

2003 IRA Fee Referendum

Sample Ballot

Overview

The purpose of this Student Fee Referendum is to raise the Instructionally Related Activity (IRA) fee to support an increase in funding for the four permanently funded programs of the 1994 Instructionally Related Activity (IRA) Student Fee Referendum and provide additional funds for other programs funded by the IRA fee on an annual basis. The permanently funded programs are Athletics, the Children's School, the Library and Performing Arts. Twenty-one annually funded programs are currently eligible for funding from the Annually Funded Program Pool. Programs eligible for annual funding include the Art Gallery, Lacrosse, Project Censored, the STAR, Sonoma Film Institute and others.

Referendum

This referendum allows the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Fee to be increased by \$65 (from \$111/semester to \$176/semester) beginning with the 2003/2004 academic year.

Please Circle EITHER Yes or No

Yes

A **YES** vote means you **ARE** in favor of the IRA fee being increased by \$65 per semester to support the permanently funded programs (Athletics, Performing Arts, Children's School and the Library) and the annually funded program pool.

No

A **NO** vote means you **ARE NOT** in favor the IRA fee being increased by \$65 per semester to support the permanently funded programs (Athletics, Performing Arts, Children's School and the Library) and the annually funded program pool.

2003 IRA Fee Referendum

Proposal Summary:

The purpose of this Student Fee Referendum is to raise the Instructionally Related Activity (IRA) fee, by \$65 per semester, to support an increase in funding for the four permanently funded programs of the 1994 Instructionally Related Activity (IRA) Student Fee Referendum, as well as provide additional funds for all other programs funded by the IRA fee on an annual basis. The permanently funded programs are Intercollegiate Athletics, the Children's School, the Library and Performing Arts. Annually funded programs include programs such as: the Art Gallery, KSUN, Lacrosse, Project Censored and the STAR.

What is the IRA fee?

The IRA fee was established in 1978 to provide funding for essential educational experiences and activities that provide "hands on" and "public performance" opportunities to apply skills and knowledge acquired through formal instructional course work. The IRA fee is part of the total fees paid at registration. The current fee is \$111 per semester. A 2001 student fee referendum approved an annual increase to the IRA fee, along with other campus based fees, based on the Bay Area Consumer Price Index.

What is the proposed increase?

The referendum will add \$65 per semester to the IRA fee, bringing the IRA fee to \$176 per semester beginning with the 2003-04 academic year. Projecting enrollment of 8,000 fee-paying students, passage of this referendum would add \$1,040,000 to revenues for IRA programs. When combined with the IRA fees already in place the \$65 increase will bring total available revenues to an estimated \$2,816,000. The chart below shows how the new IRA dollars would be allocated and the percentage allocations to programs in future years as the available IRA funding varies according to enrollment and cost-of-living indexed adjustments:

Program	% of total IRA resources with proposed increase	Portion of Resources from proposed increase
<i>Athletics</i>	62.25%	\$495,000 (47.6%)
<i>Children's School</i>	2.11%	\$20,000 (1.9%)
<i>Library</i>	6.26%	\$75,000 (7.2%)
<i>Performing Arts</i>	15.91%	\$185,000 (17.8%)
<i>Annually funded program pool</i>	13.47%	\$265,000 (25.5%)
TOTAL	100%	\$1,040,000 (100%)

Funding for administrative overhead expenses as required by CSU Executive Order 750 is built into the existing IRA fee structure. Prudent reserves may be implemented at the discretion of the SSU Fee Advisory Committee.

Where would an increase to the fee go to support?

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics – An increase in the IRA fee can stabilize the Intercollegiate Athletics program. The increase would provide the funds to add an additional women's sports to comply with the proportionality clause of Title IX. Additionally the increase would provide funds for the Athletics program to come into compliance with the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), the University's athletic conference affiliation, rules by adding a fourth championship men's sport. The increase would also support needed sports medicine care for student athletes, increasing travel costs for teams and other increasing costs associated with operating an NCAA Division II Athletics program.

Children's School – An increase in the IRA fee can increase the opportunities of students to observe and have participatory observation experiences at the Children's School. The Children's School provides not only early childhood education and care for 75 – 80 families of the University community, but child development laboratory experiences. The increase will further provide for a 50% increase number of student internships available in the Children's School.

University Library – An increase in the IRA fee can help to meet the increasing cost of student support services. The primary goal of the Library is to support the academic needs of the students in a variety of ways. The move to the Schulz Information Center has doubled the number of service points for students, as well as an expanded number of workstations for student academic work. Increased enrollment, a growing residential community, increased technical and workstation needs and maintenance are a few of the issues that face the University Library when attempting to maintain their level of service to the students of SSU.

Performing Arts – An increase in the IRA fee can bring stability to the Performing Arts at SSU and would provide significantly improved instructional enhancements for students – both those students who participate in Performing Art's wide array of ensembles and shows, but also those who attend the 140+ annual performances. Specifically an increase would provide funds for FREE Admission for all students, with an SSU ID, to all Performing Arts performances. An increase in the IRA fee would also provide funds for additional guest artists, production and program support, travel funds and additional student employee positions.

Annually Funded Program Pool – An increase in the IRA fee would add approximately \$265,000 to the pool that funds all the annually funded IRA programs. SSU programs that are eligible under Section 89230 of the California Education Code, could apply for funding. Twenty-one programs, including SSU STAR, Art Gallery, History Journal, Lacrosse and Project Censored, among others, are currently eligible. New eligible programs will be encouraged to submit proposals to the Fee Advisory Committee (FAC) for funding from the annually funded program pool.

History
INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES FEE

2004-2006	\$179
2002-2004	\$111
2000-2002	\$100
1998-2000	\$100
1996-1998	\$100
1994-1996	\$100
1992-1994	\$15
1990-1992	\$10
1988-1990	\$10
1986-1988	\$5
1984-1986	\$5
1983-1984	\$5
1981-1982	\$5
1980-1981	\$5
1979-1980	\$5
1978-1979	No IRA fee listed in catalog, but:

“NOTE: The Student Services Fee will increase \$2 for all students in Spring 1979. A Instructionally Related Activities Fee of up to \$10 may be charged beginning in Fall 1978.” (38, 78-79 Catalog)

**I.R.A. FEE LEVEL
ADVISORY REFERENDUM
MAY 12, 1994**

WHAT IS THE IRA FEE?

The Instructionally Related Activities Fee was established in 1978 to provide funding for essential educational experiences and activities that provide "hands on" and "public performance" opportunities to apply skills and knowledge acquired through formal instructional coursework. The IRA fee is part of the total fees paid at registration. The current fee is \$25 per semester.

WHAT PROGRAMS/PROJECTS DOES THE FEE SUPPORT?

The IRA Fee currently supports the following:

Center for Performing Arts - music, dance and drama performances;

California Management Conference - a conference where students from business schools throughout the state apply their knowledge in competition;

Detour Sonoma - the campus student-produced video magazine aired on local cable channels and weekly in the Pub;

Sonoma Mandala - the campus literary magazine edited by students;

Athletics - currently four men's and four women's sports;

Model United Nations;

KSUN;

Sonoma Film Institute;

Sonoma State Star;

Earth Lab;

University Art Gallery.

HOW ARE THE FUNDS ALLOCATED?

The IRA Board, consisting of six students, three faculty, and three administrators, and chaired by the Associated Students President, reviews budget proposals submitted by project directors and forwards funding recommendations to the University President.

WHY IS THE IRA BOARD ASKING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE FEE?

The University is currently projecting a \$2.3 million dollar shortfall for 1994/95; the fourth year of significant cutbacks. University support for the Athletics program may be targeted for substantial cuts next year, and possible elimination the following year. **University General Fund support for all other IRA-supported programs is in question.** All of the programs supported by IRA fees are critical educational activities. Given the "public performance" nature of these projects, many other students in addition to those directly involved benefit from the existence of these programs. Lastly, these programs are major elements of student and campus life, which make SSU a vibrant university.

Additionally there are a number of currently unmet needs that would be able to be supported through an increase in the fee:

-LIBRARY HOURS - the limited access to the library impacts virtually every student at the university, and with further budget reductions in the offing, the situation will not be getting any better next year, and might get worse. The IRA Board is committed to providing funding to the Library to **expand the hours of operation;**

-GENDER EQUITY IN ATHLETICS - the University is not only struggling to maintain the Athletic program in its current configuration, it must also respond to a CSU mandate to bring participation levels in line with male/female proportions within the student body. Athletics must therefore **add four new women's sports within the next three to four years.**