



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ASI Challenges New CSU Student Fee

(FRESNO, Calif.) — Fresno State’s Associated Students Inc. (ASI) is kicking off its 2015-2016 year with a campaign to persuade the student body to opt out of a new fee before a Sept. 22 deadline.

The student leaders will be present at SAFARI this Thursday, September 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the balcony of the USU to inform their constituents about the Student Involvement and Representation Fee (SIRF) adopted last year by California State Student Association (CSSA). SIRF was approved by the CSU Board of Trustees to provide more independent funding for CSAA, a student organization that consists of elected student leaders representing California colleges.

At \$4 a year (\$2 each semester), the fee will replace funding received from the CSU and would result in an increase over that allocation. Previously, the Chancellor's Office provided a large portion of CSSA’s annual revenue

ASI President Abigail Hudson said both the CSSA and the Chancellor’s Office felt that was a conflict of interest and counterproductive given that CSSA was created to lobby the 23 campus-system on behalf of CSU students statewide.

CSSA states that revenue from the fee will support development of student policy recommendations, increased student involvement at local, state and national levels and provide program support through student and professional staff administration.

Hudson said that while ASI agreed with the need for an increase in CSSA funding, the Fresno State delegation was concerned with how the SIRF money would be allocated and thought campus delegations would lose control over their allocation.

“The way that the CSSA funding model operated was that students paid the CSSA fee to ASI and we disbursed a set amount per student to CSSA,” said Hudson. “If our Senate felt that CSSA

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was not adequately representing our needs, we could vote to pull our funding and representation from CSSA.”

Kaitlyn Sims, vice president of External Affairs, said they also felt the proposal lacked transparency about the need for an increase in CSSA’s funding, where the money would be going and allocation logistics.

Students may opt out of the fee through the finance section of the My Fresno State portal prior to the campus census date, Sept. 22, 2015. The Fresno State ASI team is developing a marketing plan to make sure students know not only what CSSA and SIRF are but also how to opt out.

“If students choose to opt out of the fee, we want to make sure every student is 100 percent informed about how to do that, because they will have to do that each semester,” said Sims.

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As the recognized student body government organization at California State University, Fresno, Associated Students, Inc (ASI) provides a means for effective student participation in the governance of the University, fosters awareness of student opinions on campus issues, assists in the protection of student rights, and provides programs and services to meet the needs of the students and campus community.