

Funding for Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum (HESSR)

Spring 2019

Ballot Language:

If approved, in Fall 2020 this referendum will replace the current HESSR fee of \$14.00 per quarter for a net increase of \$2.00 per quarter and will include Undocumented Student Programs. The new fee effective Fall 2020 would be \$16.00 per quarter.

Do you support a quarterly fee of \$16.00 per undergraduate student for the eight student services programs to meet growing student needs by providing student events and services, programming, collaborative projects, student leadership and employment opportunities, and operational support for students?

- Fee will replace the current HESSR fee, effective Fall 2020
- Fee will be assessed to undergraduate students in Fall, Winter, Spring, & Summer quarters
- 25% of the fee (\$4.00 per quarter) will be returned to financial aid to help offset costs for students who are eligible for financial aid
- The remaining \$12.00 per quarter will be split evenly amongst all ethnic and gender programs, currently eight programs, and transferred to each program's budget.
- Currently the eight programs include: African Student Programs, Asian Pacific Student Programs, Chicano Student Programs, LGBT Resource Center, Middle Eastern Student Center, Native American Student Programs, Undocumented Student Programs, and Women's Resource Center.

The approval of this referendum will provide:

- Increased co-programming with student organizations and student-led initiatives, including funding and advising
- Staffing to assist students in finding support and resources
- Support for conference hosting and conference travel
- Support for Common Ground Collective projects & collaborative initiatives with the Diversity Council
- Peer mentoring and peer education programs support
- More resources in each student program office and center, such as

student computer support and educational materials

- Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum funds directed to the eight programs will be governed by the Referendum Student Advisory Committee (“RSAC”), made up of UCR undergraduate students.

Yes, I hereby support the Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum Fee

No, I hereby do not support the Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum Fee and the current quarterly fee of \$14.00 per undergraduate student will continue to be assessed until the end of Summer 2020.

Long Description:

Introduction:

This referendum acknowledges the student body of University of California, Riverside (“UCR”) is interested in improving and expanding campus services, resources, programs, and leadership activities through African Student Programs, Asian Pacific Student Programs, Chicano Student Programs, LGBT Resource Center, Middle Eastern Student Center, Native American Student Programs, Undocumented Student Programs, and Women’s Resource Center (“eight programs”).

The eight programs are united in their mission to serve all UCR students. Even as UCR enrollment has increased, as well as expenses associated with providing services and programming, the permanent budgets of the eight programs have not grown.

In 2015, the Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum was approved to temporarily enhance funding for seven ethnic and gender program offices providing vital student services to all undergraduate students. Since passage, available funding from Student Services Fees has not improved, while the need for student services provided by the ethnic and gender program offices has increased. In addition, Undocumented Student Programs has been established as a new office to help create equal opportunity at UCR for all students to get a quality education, regardless of immigration status.

The 2015 Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum provides temporary funding only through Spring 2020. The needs of students helped by HESSR funds are not temporary, however.

Since 2015, the Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum fee has allowed the ethnic and gender program offices to provide vital resources and staffing. HESSR funding is critical to assisting distressed students, struggling with issues ranging from hate crimes and incidents, family and financial situations interfering with academic success, sexual assault and sexual harassment, suicide and other mental health and wellness concerns. HESSR funding results in new employment for students and co-sponsorship opportunities for student organizations. HESSR funding makes possible campus-wide speakers, performers, conferences, and community-building events that educate and empower all Highlanders.

Permanent funding for the Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum will allow the eight programs to continue to meet undergraduate students' needs by providing:

- Increased co-programming with student organizations and student-led initiatives, including funding and advising
- Staffing to assist students in finding support and resources
- Support for conference hosting and conference travel
- Support for Common Ground Collective projects & collaborative initiatives with the Diversity Council
- Peer mentoring and peer education programs support
- More resources in each student program office and center, such as student computer support and educational materials
- Operational support for student services programs as described above, as the costs of campus services continue to increase

Funding:

If approved, this referendum fee will be assessed to undergraduate students beginning in Fall 2020 at \$16.00 per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer). Of the \$16.00 fee collected from undergraduate students, \$4.00 per quarter will go to student financial aid (see "Return to Aid" section below) and \$12.00 per

quarter will be split evenly amongst the eight programs, and transferred to each program's budget. Since Undocumented Student Programs funds are currently housed under the Chicano Student Programs departmental budget, CSP will receive the Undocumented Students Program share of this fee and ensure it is allocated to that program. If USP becomes a stand-alone department in the future, their share will go to the USP departmental budget versus being combined with CSP.

“Return-to-Aid”:

In accordance with University of California policy, 25% of the amount collected from this fee (\$4.00 per quarter) will be returned to UC Riverside students in the form of undergraduate financial aid.

Governance:

Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum funds directed to the eight programs will be governed by the Referendum Student Advisory Committee (“RSAC”), under the authority of the Chancellor or Chancellor's designate. RSAC will be made up of sixteen members to include eight UCR undergraduate students (with voting privileges) nominated by the Director of each of the eight programs, and eight staff members representing the eight programs (non-voting). One staff member nominated by the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designate will provide administrative support to the committee. RSAC will submit the Bylaws to UCR's Campus Counsel Office for review and endorsement. RSAC will recommend to the Chancellor or Chancellor's designate, for final approval, how the Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum funds will be utilized. A portion of the funds going directly to the eight programs will be used to support and sustain the work of RSAC. An annual public RSAC report will summarize the use of Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum funds.

Referendum Passage:

In compliance with UC and UCR policies, this referendum must meet the following criteria during elections to be approved by the student body.

1. At least 20% of the undergraduate student body must participate in the ASUCR ballot voting.
2. A majority of the votes cast must vote in favor of the issue.