

April 17, 2008

Dear Chancellor Block,

The state fiscal situation and potential budget cuts are of concern to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC), the stewards of the Student Registration Fee and representatives of student voice. As it is the committee's responsibility to represent the student voice, we recommend that you join us in advocating for the continual proper use of Student Registration Fee funds.

Members at SFAC's March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting unanimously agreed that Student Registration Fee funds should continue to exclusively be used to support students in accordance with the Student Fee Policy. These funds should not be used to offset shortfalls in core university areas.

While UCLA is an elite teaching and research institution, it has always demonstrated a strong commitment to student welfare. In the interest of maintaining that commitment, we strongly feel that the Student Registration Fee should continue to be used exclusively for student services. Student Registration Fee-funded units are still feeling the effects of significant budget cuts in 2003-2004. Some units have never fully recovered from these cuts, and some have only recently recovered. In addition, while student fees have steadily risen over the last five years, students have not experienced a similar increase in quality and quantity of student services.

Many units that impact student welfare could be affected by the potential upcoming budget cuts. Although the Student Registration Fee was increased 7% in 2007 (with a 3% earmark of the 7% going to the mental health initiatives), the campus still has unmet needs in this area. As an example, students often wait about two weeks for appointments at the Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center and Student Psychological Services. These wait times are much too long. If Student Registration Fee funds were used to support other areas, much-needed improvements in mental health services could be negated.

Our view on the appropriate use of the Registration Fee funds was informed by the Student Fee Policy (last amended September, 2005), which delineates the use of the Student Registration Fee:

Income generated by the University Registration Fee may be used to support services, which benefit the student and which are complementary to, but not a part of, the instructional program. These programs include, but are not limited to, operating and capital expenses for services related to the physical and psychological health and well-being of students; social and cultural activities and programs; services related to campus life and campus community; and educational and career support. These programs create a supportive learning environment and provide general student enrichment.

Given this longstanding policy and UCLA's commitment to student welfare, we recommend that you join SFAC in advocating to protect Student Registration Fee funding for these essential student services.

Sincerely,

Homaira Hosseini  
Chair, SFAC

Cynthia M. Mosqueda  
Vice Chair, SFAC