Proposed Student Success Fee Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Why are we even talking about introducing a student success fee?

**A:** What CSUDH has achieved thus far is largely due to the dedication and hard work of faculty and staff in combination with the perseverance, intelligence and tenacity of our students, many of whom work multiple jobs and require financial aid just to be here. However, no one questions the reality that our campus has an insufficient number of faculty and advisors; many of our classrooms and labs are outdated; nor the lack of sufficient equipment and technology, just to name a few. Our students, faculty and staff have done a great job with the tools they have. They deserve the additional resources necessary to ensure success for our students.

Any increase in student fees will have an impact on students and is definitely of concern. However, CSU Dominguez Hills has the second lowest mandatory campus fees in the CSU—$591 lower than the CSU average of $1,223. Moreover, the net price to attend CSUDH is $4,376 less than the national average for public four-year universities and $424 less than the CSU average. We have a responsibility to explore every avenue, even ones that may initially be unpopular, to address this disparity and increase the resources necessary to provide our students with the quality experience and education they deserve.

**Q:** Who has to pay the Proposed Student Success Fee?

**A:** All students, undergraduate and graduate, part-time and full-time, post-baccalaureate, would pay $280 semester should the fee be implemented.

**Q:** What is the benefit of the Proposed Student Success Fee, especially for those who are about to graduate in the next year or two?

**A:** The proposed fee will benefit current and future students. Funds will be used to help all students succeed including expenditures to facilitate graduation and career preparation. Below is a list of possible expenditures prepared in response to student request for specific examples of how student success fee funds could be utilized.

**One Example* of How Success Fee Funds Could Be Applied**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Student Success Fee At Work</th>
<th>Possible Amount</th>
<th>Approximations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade classrooms, laboratories, equipment and other instructional space</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$20,000/classroom x 20 classrooms/year; $80,000/lab x 5 labs/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased course offerings to facilitate graduation</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
<td>$6,500 per course</td>
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<td>Hire additional academic advisors</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>10 new advisors x $80,000/advisor - 2/college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hire additional faculty to expand and support programs and course offerings</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
<td>17 new faculty x $100,000/faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expand tutoring hours &amp; subjects covered</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
<td>$15/hour x 40 hours/week/subject x 30 weeks x 20 subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase service-learning &amp; civic engagement opportunities</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase joint student faculty research opportunities - Center for Undergraduate Research</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<td>Strengthen career development services for students</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<td>Enhance graduate school preparation</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase student internships, domestic and international</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hire staff to increase student support services such as veteran’s programs, women’s resource center, diversity programs, etc.</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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Academic Technology - Upgrade computer labs, software and IT support $500,000
Increase funding for intercollegiate athletics $500,000
Enhance student leadership development programs $200,000
BRIDGE & Encounter to Excellence Programs $500,000

Possible Year 1 Total*** $7,960,000

*This list is not exhaustive. It is a compilation of possible expenditures and is in response to students' requests to have specific examples of what they can expect to see as a result of the student success fee.

**Allocation and expenditure of these funds will be determined through the University Budget Committee (UBC) annually. The UBC is a representative body of the university community, including students.

***The above budget scenario represents a combination of ongoing and one-time expenditures. It is anticipated that the funding needs and priorities for student success activities will change as the years progress. These funds will be utilized in concert with other university funds both ongoing and one-time to support the success of CSUDH students.

Q: If the proposed Student Success Fee were to be implemented, what would be the impact on my financial aid?

A: The proposed fee increase for students with grant aid would be covered by financial aid. In Fall 2013, the total student headcount was 14,107. Of that number, 79% applied for financial grant aid – Pell Grant and/or State University Grant (SUG); 9,643 students or 86% of those who applied received grant aid. A total of 2,199 students in Fall 2013 did not apply for financial aid and an additional 2,241 students had Expected Family Contributions greater than $4,000 which made them ineligible to receive Pell or SUG grants. Based on 2013 percentages, it is estimated that 4,000 - 4,500 students will pay the proposed student success fee of $280/semester without financial aid. The university has been discussing for some time the need for an emergency grant program and additional scholarship funds. The timing is such that these efforts will overlap with the establishment of a student success fee, should such a fee be implemented.

Q: When will the Proposed Student Success Fee go in to effect?

A: If the fee was to be implemented, it would go into effect beginning Fall 2014.

Q: Will the Student Success Fee be covered by our financial aid award? Will it increase our financial aid award?

A: Yes, the Student Success Fee will be covered by a student’s financial aid award. The “cost of attendance,” which would be impacted by the student success fee and is factored into financial aid awards, will be increased.

Q: If the Student Success Fee is added, would it also raise the price of our tuition?

A: The Student Success Fee will result in an increase of “student fees”; however, it is not an increase to tuition which can only be increased through approval of the CSU Board of Trustees.

Q: Could the implementation of the fee be staggered so that only half would go into effect for the next school year?

A: Yes, the fee could be staggered for the first year so that it is $140/semester for the 2014-15 academic year and $280/semester beginning Fall 2015. This has been one of the suggestions posed by students.

Q: How do we know the proposed Student Success Fees will not continue to increase once they are implemented?

A: Proposed fees must go through a consultation or referendum process each time an increase is to take place, unless the fee is proposed with step increases and approved by the Chancellor’s Office as such. The current proposed student success fee is $280/semester and contains no additional increases.
Q: Why is the Student Success Fee not being brought to students as a Referendum?

A: The Chancellor’s Office Executive Order #1054 states: “The policy presumes that a student fee referendum will be conducted before adjusting or establishing Category II fees. The president, however, may waive the referendum requirement (unless it is required by Education Code) if he/she determines that a referendum is not the best mechanism to achieve appropriate and meaningful consultation.” The university believes it will be able to reach and directly consult with more students by using the Consultation Method. University Administrators are actively meeting with various student groups and organizations on an ongoing basis. In addition four town halls have been scheduled thus far so that students can receive information on the proposed Student Success Fee and provide feedback. A website (www.csudh.edu/studentsuccessfee) and email address (studentsuccessfee@csudh.edu) have been set up to provide mechanisms for information and feedback regarding individual comments as well as questions regarding the proposed fee.

Q: The passing of Proposition 30 increased the CSUDH budget. Why do we still need money to support students on our campus?

A: The passing of Prop 30 did not increase the CSUDH budget. It did however prevent any additional reductions which we would have had to undertake had the proposition failed. Governor Brown is currently proposing an additional $142 million for the system in the upcoming budget year. But the overwhelming majority of these funds is dedicated to increasing student access by funding increased enrollment levels, paying for mandatory health costs, addressing deferred maintenance issues and providing for a moderate increase in faculty and staff compensation. While there will be funds available for increasing student success per the Governor’s initiative, the funds will be distributed across the system to all 23 campuses.