



CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

December 5, 2016

Dear Academic Senate Colleagues,

As many of you are aware, we have been discussing the possibility of a new student union and faculty center for the last year. The proposed new student union and faculty center project is guided by a Steering Committee, a campus committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students, and me. The Steering Committee and I would like to share some details about the project with you.

The project is approximately 100,000 sq. ft. and the estimated total project cost is approximately \$80 million. Funding for the project will be primarily from student fees in addition to university and private support. The fundraising goal for the project is \$15 million. The proposed annual student fee increase is \$400 per year (for debt service and operating costs) which will require that a majority of our students vote to pass a fee referendum that is scheduled to be on the ASI ballot next spring. Currently, Fresno State's annual amount for campus mandatory fees is the lowest in the CSU system; however, any increase in student fees must be considered carefully.

It is important to note that this project will not detract from other priority capital projects that would add new instructional spaces (classrooms, labs, faculty offices, etc.) or impact the funding of any academic priorities. Instead, it will provide additional opportunities for high-impact, co-curricular practices and serve the entire campus community. Furthermore, the building will include a 10,000 sq. ft. faculty center that will provide space for professional development and trans-disciplinary collaboration.

As we move forward with our planning efforts, it is essential that students are an integral part of this process, are allowed several opportunities to provide their input on this project, and be provided with information necessary to make an informed decision regarding the proposed fee increase.

The proposed referendum guidelines and process is listed below:

- This is a Category II mandatory fee and approval of such a fee increase is subject to Executive Order 1104.
- The fee increase would not commence until the facility opens.
- For a majority of our students whose financial aid is based on Cost of Attendance (COA), this proposed fee increase will be funded as part of their financial aid award.

Office of the President

Harold H. Haak Administrative Center
Henry Madden Library, Suite 4104
5200 North Barton Ave. M/S ML48
Fresno, CA 93740-8014

559.278.2324

Fax 559.278.4715

- Associated Students, Inc. must approve the referendum language to be placed on the ASI Ballot on March 28-30, 2017.
- The proposed fee increase and associated project financial plan will need to be approved by the Campus Fee Advisory Committee (of which more than 50 percent are students).
- The written referendum presented to students must be written fairly and present both pros and cons of the project.
- Detailed information about the referendum and project will also be available in The Collegian and at several campus locations at least 30 days in advance to the referendum vote.

Complete information regarding the project is available at <http://www.fresnostatenews.com/boldnewu/>. The website also allows members of the campus community the opportunity to provide feedback, suggestions, and concerns.

Finally, there will be three (3) campus-wide forums and several presentations to various groups across campus leading up to the March 28, 2017 vote.

Thank you for your support and if you have further questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Castro, Ph.D., M.P.P.
President

Steering Committee Members:

Debbie Adishian-Astone
Vice President for Administration/Interim Chief Financial Officer

Paula Castadio
Vice President for University Advancement

Frank Lamas
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Lynnette Zelezny
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs