

How UC campuses will use revenue from a tuition increase

After a six-year tuition freeze that has coincided with a significant increase in student enrollment and limited state funding, UC's need to reinvest in student services and academic excellence has become critical. A proposal to increase tuition and the student services fee will bring immediate and longer-term benefits to students in both these vital areas. Financial aid will completely cover the \$282 tuition adjustment as well as the \$54 student services fee for about two-thirds of UC students – and all students will reap the benefit of the improvements these additional funds will provide.

The revenue from the proposed increase will be used in some of the following ways.

Increase financial aid

One-third of the revenue from a tuition increase will be set aside for financial aid, increasing the pool of funds available to help students cover their educational costs. California undergraduates with the greatest financial need – 57 percent of California students – will continue to have all their university fees fully covered by grants. In addition, UC undergraduates will receive more than \$540 million next year, including \$250 million directly from UC, for expenses above and beyond tuition and fees such as housing, food, books and transportation. Without a tuition adjustment, no additional aid would be available to help cover these educational costs.

Improve the student-faculty ratio on campuses

Campuses hope to hire more faculty to meet the demands of enrollment growth. Last year, the growth in California resident undergraduates was the single largest one-year increase in California resident enrollment since the end of World War II. Adding these new educators will improve the student-faculty ratio which, on some campuses, has reached historically high levels, especially in STEM fields. UC San Diego, for example, estimates the tuition increase will help fund 27 new ladder-rank faculty next year and at UC Davis the increase would allow for the hiring of an additional 34 members. UC Irvine would have the funds to move forward with its plan to hire 40-50 new faculty next year, a number not possible without the tuition adjustment. Hiring additional faculty will result in more course sessions and smaller class sizes – both of which will help students complete their degree requirements and graduate.

Increase academic counseling, tutoring and student mental health services

Enrolling more students on campuses has stretched, and frequently strained, the student services needed to ensure timely graduation and a positive student experience. Campuses intend to use revenue from a tuition increase to bolster these services by hiring more counselors, advisers, tutors and mental health professionals. The bulk of the student services fee adjustment will go toward financial aid and student mental health services.

Offer more support to graduate students

The additional revenue from a tuition increase will allow campuses to increase fellowships offered to graduate students, avoid cutting current fellowships and restore some services that had been eliminated previously – such as summer program grants, parent grants and travel grants. Increasing support for graduate students helps UC attract these students, who also serve as teaching assistants for undergraduates.

Improve classroom space

A tuition increase will help campuses to provide the bare minimum maintenance for new classroom space and other buildings to prevent further deterioration and to extend their useful life. This will avoid millions of dollars in deferred maintenance and/or replacement costs in future years. Campuses will also be able to move forward on upgrading classroom technology that not only improves students' academic experience, but also increases efficiency.