

Spring 2015 Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum

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, and Women’s Resource Center (“seven departments”).

The seven departments 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 seven departments have not grown.

The seven departments’ ability to provide needed support services, resources, and programs is limited by reductions in permanent professional staffing and less access to permanent funding through Student Services Fees. Student organizations are also seeking additional staff assistance from the seven departments to navigate campus policies and procedures, as well as staff time in helping students in distress to find needed campus support. Distressed students are 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. Student organizations are requesting more co-programming and assistance navigating University policies and resources.

The Highlander Empowerment Student Services Referendum will allow the seven departments to better 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 ASUCR 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 will provide \$14.00 per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer), as well as provide financial aid funds to meet the University of California “return-to-aid” requirement (see “Return-to-Aid” section below) beginning to be assessed in the Fall 2015 quarter subject to reaffirmation by the student body every five years thereafter. Of the \$14.00 fee collected from undergraduate students, \$3.50 will go to student financial aid. \$10.50 will be split evenly amongst the seven departments, with \$1.50 per quarter transferred directly to each department’s budget. **“Return-to-Aid”:**

In accordance with University of California policy, 25% of the amount collected from this fee (\$3.50 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 seven departments 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 fourteen members to include seven UCR undergraduate students (with voting privileges) nominated by the Director of each of the seven departments; seven staff members representing the seven departments (ex-officio non-voting); and one staff member (ex-officio non-voting) nominated by the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designate to provide administrative support. 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 funds will be utilized. A portion of the funds going directly to the seven departments 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.

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

Do you support a quarterly fee of \$14.00 for the seven student services departments 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 be effective Fall 2015
- Fee will be assessed in Fall, Winter, Spring, & Summer quarters
- 25% of the fee (\$3.50) will be returned to financial aid to help offset costs for students who are eligible for financial aid
- \$10.50 will be split evenly amongst the seven departments, with \$1.50 per quarter transferred directly to each department's budget.
- The seven departments include: African Student Programs, Asian Pacific Student Programs, Chicano Student Programs, LGBT Resource Center, Middle Eastern Student Center, Native American Student Programs, and Women's Resource Center.

The approval of this referendum would provide for

- 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 ASUCR 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 seven departments 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