Closet	2%	\$0.50	\$0.50 + CPI
LGBT Student Programming Fund	1%	\$0.25	\$0.25 + CPI
Cultural and Spiritual Student Programming Fund	1%	\$0.25	\$0.25 + CPI
USAC AAC Academic Travel Mini Fund	1%	\$0.25	\$0.25 + CPI
Return-to-Aid	25%	\$6.25	\$6.25 + CPI