

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



BAKERSFIELD

September 27, 2022

CHANNEL ISLANDS

CHICO

Dr. Adela de la Torre
President
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, California 92182

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

Dear Adela:

FRESNO

The purpose of this memo is to respond to your request for approval to pursue a student fee referendum at San Diego State University (SDSU) in fall 2022 to expand the existing Student Success Fee to the Imperial Valley students. The process outlined in your request is aligned with Education Code and CSU policy requirements related to administering Student Success Fees. SDSU has my approval to proceed with the referendum as described.

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

If you have questions, please contact Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget at rstorm@calstate.edu.

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

Sincerely,

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

Jolene Koester
Interim Chancellor

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

JK/sr

SAN DIEGO

c: Sylvia Alva, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Steve Relyea, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS



THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 19, 2022

TO: Jolene Koester, Ph.D.
Chancellor, California State University

FROM: Adela de la Torre, Ph.D.
President, San Diego State University

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of Student Success Fee Referendum

San Diego State University is requesting approval to pursue a student fee referendum related to its expansion of Student Success Fee to SDSU Imperial Valley students in fall 2022.

The Student Success Fee was initially established in Fall of 2014; however, the fee was only applied to those students enrolled at the San Diego campus, and not to those students enrolled at the Imperial Valley campus. In an effort to bolster support for all students, SDSU has determined that the best practice would be to align the fees between Imperial Valley and San Diego campuses, and charge all students equally. The proposed referendum would not increase the \$456 fee, but rather expand its applicability to all SDSU students. In an effort to minimize the impact of the additional cost, the fee will be phased in over five years; it would start at \$22/year, and increase by \$50/academic year until it is aligned with the San Diego campus. The Student Success Fee would continue to increase annually based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) inflationary factor.

Pursuant to the Student Fee Policy (Executive Order 1102), the campus will take a binding student vote after a rigorous consultation process is undertaken to inform and educate students on the uses, impact and cost of the proposed expansion of the Student Success Fee. The student vote will be administered consistent with the procedures outlined in the Student Fee Policy, as well Associated Students bylaws regarding referendums.

Historically, separate student elections have been held at the two campuses, consistent with their respective Associated Students organizations and bylaws. It would be the preference of SDSU to bring the fee to a vote only at the Imperial Valley campus, as those <1,000 students would be the population that is impacted. However, the guidance of the Chancellor's Office Business and Finance team is that SDSU should require all 35,000 students at both campuses to vote.

There is no proposed change to the approved use of the fee revenue. Ninety percent (90%) of the fee will fund additional tenure-track faculty beyond state-supported levels to provide expanded course sections thus enabling students to improve their time to graduation. The remaining portion of the fee will fund student initiated academic related programs and services designed to enrich the student experience. As with the original fee referendum SDSU will meet all requirements outlined in Education Code 89712. This includes informing students of the following circumstances that shall apply to the fee:

- (i) That, except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), a student success fee may be rescinded by a majority vote of the students, as specified in subdivision (c).
- (ii) That a student success fee shall not be rescinded earlier than six years following the vote to implement the fee.
- (iii) If any portion of the student success fee is committed to support a long-term obligation, that portion of the fee shall not be rescinded until the obligation has been satisfied.

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Adela de la Torre, Ph.D.
President

Approved: _____
Jolene Koester Date