

Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #22-02

ASI BOARD OF DIRECTORS STANCE ON PROPOSED
COLLEGE BASED FEE INCREASE

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo, and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly currently serves as one of the most expensive California public universities for low-income students even after implementation of the maximum financial aid package¹; and
- WHEREAS: Cal Poly has historically experienced lower yield of Expected Family Contribution (EFC), first generation, Hispanic and Latinx students largely driven by a lack of financial aid²; and
- WHEREAS: A sustainable financial model that serves the demographics of California, will better address the disproportionate representation of students from a lower socioeconomic status at Cal Poly and focus on a more equitable response³; and
- WHEREAS: The College Based Fee (CBF) is a mandatory fee, approved by a vote of the students, that is one portion of the overall registration costs each student pays to enroll at Cal Poly²; and
- WHEREAS: On October 21, 2021, Academic Affairs submitted a proposal to increase and adjust the college-based fee (CBF), which would be assessed on newly enrolled students beginning Fall 2022³; and
- WHEREAS: The proposed change to the college-based fee involves three components:
- The proposal increases college specific fee amounts, ranging from \$614 to \$864 per undergraduate tenure at Cal Poly, which represents a 6% to 8.5% annual increase of total tuition and fees for incoming students in Fall 2022. Subsequent cohorts will pay an additional 4.9% to 7.7% annual increase compared to the previous cohort for years 2, 3, and 4. Each cohort will continue to pay the same CBF established on year 1 throughout their undergraduate tenure at Cal Poly. Following the phase in of increases of CBF by cohort, subsequent annual increases in the CBF would include annual adjustments equal to the California Consumer Price Index (CCPI) or Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)¹;
 - The College of Liberal Arts college-based fee will be raised over four cohorts (years) to the same (current) level as the fees for

1 Cal Poly College Based Fee Objective Statement - <https://afd.calpoly.edu/cbf/objective-statement>

2 CLA College BAsed Academic Fees - <https://cla.calpoly.edu/student-resources/college-based-fees>

3 Academic Senate-Resolution Revising CBF Structure - https://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/academicsenate/1/images/sa011122_0.pdf

the College of Science and Mathematics and Orfalea College of Business¹;

- The fees for the College of Engineering, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design would be higher than the fees for the remaining colleges by the end of year four¹; and

WHEREAS: Cal Poly's Learn by Doing pedagogy relies on the teacher-scholar model, and fully implementing the teacher-scholar model requires providing the time and budget for faculty to engage in research, scholarship, and creative activity¹; and

WHEREAS: The proposed plan will at least use 60% of revenue to provide financial aid and scholarship through the first four years and the remainder of 40% of funding will go towards the academic mission¹; and

WHEREAS: The proposed CBF increase is taking place simultaneously with the California State University (CSU) mandated quarter to semester transition⁴; and

WHEREAS: The proposed CBF increase accumulates with the phased increase implementation of the mandatory Cal Poly Opportunity Fee for nonresident students⁵; and

WHEREAS: The proposed CBF increase does not provide financial aid to nonresident students, which can constitute up to 15% of the student population⁶; and

WHEREAS: The CBF educational and feedback period occurred during the largest surge of cases with the COVID-19 Omicron variant⁷; and

WHEREAS: According to student feedback taken by Administration, a majority of respondents did not choose a position on the proposal, and of those who did, a majority of students oppose the increase⁷; and

WHEREAS: One of the missions of the California State University (CSU) is to provide affordable education to meet the ever-changing needs of California⁸; and

WHEREAS: Cal Poly is chronically underfunded for financial aid and support for the statewide polytechnic mission¹; and

WHEREAS: The California State University (CSU) system is not funded adequately for financial aid or resources by the State to deliver its academic mission to a student population with significant economic disadvantages¹; and

4 CSU-Quarter to Semester Mandate - <https://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/president/1/documents/2021/Q25%20Chancellor%27s%20Office%20Letter%2010-13-21.pdf>

5 Cal Poly Opportunity Fee - <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/6681939/latest/>

6 Out-of-State Fee to Improve Access for Nonresident Students - https://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2018/september/opportunityfee.

7 Preliminary CBF Feedback Report

8 CSU Mission of Affordable education - <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/CSU-Statement-on-Governors-2022-23-January-Budget-Proposal-.aspx>

THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

The ASI Board of Directors do not support the proposed CBF increase as the proposed CBF increase places responsibility for sustainable financial aid and the academic mission primarily upon the student body; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

The ASI Board of Directors acknowledge the need for the proposed CBF increase as a result of the lack of financial resources available to Cal Poly, the continuous insufficient level of funding from the California State University (CSU) system and the state of California, and Cal Poly being a net contributor to financial aid for the CSU system; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

The ASI Board of Directors is concerned by the lack of strategy for outreach, the lack of clarity among students about potential impacts, and the lack of regard for potential negative impacts on nonresident students; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

The ASI Board of Directors recognizes and supports the intention of the proposed CBF increase to enhance equity and to support Cal Poly's academic mission and faculty recruitment and retention; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

If implemented, the ASI Board of Directors urge campus administration to annually review the sufficiency, necessity, and effectiveness of the fee adjustment and the impact of the annual increments, ensuring that the intended academic mission objectives are being efficiently met with all possible alternative avenues of funding prior to the requirement of direct contributions from students; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

If implemented, the College Based Fee Advisory Committee should review the success of the CBF increase and the allocation of the revenue annually to ensure that its goal of supporting student aid is being met; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT
RESOLVED:

If implemented, the College Based Fee Advisory Committee should review the utilization of funds by each college, in addition to providing recommendations to the Campus Fee Advisory Committee to assist in their deliberations; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors urges the Office of the Chancellor in consultation with the CSU campus Presidents, California State Student Association (CSSA), and Student Governments to advocate for greater recurring funding of the CSU system to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Cal Poly and the CSU system; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution be sent to University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Keith Humphrey, Provost and the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, and the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance Cynthia Vizcaíno Villa.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 24 day of February 2022.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 23 day of February 2022.

Attest:

ASI Secretary

Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board

Signed:

ASI President

Authored By:

Andrew Kim, ASI Vice Chair of the Board, College of Liberal Arts

Anders Bjork, ASI Board of Directors, College of Engineering

Alexander Ameri, ASI Board of Directors, College of Architecture and Environmental Design

Samuel Andrews, ASI Board of Directors, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences

Varenya Gupta, ASI Secretary of CSU Affairs