

# new indicator

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Fee Referendum Special!

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34th Year of Publication

## An Introduction

In the fourth week of spring quarter, April 23 - 27, we are all going to be asked to vote to increase Student Fees by upwards of \$214.20 per year. The voter will read what items the fee will go towards funding and how much money they would get per year but little beyond this will be provided. The current paper is an attempt to bring to the students of this campus, the history and debate behind the current referendum. The infor-

mation found herein was researched from documents dating back 20 years and more, some of them unpublished and otherwise unavailable to most students. We make no attempt at being "objective." There are substantial problems with the current proposed fee referendum and it is the purpose of this paper to expose them to the student body who will have to live with their burden should the referendum pass.

## Historical Context of the Fee Referendum at UCSD

When considering the current proposed Fee Referendum at UCSD it is necessary to take in its historical context. We are not just talking about raising fees by \$213 a year for an indeterminate (and probably permanent) amount of time. We are participating in a trend at UC and across the country which is making public higher education less accessible. I was talking to a friend the other night who had come to UCSD in the late 80's and was telling me how students could afford to spend more than 4 or 5 years at the university - that they could afford to take 12 units a quarter and spend more time on learning than on producing assignments - and how they could participate in their community because they had the time to do so (they also didn't have to work 30 hour weeks and go to school full time to be able to afford it). Consider what he told me: he said that 10 years ago it was less than half as expensive to go to UCSD as it is currently - less than \$500 a quarter (I know that inflation hasn't been 200% - 300% ...) Much of those increases in fees have been from student fees. Every time we increase student fees we add on to this burden.

Some of the first Student Fees

were assessed without a student vote. All it took was a decision by administration. Students had to fight to be able to vote for their "own fees." Now we find ourselves at a time where we need to fight to have rightful control over our fees. Just like UCLA and UC Berkley in the past, we are faced with an impressive expansion of our campus and just like UCLA and UC Berkley, we should put Student Fees in the hands of students. This would help curb the reckless rate of raising student fees that we currently have. I want to back up a little and say that it is not that we shouldn't have expansion of student facilities and programs on this campus. However, we should be against the trend of ever increasing student fees for projects that could be more efficient and probably funded from other sources. I also feel that in order to meet the above goals that students money needs to be spent by students not by administrators. Currently we pay more than \$380 a year in student self-assessed fees (the vast majority of which have come in the last 10 years). We are being asked to raise these fees to more than \$600 per year. This amount of money can decide whether or not some students are able to go to school.

## The Quality of Life Survey

The Quality of Campus Life Survey was completed in 1997. It covered many subjects concerning students perception of the campus as a whole. One small section of the survey was dedicated explicitly to expansion and renovation of student run facilities but many parts of the survey are currently being used to justify the current proposal. One of the most important lines of the survey had to do with the dissatisfaction in the social climate at UCSD. In response to the question "Are you satisfied with the social climate at UCSD" only 41% said they were satisfied while more than 55% said they were dissatisfied. This has been seen as a serious issue in need of action and the proposed fee referendum was partially in response

to this. In general this is seen as an indicator of student apathy which everyone agrees is a big problem on this campus.

In the part of the survey which explicitly refers to expansion, the most important things that students want are different types of lounge space (notice how this ties in with the apathy - it seems that students are currently lacking adequate space for social activities). There are fewer trends after the lounge space need. Students want more co-op space, more seating for food areas, more space for student orgs all in relative close amounts. I would like to highlight two important things about this:

1. Co-ops are mentioned 3 times

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## Co-Ops are an Important Part of Our Education

In the most recent survey of the entire UCSD student body, 69% of respondents indicated that our campus needs new student center spaces, and 65% responded that any new student spaces should include an expansion, or more, of the student owned and operated co-operative restaurants and stores that currently function on campus. University administrators agree that more student space is necessary, and are currently developing plans to make this happen. However, in the plans the administration has thus far generated, new student spaces are to be filled with the sorts of commercial fast food restaurants and chain stores that exist in the Price Center — and no co-ops. Not only does this seem to contravene the general will of the student body, the administration's plan also involves raising student activity fees by over seventy-five dollars — more than one hundred percent — in order to pay for our new spaces. These facts seem to speak for themselves, and indeed many members and supporters of the co-ops are using them to protest the administration's plans. Thus, let's use this space in order delve deeper into the issue, in order to get a better understanding of the merits of the two sides.

Let's begin by premising that a university's *raison d'être* are to produce creative, critical thinkers, who will eventually find work that is satisfying, and which will improve their communities.

Price Center jobs offer no apparent room for originality or critical thought. Most Price Center jobs are characterized by employees receiving orders from some far-away headquarters, which instruct them to perform dreadfully repetitive tasks: typically, serving unhealthy fast-foods, over and over, in the same way. On the other hand, student co-ops must make all decisions about the co-ops, including: what products to buy and sell, what hours to keep, what prices to charge etc.. Therefore, co-ops develop creativity, critical thinking, and independent decision making abilities. At the same time, they learn how to make group decisions — a skill that is hard to teach in classrooms.

The Price Center is not only

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## Legend:

**Campus Life Fee Referendum Committee:** otherwise known as the "Fee Referendum Committee," "the committee," and "CLFRC." -- This is the committee created by Joe Watson for the purpose of "endorsing" the proposed referendum.

**Student Cooperative Center:** otherwise known as the "Old Student Center" or the "Student Center". -- The second student center at UCSD and the predecessor of the Price Center. Many student run co-ops are housed in this building and it was thus named the "Student Cooperative Center" by students. Unfortunately, administrators refused to acknowledge this fact and even went to the lengths of meticulously going through minutes from old meetings and crossing out the "Cooperative" from Student Cooperative Center.

**Price Center:** otherwise known as the "Over-Priced Center," "Prison," or "Administration's Cozy Office Space" - The third student center at UCSD built to increase the decentralization (and the ability of students to have gatherings) at UCSD. Over 60% of the space in the Price Center is allocated to administration. Corporate Fairs are often given priority over student orgs in the usage of space. The Price Center illegally used student fees to build for fast food chains and a privately owned bookstore.

**Co-ops:** Cooperatives are an alternative to corporate business. All the workers share equally in the responsibilities of work and decision making. The student run cooperatives are able to provide cheaper services and run more efficiently due to the lack of administration and ownership. They are also able to provide more, and better paying jobs for students as well as an invaluable educational experience. The name refers to the way decisions are made. There is no boss and everything is done in cooperation with co-workers.

**The Food Co-op:** a student run co-op located in the Student Cooperative Center. Provides vegetarian food to campus.

**The General Store:** otherwise known as the G-Store. A student run co-op located in the Student Cooperative Center. Provides a cheaper alternative to the Price Center Bookstore.

**Groundwork Bookstore:** otherwise known as Groundwork. A student run co-op located in the Student Cooperative Center. Provides difficult to find political and philosophical books as well as text books.

**The Ché Café Collective:** also known as the Ché Café. A student run co-op located on Scholars Dr. across the street from the Revelle Provost's office. Has alternative music shows, vegan all-you-can-eats and a large, student run garden as well as providing a meeting space for many student organizations.

**Quality of Campus Life Survey:** A survey of the student population taken in 1997. Although it was originally for other purposes it has been used to justify the current Referendum.

**Administration:** Also known as "admin". Refers to any one of the myriad staff members at UCSD who are paid to make decisions for students with a minimum of student input. The main goal of an administrator is to justify their own existence by spending others money (and to get a bigger office).

## About the New Indicator

The New Indicator in its various incarnations is the oldest student newspaper at UCSD. Originally the called the Indicator and also known as Crazy Times, North Star, and Natty Dread, the New Indicator has a long history of progressive and independent reporting. The Indicator started publishing in September 1966, making us 34 years old (excepting a short hiatus of the last 5 years).



### Quality of Campus Life Survey

(selected excerpts)

Please rate the importance of expanding or establishing the following:

General:	Very Important/ Important	Of Little Importance/ No Importance	No Opinion
Computer Equipped Lounges:	84%	11%	6%
24 Hour Study Areas:	84%	12%	5%
Quiet Lounges:	80%	15%	6%
General Use Lounges:	77%	18%	6%
Browsing Library:	71%	20%	8%
Outdoor Dining/Seating Areas:	70%	23%	8%
Expansion of General Store/Co-ops:	66%	26%	9%
Increased Price Center Food Service Seating:	65%	29%	7%
Commuter Student Space:	63%	22%	16%
Expanded Space for Soft Reserves:	61%	29%	11%
Theater for Student Productions:	60%	29%	11%
Expansion of Groundwork Books:	57%	33%	11%
Campuswide Coffee House:	54%	37%	9%
Laundry/Dry Cleaning:	52%	37%	9%
Student Organization Offices:	48%	31%	21%
New Student Co-ops:	47%	27%	26%
Bowling Lanes:	45%	44%	11%
Small Meeting Rooms:	44%	36%	20%
Medium Meeting Rooms:	44%	35%	21%
Guest Rooms (overnight):	44%	42%	15%
Enclosed Grove Café Seating:	41%	43%	16%
Expansion of Cross-Cultural Center:	40%	38%	22%
Large Meeting Rooms:	40%	38%	21%
Child Care Facilities:	40%	25%	35%
Expansion of Women's Center:	39%	37%	25%
Haircutting and Styling Shop:	37%	52%	11%
Other:	35%	19%	46%
Fraternity/Sorority Meeting Space:	20%	61%	19%

Restaurants:			
Bakery:	72%	20%	8%
Authentic Mexican:	67%	24%	10%
Chicken:	65%	25%	10%
Health Food Store:	64%	29%	10%
Vegetarian:	56%	31%	12%
Other:	53%	16%	31%
Greek:	42%	43%	15%
Wraps:	40%	38%	22%

Key selections from other parts of the Survey:

Satisfaction with UCSD:	Very Satisfied/ Satisfied	Neutral	Very Dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied
Atmosphere of ethnic understanding:	44%	31%	25%
Atmosphere of political understanding:	33%	28%	29%
Overall social experience at UCSD:	49%	21%	31%
Overall cultural experience at UCSD:	40%	36%	21%

Attitude towards UCSD:	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Feel a sense of belonging at UCSD:	49%	27%	24%
Administrators are helpful:	45%	34%	21%
Feel a sense of belonging at College:	39%	28%	33%

## Problems with the Referendum

UCSD Students are going to vote 4th week of Spring quarter to decide if they want to increase school fees to fund an expansion to the Price Center, fix up the Student Cooperative Center (a.k.a. the Old Student Center), and give some money to student orgs and recreation. For the past couple years students voted in special elections on similar fee referendums that only included the expansion. While the fee did pass by a slim margin of votes in the fall of '99, it failed to get the percentage of students it needed to make the vote count. But it will be up for election again this year. Only this time, money has been added on for student orgs, recreation, oasis, etc. All together the proposed fee increase will be about \$71 per quarter, a significant amount of money, especially for low-income students.

The justification for the expansion comes in the form of a survey taken in 1997, and projections for an increase of 10,000 students by 2010 or 2011. Some students have complained that the existing food establishments are already too

crowded so any increase in the student population would need to be balanced by expanding the services offered. Student orgs have complained that they don't have enough space to meet, and those involved in sports want to move up to division two athletics. The money from the 2001 fee referendum would most likely be used to fund these types of projects. Since the current committee began, it has heard various presentations from different groups and organizations stating why they should get a chunk of the millions of dollars the fee would generate. Other groups or individuals talked about how they thought the money should or shouldn't be spent and the legality of the proceedings. But as of Presidents' Day, that committee's debates are closed to the public. There may be a short period at the beginning of the meeting for public input but that's all. We are not allowed witness why they are giving money to who or how much they are giving.

Most Monday meetings have been divided down the same lines. The members sat in well defined sec-

tions. Those who wanted the fee referendum to be voted on and passed sat in front of the administrators, those that didn't sat in front of the students and public participants. And the vote was always 10-6 or 11-7 in favor of the side by the administration, it didn't matter what they were voting on. The members who want the fee voted on, seemed more concerned about how to manipulate the students into passing it than putting a good, fair, and worthwhile referendum on the ballot. Some people have suggested that the money going towards student orgs and recreation was only added on to make the referendum pass. So in order to get what students do want, they have to vote in favor of something they don't. This would seem to be the case by the way the committee voted to keep the fee as one vote instead of splitting it up into several, to allow students to decide between what they really want, and what they feel to be unnecessary fees. The different votes could have consisted of: funding for recreation, funding for student orgs, money for a new Price Center next

to the old one, etc. At least the students who didn't have a chance to participate in the proposing of the fee referendum, could have a say in its outcome.

One alternative that has been raised is that the Student Cooperative Center should be expanded (and correctly named). There is plenty of room around it for expansion. The main argument by administration against building in that area is that the Eucalyptus trees would have to be cut down. The Eucalyptus trees are protected on this campus and therefore make expansion of the Student Cooperative Center impossible (according to administration). But Eucalyptus trees are not a native species that needs to be protected. They are diseased, foreign predators planted in unimaginative grids. In fact they are sitting time bombs. I don't know if anyone else has seen it happen, but about once a quarter I see a big limb come crashing down from one of them without any warning. I started noticing this a while back and so I decided to steer clear

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## Student Involvement

It is interesting to note that the importance of the Quality of Campus Life survey was well understood and agreed on by almost everyone involved. All correspondence concerning it in some way focused on defining and improving the problem of lack of student involvement and student apathy. Although the administration was seemingly in agreement with this (as seen in correspondence) they were unable to have a referendum in which more than 15% of the student population participated even though they tried 2 times (since the survey). It is also important to realize that each time the attempt was made to have a referendum very little time was given to educate or even notify the student body about the vote. The referendum in the fall of 1999 was "announced" at the beginning of the quarter and the vote was taken in mid October (note: compare that to current situation in which we are constantly discovering new and important information about these processes and we still haven't voted this year).

For the current referendum the administration proposed two meetings of the Campus Life Fee Referendum Committee to decide what would be on the referendum and to pass it on to a vote by the student population. The vote was supposed to have taken place prior to now. Due to stu-

dent outcry in the first meetings administrators left any positions they had had on the committee, the committee decided to lengthen the process to give more time for student input and to be able to have a better knowledge of what they were being asked to endorse. This is all extremely important when considering the effects of student involvement. One could ask themselves - why do the UCSD administrators want to make this referendum happen so fast and with a minimum of student input - especially in light of the fact that the survey called for more student input and involvement. How is it that this referendum is going to promote more student involvement when students are discouraged from participating right from the start? It is worthwhile to mention that students have been engaged in the current process. However, in my opinion, this is despite administration and their attempts to pass a referendum in their own best interests. I say this because of the facts at hand: The committee was set up to have two meetings only, it was mostly hand picked by administrators or deans - i.e. very little student participation in the selection of representatives or in deciding which groups should be represented, administrators were originally sitting and co-chairing a committee concerning itself with student's money, the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, Joe Watson repeatedly

## Student Initiative

One of the main reasons given for the speedy consideration of the current referendum is that UCSD is going to grow by 8,000 + in the next 10 years. While it is important for us to consider the effects of this on student facilities and try to plan ahead, a speedy and not fully understood fee increase may do more to worsen the problems of student apathy and participation mentioned up to now. In addition, the student increase is incremental and the postponement of 6 months to a year with which to properly research the issue and alternatives would not drastically effect the situation. (note: one of the problems is that students are very busy with classes and it would be ideal for groups of students to be able to work on a student initiated proposal over the summer). If we are going to commit ourselves to a raise in student fees the process should be initiated by the students.

### Why student initiated?

A student initiated referendum is more in the spirit of a democratic raise in student fees. We would be promoting the ideals of democracy in our day to day life. We would also be promoting student involvement. If the process of creating the referendum and the process after a referendum is voted on is a student run process this creates a strong incentive to become a part of it and participate. It would definitely be more participatory than the current referendum's meetings where students are given a sheet of paper with numbers compiled over the summer by administration, and are asked to

"endorse" them.

### Usage of both student centers:

Why is it assumed that the Price Center needs to be expanded as opposed to the Student Cooperative Center. If you look at student involvement in both of these buildings it is obvious that the Student Cooperative Center is, by far, more involving of students at all levels of its organization. There could be more co-ops instead of corporate business. This would benefit students on many levels:

1. They are cheaper because of they are non-profit.
2. Due to their student run nature they provide more jobs for students and usually higher paying jobs.
3. It makes economic sense: when the money put into the venue through student fees and other sources stays in the community by going to students and community members it serves to better the campus community. (On the other side - with corporations the majority of the money is taken away from the campus and goes to the private profit of rich businessmen (some of whom are regents...)).
4. Students know better than anyone else what students want - they should be the ones collectively managing their resources.
5. Co-operatives are an important part of the education for many at our school. It has constantly been mentioned by UCSD alumni that the co-ops were the biggest part of their learning experience. They provide hands-on training in all levels of running a business, a supportive community of peers with which to work

## Independence of Student Fees

Currently student fees at UCSD are collected by administration and allocated based on the advisory position of the student governments and committees. While for the majority of the time administration acts on the advice of the students involved there have been key times in the past when an "advisory" board was ignored and administration made the decision. Some of these times included obvious conflict of interest in UCSD administration's decisions. For example, consider the UCB's attempt to use funds to get legal opinions concerning RIMAC (since it was the job of UCB to make decisions concerning space in student funded facilities of which RIMAC is one it is reasonable that they would try to get legal advice when deemed necessary). Since UCSD administration's involvement in RIMAC was under severe question at that time, their decision to refuse to allocate STUDENT funds to the UCB despite the fact that the decision was endorsed by both the AS and the GSA can only be seen as a case of extreme conflict of interest. Unfortunately UC guidelines for student fee funded

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## Co-Ops:

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less educational for its workers than the co-ops, but for its customers as well. Consisting of commercial chain restaurants and stores, the Price Center offers, in and of itself, the same educational experience as a trip to a mall. In stark contrast, the co-ops give students a rare first-hand glimpse of organizations that are strictly egalitarian, democratic, and not for profit. Moreover, the co-ops offer inexpensive, wholesome products to the entire campus community; The Food Co-Op, for example, only sells fresh, organic, non-genetically altered foods, without profit margins.

The main argument the administration offers in defense of the Price Center model is that it generates more revenues for the university than the co-op system does. These monies, however, amount to much less than one percent of UCSD's operating costs. Financial considerations such as these should not supersede educational merits, especially at a university with as many resources

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ocratic system of choosing committee members who would put a rubber stamp on their proposal. For the large part, members of the committee were notified by administrators either by letter, phone or meeting that they were on the committee. Most constituencies had no democratic say in who they sent to the committee. Administration also chose which groups were able to participate. The only reason that representatives from the co-ops, SAAC and Cross Cultural Center sit on the committee is due to demanding and lobbying by students. This is particularly disturbing considering that one of the areas in the survey (and response to the survey) which was most important was the lack of racial and ethnic diversity (and that co-ops appear as very important on three separate occasions where as the price center appears only once on the survey) - the fact that the administrators setting up the committee seemed to overlook these fundamentally important aspects of its composition is suspicious especially when one looks at the voting habits of the members. There has been a very strong trend in voting in the committee that those who were not appointed by administration tended to be much more critical of the proposals in front of them, while those who were appointed by administrators or deans without ratification or choice by their constituencies tended to favor administration views. It is significant that the final vote, to put the referendum on the ballot, had five dissenters: the same five who had not been appointed by administration.

## Involvement:

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stated, "This is my committee," during the first meeting (having been there, I can say that this was an undisputed attempt to quash student input at the very first meeting) - and the list goes on. More recently, it has come under the guise of Tommy Tucker whispering in the ear of co-chair Doc Khaleghi at meetings or his urging members of the committee to cut discussion short on various topics by forcing a vote to happen prior to adequate input. On the other hand, many students have demanded that the committee take a better look at the facts and spend more time making this a student run referendum. It is because of these demands that the committee is still meeting and still trying to decide on the referendum. Unfortunately, this mostly administrator-hand-picked committee has only selectively listened to proposals and presentations made to it. Any presentation made which called into question the validity of the proposed referendum was met with courtesy (at best) and then promptly ignored.



## Survey:

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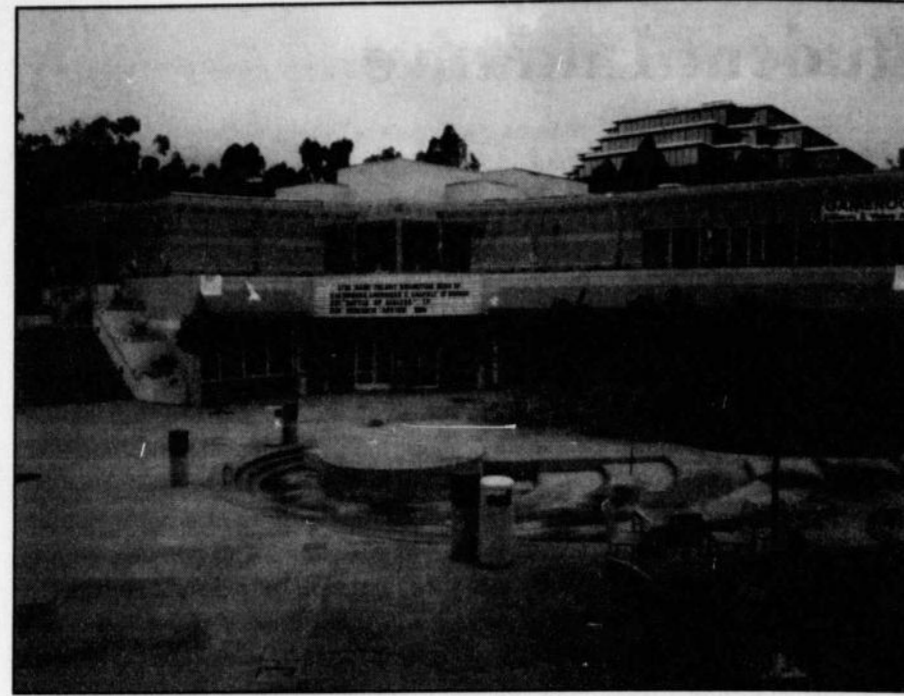
(highest on the list is G-Store/Co-ops, next is Groundwork and later is new co-ops).

2. The Price Center appears only once on the whole survey - just under the G-store in percentage - but only for expanded seating.

After the Survey results were received, Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, Joseph Watson sent them out to various peoples and requested feedback as to possible courses of action. After having done this he, or his office, created a template of things to do to remedy the problems highlighted by the survey. It is important to realize that the only recommendations including a price center expansion or intercollegiate athletics came from other administrators (either in the sports program or in the student affairs office) and in none of the solicited responses was there an idea to increase fees by more than a small amount (for example, 2\$ per quarter). The vast majority of proposals concerned ways in which to improve student participation in campus events and activities. After receiving advice the student affairs office sent out a list of its recommendations of which a referendum including expansion of the price center was included. It is also important to realize that the

Survey is the justification for starting this process of a referendum and that there is supposed to be a correlation between the results of the survey and the items on the referendum. To hold a "Special Referendum" (which the current proposal is) there must first be a survey to ascertain the students opinions (this is one of the guidelines for Student Fee Referenda that our school has). This is why there is such an emphasis by all involved on the results of the survey. Originally, the Quality of Campus Life Survey was not intended to justify a referendum. Its purpose, in the beginning, was to assess problems with the social climate and diversity on campus. The administration used the results to justify a referendum. Given the fact that the expansion of the Price Center has been a part of the Campus Development plans from before the Survey (conducted in 1997), it is fairly obvious that the administration was looking for an excuse to institute a fee for the expansion of the price center.

In the survey many students expressed dissatisfaction with the social climate at UCSD. Some of the lowest percentages, in terms of satisfaction with UCSD, were with the cultural, ethnic and political aspects of our campus community. This was recognized by many of those who sent in feedback to the office of Student Affairs after having seen the survey. Even still, none of the stu-



The Price Center: devoid of life...

dent groups most concerned with the cultural and political aspects of our community were consulted by administration in either the decision to have a large fee referendum or as to what to include on it. SAAC, the Cross Cultural Center and the Co-ops all were given seats on the committee only after demanding that they be represented. It is particularly egregious that SAAC, one of whose primary aims it is to promote cultural and ethnic diversity on this campus was not consulted by administration. This becomes very important when you consider that the students most

affected by a large fee increase are those coming from under-privileged and under-represented backgrounds.

At best the survey is inconclusive and vague when it comes to raising student fees. Nowhere in the whole survey does it ask students how they feel about raising fees, or if they feel that their fees are being well spent. The questions could be made to justify many different interpretations concerning expansion and a raise of fees. Actually when you

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## Problems:

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of them for fear of having my head bashed in. Then I found out from one of the EBE professors that falling limbs are typical for Eucalyptus, especially ones that are diseased and will be dying and crashing to the ground whole in not too long. And those little limbs are very dense so they can way about as much as a piano. They are also known to explode when they catch fire and shoot their burning limbs off like rockets, flying through the air for one to two miles where they quickly start another fire. I can just imagine what a show that would be. Apparently this is a fact of life in Australia but since these trees are relatively new to California, we haven't been given the privilege of witnessing such an event. In the meantime, their toxic roots kill anything that tries to grow under them. Not even ivy can survive under a Eucalyptus tree... But to get back to my point, it wouldn't be such a loss if the school cut them down and built over the space.

Wouldn't it be better to do a series of small expansion projects, starting with the Student Cooperative Center, to accommodate the increase in students as they come in. There is no need to go rushing into anything. Ten thousand students are not going to be here tomorrow, they will come a little at a time for ten years. If we started with the Student Cooperative Center, that would give future student time to figure out what else they

want, where they want it, and how much they are willing to pay for it. Then the university could have more beloved co-ops like a music co-op, video co-op, a grocery co-op, the recycle co-op could be started up again... These would be cheaper alternatives to corporate, impersonal fast food joints at the Price Center.

It's possible to start your own fee referendum. You just need 15% of UCSD students to sign a petition saying they want something and then it goes on the ballot during the AS elections. That has been done in the past. In fact, fee referendums have to be student initiated and controlled. Doesn't it make sense that we spend our own money? The student initiation of the current proposed referendum was questioned in a previous meeting by Carolyn Gan representing the UCSD co-ops. She also questioned the legality of using student fees to pay for the construction of buildings used by retail establishments to overcharge students. The co-ops suggested the committee should dissolve itself due to its illegality but the committee didn't seem to agree. Another concern about the process is the lack of student participation. Hardly anyone knows about the meetings or what they are for. Many seem to be oblivious to the fact that this committee is talking about 18 million dollars of our money.

When it comes down to it, students are going to vote next quarter

on the current proposed fee referendum. It needs 20% of the population to vote on it and 50% plus one vote to pass. So 10% of the population could decide increase our fees by \$214 next year. Previous referenda have failed due to lack of turnout. Apparently not enough students are interested in paying for an expanded price center or not enough students have a clue as to what is going on. This is not the fault of the students but the fault of those who try to push referenda through so quickly as that there can be no meaningful discussion of alternatives.

It is time that we vote "NO," and we do so with more than 20% of the vote so that it is clear once and for all what students want: control over their own money. We can then start a completely student run referendum which will explore alternative ideas to those put forward by administration who just want more office space.

The co-ops, SAAC and other student orgs are planning to organize against the referendum and have a campaign in full swing by Spring quarter. If you are interested in joining in get in contact with us at [newindicator@libertad.ucsd.edu](mailto:newindicator@libertad.ucsd.edu).

--Ryn Beeley

## Independence:

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pation - and even this illusion is not really fooling very many. Most students don't believe that student input is highly valued. That is why the voting rate is so poor, that is why apathy is so high. If we had meaningful participation that was not just a rubber stamp of administration's viewpoint and we knew that it was our choice, we would be willing and able to participate in student government...

This all comes back to independence of student govt. and student fees. Until we have legal control over our decisions and their outcomes we will not have real democratic say in our campus community. We can not have independence of our student governments without independence of our fees (otherwise anytime we make a decision the administration doesn't like they can just decide not to fund it). Student fees are a separate category of fees. They are the fees which are determined by students for students. It would only make sense that if it is our money that we would have the final say over how it is spent. Ask yourselves, what right does UC administration have to this money. It is not registration fee, it is not part of a myriad of other fees which all students have to account for when coming to a public university. This fee, in its intent, is set aside for students for their own projects - NOT administrators (no matter how nice their offices might become).

## Low-Income Student Access, the Arts, and the Student Center Expansion Plan:

Future Development of Cooperatives and Collectives

When considering a raise in student fees by \$75 many students want to know where this money is going to go. The single biggest part of the proposed fee referendum is the "Price Center Expansion" (oops I mean the University Centers Expansion: somehow it keeps getting mislabeled by the administration). The University Centers Fee would account for \$28.50 more per quarter if the proposed referendum were to pass. A few questions present themselves when we are considering this Price Center Expansion. Is the plan inherently biased against future students with low-income background? Is the plan too singularly focused on the physical aspect of expansion? Can we expand our University Centers in ways that positively affect social relationships? Can we create a space that could effectively facilitate the social and creative dimensions of students? Can we at all levels of such a project foster and create a sense of belonging and investment in the student body?

A possible alternative to the proposed expansion of the Price Center is to develop more student run Cooperatives and Collectives. A cooperative is a business without management or private ownership. It can provide services for cheaper and pay its workers better due to the lack of administrative costs. A collective is an organization that comes to decisions based on equal participation and responsibility of all members. Cooperatives and Collectives are an alternative to the traditional boss - employee (master - slave) structure.

The Economics of student run Cooperatives:

On average, a meal at the Price Center could be expected to cost around \$5, while a meal at the Food-Coop or Ché Café would be around \$3.00. This comes out to be around \$2.00 cheaper per meal. For the sake of argument, let's conservatively estimate that the food in a new food cooperative would be, on average, \$1 cheaper than that of a corporate fast food joint. And say, for the sake of argument, that students will go there twice a week. This will save students two dollars a week. As one quarter has ten weeks, excluding finals week; then, by straight calculation, **students could actually get \$20 dollars (or more) in savings back from their Student Fees by using a food co-op as opposed to the Price Center.**

There are also other factors that would benefit low-income students, such as the fact that co-ops pay their workers more than corporate businesses, and they hire more students. The Food Co-op employs only students at the salary of \$8.50/hr, whereas most businesses in the Price Center employ mostly non-students

and for those student jobs that do exist, they pay little more than minimum wage. It makes economic sense to have a student run Cooperative because the money spent by students, both in student fees and in products bought will stay in the community (i.e. on campus) instead of being skimmed off by a proprietor. Concretely, this means that money spent on student run cooperatives is an investment that students will directly benefit from. It makes economic sense to build more co-ops instead of more corporate businesses.

A secondary advantage of developing more food co-ops, beyond the financial aspect, is that we can foster more social and cultural communications, or even artistic communications among students. With the high degree of diverse backgrounds of students on this campus comes many different abilities in cooking. Many students on this campus know how to cook something-Indian Food, Mexican, Pizza, French, Japanese noodles, Chao-Min, Cookies, Cake, Greek, etc. A cooperative venture could make good use of their talents and enrich student life at the same time.

Co-ops need not be limited to food or school supplies. Here are some ideas for other possible co-ops that would enrich student life:

### Video Co-op:

A Video Co-op for video rentals could have an equal balance between commercial films and independent/student films. We have art students and communications students who spend much of their time making art films and documentaries. We also have many performances by Music and the Theater students. (Our Theater department is one of the top-five in the nation, why don't we make records of it?) I think a Video Co-op will be a site to market their work to their fellow artists as well as to the general student population. There are also hard-to-find independent films and documentaries that students majoring in arts or social sciences would like to rent but are not available in mainstream Video stores and are too expensive to buy. In a student run co-op these films could be rented out at an affordable price.

There are multiple secondary advantages to this proposal. First of all, it is educational in the sense that regular students will be exposed to movies that they may never see in regular video stores. Second of all, it is environmental in the sense that students could save a lot of gas driving back-and-forth to Blockbuster. An on-campus centralized store will benefit students who do not have cars (who also tend to be low-income). Third, accompanying with the late night lounge and food services being proposed, this store will strike a balance between the academic aspect

(the quite lounges for study purposes) and the entertainment aspect of night-life.

### Campus Mini-supermarket:

In developing a Campus Mini-market we could take care of multiple needs with one space. On the Quality of Life Survey three very important food services that students asked for were a Bakery, Health Food and Vegetarian food. A Mini-market could include these, as well as other necessary grocery needs. This way, students do not have to walk or drive all the way to Ralphs when they actually want to buy something, further reducing the need for cars (and parking spaces).

### Informal, Multipurpose Space

Currently, only registered students organizations enjoy the privilege to reserve space and facilities in the Price Center; they need to be reserved two weeks ahead, and they need to sign blue forms if they are running an event. UCSD students who wish to run ad-hoc based, experimental groups (maybe an amateur band, an ad hoc political group, urgent meetings, a one-time film showing) are often excluded by this process. There is a great need for spaces such as Cross Cultural Center or Women's Center which are more flexible, where unofficial groups can meet, without needing to set up an organization, sign blue forms, reserve two weeks ahead, etc. A student run

space could cut down on the bureaucracy of scheduling meetings. This would be invaluable to encouraging student participation in campus life.

### Campus Café:

Not all students want to study in a library/quiet setting. A late night café with comfortable couches and tables for reading and studying and that serves hot food, and coffee would serve both social and physical needs. Such a café could have a newspaper stand, games, and a library. It could also be a place where students could hang art, have poetry readings or even karaoke.

The general idea is that we can make each space more multipurpose. An expansion plan need not fulfill the need for a single dimension - the physical dimension, but can equally fulfill social, economic, artistic and intellectual dimensions as well. All of the above proposals serve several dimensions and all have one thing in common: they are student run. Involving students at every level serves to create a stronger sense of investment and community. When looking to expand student fee funded facilities it is important to look to the co-ops who have, for many years, succeeded in providing a multidimensional social environment for students on this campus. As we grow, so should one of the most important parts of this campus: cooperatives.

**VISIT THE FOOD Co-op**

**WARNING**

**MANY VISITORS HAVE BEEN GORED BY BUFFALO**

BUFFALO CAN WEIGH 2000 POUNDS AND CAN SPRINT AT 30 MPH. THREE TIMES FASTER THAN YOU CAN RUN

THESE ANIMALS MAY APPEAR TAME BUT ARE WILD, UNPREDICTABLE, AND DANGEROUS

**DO NOT APPROACH BUFFALO**

**SAFER THAN YELLOWSTONE!**

IN THE STUDENT CENTER ON THE "COOL" SIDE OF CAMPUS

REVELLE

MADRIDVILLE

MUN

THE STUDENT RUN NON-PROFIT ENVIRONMENTAL VEGETARIAN HEALTH FOOD STORE COZY FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE "HIGH" PRICE CENTER

FRESH DAILY: BAGELS MUFFINS JUICES SALADS SOUPS SUSHI EGG ROLLS SAMBUSAS



## Enhancing Student Democracy at UCSD

*A Concrete Proposal for Increasing Student Awareness and Participation in Current and Future Fee Referenda*

David Leland  
College Green Party

**Goal:** A democratic process of, by, and for the students, to determine whether and how student fees should be raised and spent.

**Problems:** Inadequate information from and to students, inadequate student empowerment and participation, intrusion of non-student interests.

**Solution:** A fee referendum process modeled in part after the California state proposition process.

Democracy depends upon information, empowerment, and participation, all of which are intertwined. This applies at all levels, whether as broad as a national election or as local as a student fee referendum. When citizens have access to quality information about issues that matter to them, and about the democratic means by which they can take action, they are empowered and encouraged to participate in democratic processes. On the other hand, a lack of information leads to apathy, confusion, disempowerment, and non-participation. And when citizens fail to participate in their democracy, this invites undemocratic forces to fill that power vacuum and use it to further distort and decrease access to information. The result is an anti-democratic downward spiral. This dynamic plays out in a host of supposedly democratic processes, including the current student fee referendum process at UCSD. Students are ill-informed of their choices and their avenues for expression and action. Student leaders, whose

responsibility it is to help gauge and execute the will of the student body, are ill-informed about the attitudes and positions of their constituents. No one can legitimately claim to know the students' will on a variety of contentious issues. It is unclear how exactly students are to be presented with and informed of their choices. Perhaps clearest and most worrisome of all, student participation at all levels of the process is disturbingly low.

This article outlines a concrete proposal, based on the state ballot proposition system, that can help inform, empower, and activate UCSD students' civic energies. The goal is to have student democracy, and not outside interests, determine whether and how student fees should be raised and spent. First, however, a short critique of two aspects of the current process is in order. Those two aspects are the composition of the fee referendum committee and the means by which the student body's will has been assessed and interpreted in the construction of the referendum.

Any referendum on student fees should be initiated by students only, and should be overseen by a committee consisting only of students, elected or appointed by students, for that or a similar purpose. This has not been entirely the case with the current process, for while all current committee members are students, some were "hand-picked" by administrators. These particular members were neither elected to their position on the committee nor even charged with the general task of serving on committees of that sort when elected to their student government positions. Irrespective of whether those

members can serve their constituents faithfully, this appointment by administrators is inherently undemocratic, and can serve only to diminish students' faith in the fairness of the process.

The proposed Price Center expansion serves as a telling example of the second problem, that of divining the will of the students. Some arguments in favor of the expansion, critiqued in greater detail in other articles in this issue, have referred to a campus life survey, which supposedly signals student support for such a plan. Even a cursory look at the survey, however, makes clear that it was never intended to assess such support, or that if it was, it failed to do so. To begin with, there was no question in the survey regarding satisfaction with Price Center in particular, only questions regarding satisfaction with the University Centers overall. This makes unclear whether satisfaction with the University Centers reflects an attitude towards Price Center, the Student Cooperative Center, or both. Secondly, the only reference to Price Center expansion in the survey was that of expanding "food service seating," (see page 2) which is no clear indication of support for expanding the building at all, much less for particular content. Finally, while there was support for restaurants in the survey, there was no specification that these should be retail food options, at Price Center or elsewhere; these demands could be met via student-run operations, as discussed in other articles in this issue. And yet, this survey has been used to justify the claim that students want more retail outlets that are owned and run by outside businesses, with facility con-

struction paid for with student fees (even though this violates UCSD policy for use of students fees, as per section 18.14.22.12 of UCSD Student Related Regulation Code, viewable at [http://ugr8.ucsd.edu/judicial/18\\_00.html](http://ugr8.ucsd.edu/judicial/18_00.html)).

The specifics regarding Price Center expansion are important in their own right, but the point here is to illustrate that we have in place a wholly inadequate mechanism for assessing what students want in a fee referendum, whether or not the survey was designed for that purpose. At the very least, support for services must be gauged with direct, neutral questions that allow for a variety of responses, rather than ones that allow for wild speculation and interpretation. Furthermore, the information generated by this survey, not only in terms of survey results but also reactions and recommendations by the AS, GSA, and other student groups, has not been taken fully into account. In the case of Price Center expansion, it seems that only information that can be used to argue for the plan has been presented by its supporters, despite clear and unambiguous opposition from a variety of student groups reacting to the outcome of the survey. If this is to be a student-based democratic process, and not simply a plan to accomplish some goal irrespective of (or despite) the students' will, such selective attention to only seemingly supportive information is at the very least irresponsible, and quite possibly ridden with conflicts of interest and ulterior motives.

Even under the best of circumstances, however, opinion surveys are limited in their ability to gauge and justify support for specific proposals. This is the charitable perspective. Christopher Hitchens was more indicting when he wrote that "opinion polling was born out of the struggle not to discover the public mind but to master it." Surveys, like polls, can "frame a question in such a way as to limit, warp, or actually guarantee the answer" (Hitchens, C., op. cit. 3, p.44). Whether a willful force intends to usurp student power or not, the fact remains that we are ill-informed of the student's desires, that they are ill-informed of their options, and that they feel left out of the process to the extent that they decline to participate in it, even though the impact on their finances and lives as students are at stake. It is for this reason—that students need to be better informed, empowered, and involved—that the following proposal is made.

Every time there is a general election in California, propositions are put on the ballot for a direct vote of the citizens. While this system is not without its flaws (for instance, initiatives are frequently introduced and bankrolled by corporate inter-

## Corporate Funding of Academia is a Trojan Horse

Corporations are strengthening their presence in academia. MIT's website, for instance, boasts that "Industrial support of research at MIT grew from 15 percent of our research volume in 1990 to almost 20 percent in 1998...We're proud of the innovative partnerships we've established with corporations like Amgen, DuPont, Ford, Merck, Merrill Lynch, Microsoft..." The obvious benefit of corporate-academic deals is that universities get more money. However, as is often the case with corporate activity, beneath attractive appearances hide very dangerous ramifications. Indeed, corporate funding of academia begets forces that are antithetical to the humanitarian principles of higher education.

Imagine an university scientist who has reason to believe that the research she has been doing into malnutrition—which appears to be most applicable to the developing world—has the potential to help stave off death by old-age—which is most relevant to the developed world. Both areas of research, regrettably, are so large, that the scientist only is able to pursue one. She is an altruistic person, and so, wants to choose whichever of the two projects will help humanity more. However, more corporate research funding is offered for one project than the other, since corporations are legally bound to pursue those endeavors that appear to be most lucrative. Some people might not have the moral fortitude to choose their projects based solely on humanitarian ideals, but this scientist does. However, the project she deems to be most valuable to humanity is the same one for which more corporate funding is available. She proceeds with it, and is unfairly accused of placing her own career over the benefit of humankind. As inaccurate as these charges are, they cannot be sufficiently refuted; the monies that this researcher takes are, in effect, both a motive and a "smoking gun", whereas her selflessness is much less tangible, and, so, not nearly as provable. Thus, this noble researcher has her reputation wrongly sullied. Such scenarios are very plausible and the only way to avoid them is for all such funding to come from government sources, since government (at least in theory) is ultimately interested in the common good, whereas corporations are required to be ultimately interested in maximizing profits.

Humanity as a whole would be the biggest loser in cases wherein researchers are not as altruistic as the scientist described above. Again, the only way to protect against such communal losses is for governments to support all academic research.

It seems both very logical and fair to predict that as corporations fund more and more academic research, research agendas will eventually reflect profit projections--

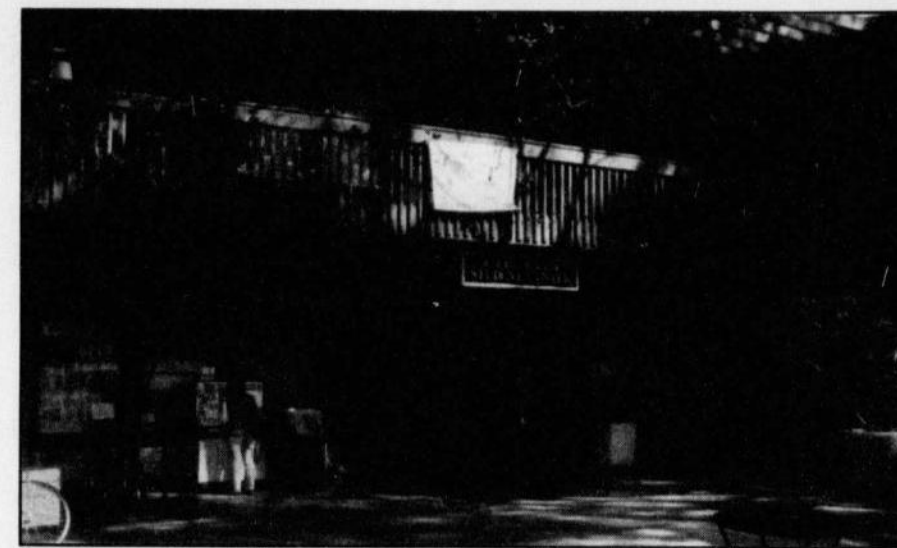
because of corporations' legal responsibility to pursue those endeavors that will be most profitable to their shareholders. Thus it would be illegal and unlikely, for example, for a corporation to fund further HIV research if financial analysis indicates that it is more profitable to sell the expensive drug cocktails currently available to those HIV victims who can afford them, than it would be to develop a remedy that would be so inexpensive that every HIV victim in the world would be able to access it.

Corporate funding of academic science is anathema not just to scientists but to all academics. Academic freedom is rooted in the rationale that responsible critical voices advance societal welfare, and is meant to ensure that those who have proven their scholarly worth are to be able to study and comment on society as they deem appropriate. Academic freedom protects academics from many of the unfortunate pressures faced by other social critics, such as journalists, writers, and artists, who are generally forced to ensure that their works will sell. Academics don't have to worry about selling their research, and so they do not have to make the compromises such requirements can cause.

Consider a university sociologist whose department is fully funded by her university, but whose university's biology department is being funded by pharmaceutical companies. Imagine that the sociologist discovers that some of these pharmaceutical companies have been testing some of their products on people in the developing world, in order to shorten the time in which these products will be licensed in the developed world—even though the companies knew that the products were very unsafe. The sociologist publishes the findings, and the findings become a cause celebre in the world media. As a result, the pharmaceutical companies suffer tremendous financial consequences. This situation gives administrators good reason to believe that if they promote further research like the one done by the sociologist above then they might lose large amounts of funding. These circumstances are detrimental to administrators themselves, professors, and society.

None of the unfortunate scenarios described above require any ill-intentioned individuals. Rather they all stem from fundamentally corrupt processes. Academic freedom is meant to free university scholars from such processes, for the benefit of us all. Corporate funding of universities is anathema to academic freedom. Researchers and administrators should be vigilant both in resisting corporate partnerships and in persuading governments to fully fund education.

--Howard Buckstein



The Student Cooperative Center

## Alternative Proposals to the Current Referendum


There are many ways of dealing with the need for more student involvement - here is a short list of proposals that have been given to the committee:

1. Separate the votes so as to give students more of a say as to which parts of the referendum they want. The more separation the more choice one has as to which fee increases the student body truly wants. (this is a minimum - at least keep up the illusion of democracy).
2. Replace proposed corporate businesses with student run co-operatives. (see above).
3. Expand the Student Co-operative Center as opposed to the Price Center.
4. Look for alternative sources for funding prior to initiating a Fee Referendum.
5. Consider voluntary fees as opposed to compulsory fees.
6. Look into better and more efficient use of current student fees.
7. Disintegrate the current committee and re-form a democratically elected completely student run committee comprising of reps from groups to be chosen by the AS and GSA.
8. Take more time to consider all aspects of expansion and intercollegiate athletics (especially considering the amount of money involved and alternative sources). At minimum take the summer to formulate a student position.
9. Gain independence of AS, GSA, UCAB and student fees. This should be done prior to any raise in student fees otherwise students do not have final say in the way their money is spent.
10. A new, independent, student run committee which would monitor the usage of student fees and find ways to DECREASE them through other sources of funding and efficiency.

Although the committee was presented with all of the above ideas,

not a single one of them has been seriously considered. Even the first suggestion, which had the support of the Marshal, Roosevelt, AS and GSA Councils (and no opposition from any student body), was voted down by the fee referendum committee. This is completely unreasonable. The state proposition system doesn't work like this. One vote for one proposition. As it stands, if you are interested in having a quarter go to the women's center you would have to have \$28.50 go to the Price Center expansion. When even the most basic proposals with proven broad student support are not given a second thought how can we expect this committee to represent and reflect student's interests? There are also legal issues at hand. According to law and UC policy funding for private business must not come from student fees. Why then are we proposing an expansion of corporate fast food in the price center when it would be cheaper and more legal to have student run cooperatives? Many say that to continue this process would be a loss due to the amount of work and time this committee has put into learning about the issues. How much has it really learned? The Campus Life Fee Referendum Committee has been meeting now for close to 6 months and what has it accomplished? The current proposal is not substantially different than the proposal made at the beginning of the year by administration. This committee has done everything in its power to ignore student input. The members selected by administrators had already made up their mind before the committee ever met and that is why they were selected by the administration. Their complete disregard for all of the above suggestions to reform this flawed process and increase student involvement clearly shows this.

continued on page 8



**are you looking forward to  
PREMARITAL SEX  
if so, you owe a debt to  
\*\*\*the Hippie Revolutionaries\*\*\*  
so why not stop by and say Thank You?  
You can find us and  
CHEAP HEALTHY EATS  
thursdays 5-7PM, AND NOW ON TUESDAYS NOON-11PM  
@ the che cafe  
tasty food at 2\$ a plate, 4\$ all you can eat**



# Student Democracy:

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ests masquerading as citizen groups), there are several advantages to this system that can apply to student fee referenda at UCSD. There are three components to the proposal discussed here, one involving a student committee for overseeing the process, one for getting fee referenda on the ballot, and one for the construction of a voter guide and ballot.

## I. Student Fee Committee (SFC).

An all-student committee is elected or appointed yearly, by students and student groups only, for a term of one year. The SFC is charged with the task of considering fee proposals and of tracking and evaluating the results of previous referenda that were passed. Unlike the current structure, this would ensure a degree of continuity and better enable students to hold other bodies accountable for how they makes use of student fees. With an SFC assembled every year and not just when a referendum is proposed, a group is in place to consider proposed referenda and the impact of previous referenda at any time, rather than being forced to assemble after someone (such as an administrator) makes an ad-hoc decision that a referendum and committee is suddenly necessary.

## II. Getting on the ballot

With an SFC in place at all times, UCSD would be in a position to radically change the way referenda are introduced, such that the process is rooted in student democracy. In parallel with the state initiative process, referenda initiatives are considered when submitted to the SFC with a requisite number of enrolled UCSD student signatures. All proposals are advanced by students and student groups only, with signatures collected by unpaid UCSD student volunteers. This would help prevent the intrusion of administration-initiated student fee referenda, and yet still enables non-student UCSD entities to stimulate initiatives. Administrators, staff, faculty, and other non-student interests, while prohibited from introducing or sponsoring student fee proposals themselves, are allowed to nominally endorse and/or encourage students to introduce and sponsor proposals. These non-student interests are prohibited from contributing funds, petition volunteers, advertising, or any other assistance to a proposal campaign other than endorsement, but if they can convince students to take up an initiative as their own, they can have an influence without subverting student democracy in the process. The SFC would determine the legality of proposals based on UCSD regulations, and would have the power to negotiate with proposal sponsors and makes

final decisions on which proposals to include on the ballot.

## III. Voter Guide and Ballot

Once the proposals on the ballot are determined, each is listed and voted upon separately by the student body. First, however, a voter guide is provided to the students, modeled after those given to California voters for state propositions. Each proposal includes a synopsis, a description of fiscal and student life impact, a pro argument, and a con argument. The SFC authors and advertises the synopsis and impact language widely, inviting student groups to critique the language and to register support or opposition of proposals by a specified deadline. The SFC also determines a standard word or space limit for pro and con arguments, and the deadline for receipt of such arguments. Each proposal receives one pro and one con argument, with all student groups in support/opposition of a proposal co-authoring each argument. Non-student interests may endorse a pro/con argument, but may not author one. The proposal information and arguments are made available online and in print, and heavily advertised (flyers, student publications, etc.). The voter guide also includes references and links to other pertinent information, such as the URL for the student fee policy. The ballot matches the voter guide, just as in the state proposition system, so that students can make their decisions with their guides and use them to fill in their ballots.

The benefits of such a system are manifold. By putting the entire matter of student fee referenda in the hands of students themselves, the process becomes more democratic and minimizes the aforementioned problems of inadequate information, empowerment, and participation, and the intrusion of non-student interests. Furthermore, the system would be intuitive and familiar to those students who have already voted on state propositions. For those not familiar with it, the benefit is perhaps even greater, for the fee referendum process would be educational, giving them experience they can later apply as voting citizens. Students could serve on the Student Life Committee. They could propose, petition, and campaign for initiatives. They could collaborate and author pro and con arguments. They could simply use the voter guides, making them more educated, effective decision-makers. In fact, a fee referendum process modeled after the state proposition system serves a goal in itself, as an exercise in student self-governance and democratic citizenship.

# Campus Life Without Diversity

The greatest problem with the proposed Campus Life Fee Referendum for UCSD is stated in its very title: CAMPUS LIFE. At a university that is predominantly homogenous is its student, faculty and staff composition, the idea of what Campus Life is, is also assumed to be homogenous. There is little acknowledgement or understanding of the fact that not all students have the same "lived experience" at UCSD.

As a Chicana Christian student at UCSD I find it appalling that at the same institution which proclaims to make diversity a priority is the same institution that moves, from the top down, a student referendum to fund primarily Division II Athletics and a Price Center expansion. I am not in opposition to either one of these things. Rather, I am in opposition to the idea that students should pay for them and, more importantly, that support of athletics and Price Center renovation will significantly improve campus life. It seems logical to me that if there is a proposal to improve campus life, the students that are having the hardest time feeling comfortable on campus ought to be the ones targeted. While this may not be the "majority" of students on campus, perhaps this is the

very essence of the problem. The profound lack of diversity is what largely contributes to the cold environment that many of the students of color experience at UCSD. Passing a referendum to increase student fees by an estimated \$210 per year will not only fail to improve the quality of life that most students of color experience at UCSD, but it will also prevent future economically disadvantaged students from attending UCSD. A \$3000 sofa in an expanded study area is not going to change the fact that I feel alienated, disvalued and cheated by the very institution that is meant to enhance my development as a scholar and as an individual. I question what our chancellor meant when he stated that this is a "university committed to diversity" because if that is the case, perhaps I have the wrong definition of diversity or I am not at the same university. A learning institution committed to diversity, committed to me as a student of color, is what education is all about. The potency of this issue can be summed up in the numbers of admitted black students to UCSD in the past 3 years: 52:33:28.....unlock that combination.

Denise Pacheco

http://sfcw.ucsd.edu/h5de



UCSD  
RADIO

located in the  
student  
cooperative  
center

live at  
http://132.239.214.71:8000

# Price vs. Student

Corporate greed, school profits, mass marketing and production. These are all characteristics embodied by the UCSD Price Center, or as some prefer to call it, the "Over-Priced" Center or the "High Price" Center. For years, the school has been trying to push an expansion of this business conglomerate through raising student fees via fee referendums such as the one currently looming over our heads.

On the other hand, we have the Student Co-operative Center, where students are greeted by lower prices, familiar faces, and architecture that looks less like an office building and more like a college campus. Ironically, even the names of these two university centers evoke the priorities of each: Price vs. Student. It's amazing more people haven't caught on to that.

UCSD's push to expand the "Price" Center through student fee referenda also demonstrates its true interests. Proposals have been in planning for over five years now, while an expansion of the Student Co-op Center has not even been given a second thought. Let's examine some of the benefits which can be brought from expanding this pro-student, pro-education facility, as opposed to the Price Center, which is pro-big business and pro-padding the wallets of UCSD administrators.

First, we have the location of the SCC (Student Co-operative Center). It's closer in location to the three colleges of Muir, Marshall, and Revelle and therefore, a large number of lecture halls and classroom facilities on campus.

Second of all, a primary motivator for most college students: it's pretty darn cheap. An average meal at the SCC costs around \$2-3, while at the Price Center you're going to have to shell out at least \$5 (and as this is an opinion piece, I'll say that the food is definitely better tasting, if not simply better for you!).

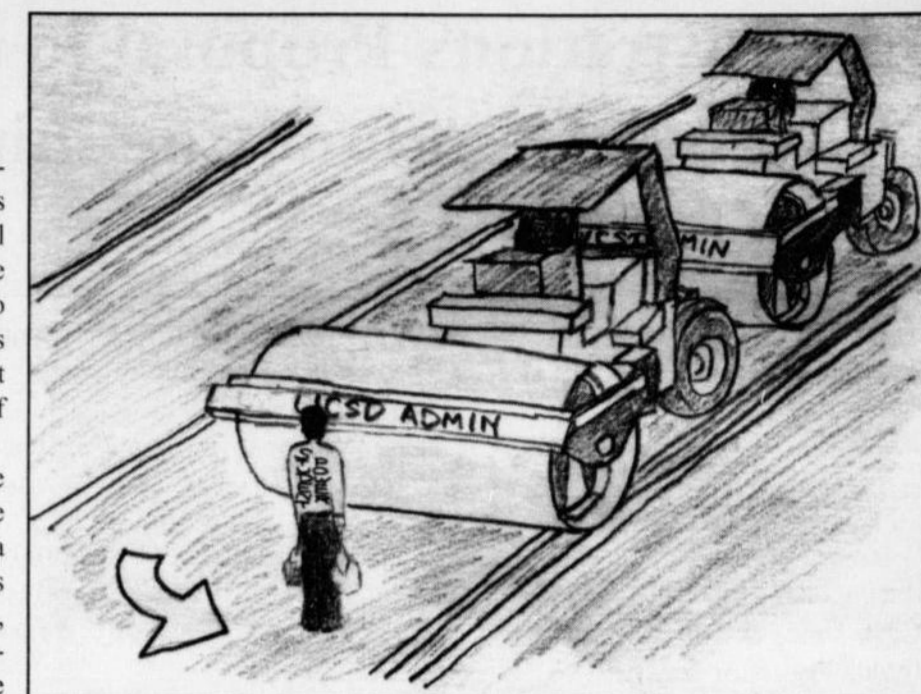
One important feature to note about the Student Co-op Center is the fact that, as the name implies, it is a co-operative facility. Co-ops such as the General Store, the Food Co-op, and Groundwork Books are student-run. In addition to generating more student involvement and providing an educational experience for students, having co-ops on campus rather than large corporations means that the money stays within the campus, and there are no middlemen or CEO's to deal with.

Co-ops are completely student-run, as opposed to the fast food chains in the Price Center, which focus attracting those with little education to a menial job with little pay. Places like the Food Co-op pay students higher and allow them to have a job where they are actually allowed to make decisions in how the business is run, rather than simply doing their job and going home.

In addition to co-ops, there is a multitude of student organizations that make their home in the friendly atmosphere of the SCC, as opposed to the Price Center, which is mostly filled with administrative offices.

Given all of these reasons, it seems more than logical that the SCC

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## You Can't Get Ideals at the Gap

Just because you don't wear a white hood doesn't make you liberal. The establishment swallowed liberalism whole-- leaving just a few heroic crumbs scattered about the USA-- and shit it out its lily red, white, and blue ass, stained green by all the moulding money it sits on, ratcheted to record levels of tightness from all that jogging.

By night, Wall Street lawyers steal as much sex, enjoy as many drugs, and hoard all the music they can. By day, they ensure that no peace, love, or understanding can be found.

Just because you wear blue jeans on Fridays, as you casually clear another million, doesn't mean you're not working against the cause that supposedly wore them in its fight against racism, and sexism, and war. (I've never seen Ralph Nader in jeans.) Heroes don't wear uniforms.

## Survey:

continued from page 4

look at the survey closely (see page 2), it seems to support an expansion of the Student Cooperative Center at least as strongly as an expansion of the Price Center. And no matter how you read it, it defiantly calls for more student involvement in our campus community. The process of the current fee referendum has been to consistently quash student input, and to fight against those who want to consider alternative ideas, in order to push through the administration proposed referendum as fast as possible. If the survey is calling for more student involvement in the campus community why does the administration turn around and write a large referendum with a minimum of student input? In my opinion, the survey calls for a student initiated, student written, student proposed and student run referendum. I can't think of a better way than student involvement at all levels of the process (and in spending our OWN money) to promote a stronger community.

## Co-Ops:

continued from page 3

as the University of California. Some people have also raised concerns about finding more students to participate in the new co-ops. The fact that the campus co-ops have been a vibrant movement for over 25 years seems to be sufficient evidence that students are eager to 'co-operate'. Furthermore, in order to encourage more students to be involved with co-ops, the administration should offer course credit for co-op work. This would be consistent with our university's policies granting course credit for dance and theatre workshops and other out-of-classroom learning. Co-opers could earn further course credit by working with a professor to write an independent study paper about their co-op experiences.

The administration should demonstrate its commitment to the highest ideals of higher education by altering its vision for student spaces, and providing more help to the student co-op movement. -- Howard Buckstein

The following is information given to the Campus Life Fee Referendum Committee upon request as to how the money allocated to the University Centers Expansion would be spent.

### ESTIMATED FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT COST:

Furniture and Equipment	Quantity	Price	Total
6'x30" Conference Tables	300	\$800	\$240,000
Table Trucks	30	\$1,000	\$30,000
5' Round Mity Lite Tables	110	\$335	\$36,850
Table Trucks	14	\$452	\$6,328
6'x30" Mity Lite Tables	100	\$270	\$27,000
Table Trucks	10	\$331	\$3,310
Stacking/Ganging Chairs	1500	\$300	\$450,000
Chair Carts (20 each)	75	\$200	\$15,000
Z-800 StageRight Staging	36		\$35,000
Study Carrels	24	\$2,470	\$59,280
Computer Workstations	24	\$2,700	\$64,000
Desk Chairs	48	\$919	\$44,112
Lounge Sofas	12	\$3,000	\$36,000
Lounge Chairs	24	\$2,000	\$48,000
Coffee/End Tables	48	\$1,000	\$48,000
Racetrack Tables	4	\$2,000	\$8,184
Student Mtg Room Chairs	48	\$788	\$37,824
Miscellaneous Silk Plants	62	\$200	\$12,400
<b>Estimated Furniture and Equipment Total:</b>			<b>\$1,189,688</b>
<b>Audio Visual Equipment</b>			
33'x33' Meeting Rooms	10	\$37,000	\$370,000
40'x70' Meeting Rooms	3	\$47,000	\$141,000
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$511,000</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>			<b>\$1,700,688</b>



# Administration's Proposal to the Campus Life Fee Referendum Committee

(Documents Applicable to this Referendum)

The following is the proposal that administration made during the summer of 2000 and presented at the first Campus Life Referendum Committee:

Requesting Body:	Amount per student per quarter:	Annual Allocations in 2001-2002:
Stewart Commons; College lounges: the 5 Colleges:	1.50	90,000
Cross Cultural Center:	8.35	503,000
Intercollegiate Athletics:	1.15	69,000
LGBT Center:	19.00	1,145,000
Price Center Expansion:	0.25	15,000
Programming Council:	28.50	1,718,000
Sixth and Seventh Colleges:	1.33	80,000
Sports Clubs:	1.15	69,000
Sports Facilities:	1.15	69,000
Student Gov't AS/UCSD:	3.50	211,000
Student Gov't GSA:	2.50	151,000
Student Organizations:	2.50	151,000
University Events:	4.25	256,000
Women's Center:	1.33	80,000
	0.50	30,000
<b>Proposed Fee Per quarter:</b>	<b>76.96</b>	<b>1,546,000</b>
<b>Proposed Fee Per Year:</b>	<b>230.88</b>	<b>4,638,000</b>

The following is a time table that was given to all committee members on the first meeting of the committee. It was provided by administration:

### Campus Life Referendum Committee - Committee Actions - Sequence and Time Table

Task: Committee Orientation meeting  
Timeframe: October 2, 2000

Task: Review facility information  
Timeframe: October, 2000

Task: Determine components (allocations and dollars) for proposed referendum  
Review financial projections  
Dialogue questions and responses  
Timeframe: November, 2000

Task: Endorse referendum  
Establish election dates/logistic  
Endorse specific referendum language  
Formulate outreach plan  
Timeframe: November/December, 2000

In May of 2000 Joseph Watson, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, wrote a mission statement for the Campus Life Referendum Committee:

The mission of the committee is:

Solicit input, evaluate options, and advise the Vice Chancellor as regards a referendum to improve the quality of UCSD campus life. The committee should address both facility and programming/active campus needs.

Review, endorse and recommend to the Vice Chancellor the election logistics, finances and conditions of the referendum.

Communicate with students, answer questions, and serve as advocates for the approval of the referendum.

Although all members for the committee are expected to be fully engaged in the work and discussions of the committee, only the student members are voting. The consultants are to serve as an information and expert resource for the committee.

Please provide appointee names, summer postal and e-mail addresses and telephone numbers as soon as possible. The co-chairs will be in contact with all members during the summer.

Thank you for agreeing to serve on this most important effort to improve the quality of student life at UCSD.

### Task: Referendum outreach

Timeframe: January/February 2001  
- Outreach to student organizations, sports club teams, athletes, college councils, RA's/HA's, ASUCSD, GSA, all UCSD students.  
- Brochures/flyers/banners  
- Guardian articles and ads  
- Question and answer series  
- Funding for opponent point of view

Task: Election Outreach  
Timeframe: February 12 - 23, 2001  
- Guardian announcement  
- Student flyers list - e-mails  
- Sample ballot distribution  
- Last contact with outreach list

Task: Referendum: Special Election  
Timeframe: February 26, 27, 28, March 1, 2001 (and March 2, Rain Hold).

## Student Initiated?

"Student initiated? Oh, well, no. I mean, it was started by a charge by Vice Chancellor Watson ... Now, in terms of the idea of the committee, there was student involvement in that, like I had a part in that. But in terms of being student -- no. It's Vice Chancellor Watson's committee. He created it."

-Doc Khaleghi, A.S. President, Co-Chair Campus Life Fee Referendum Committee

(thanks to the nightcap for this quote)

Note: All of the above were created without student input. The committee was formed to rubber stamp administration's pet plan and the timeline shows this; there is no way that the committee would have a chance to consider any viable alternatives with the proposed timeline.

## Referendum Language

This Referendum proposes a fee to provide funding for additional student activities, events, and programs and to expand and renovate facilities at UCSD. The fee generated by the 2001 Campus Life Referendum, hereafter referred to as "the Campus-Life Fee" would be assessed at \$71.40\* per quarter from each enrolled undergraduate and graduate student.

\* The Campus-Life Fee will initially be assessed at \$70.70 per student per quarter and will increase by \$0.35 once sixth college begins enrolling students and again when seventh college begins enrolling students.

Referendum Conditions:

- The Campus-Life Fee will be collected starting in fall quarter 2001 with the exception of the line-item allocations for sixth and seventh colleges.
- The line-item allocations for sixth and seventh colleges will be collected starting in the first fall quarter of enrollment for each respective college.
- The Campus-Life Fee will be allocated quarterly to the areas or units in the dollar amounts listed below in Chart #1.
- The Campus-Life Fee will never increase beyond \$71.40.
- As enrollments increase, each area or unit will continue to receive the same per student allocation each quarter in order to offset inflation and account for the increasing number of students.
- Every three years the Registration Fee Committee will review the Campus-Life Fee in order to make recommendations on potential reductions to the Campus-Life Fee with the exception of contractual obligations.
- If state funds, donations, or other moneys become available to support adequately any areas or units receiving allocations from the Campus-Life Fee, the quarterly fee will be reduced by an amount to be recommended by the Registration Fee Committee.
- All changes in state funding or moneys received by the university impacting areas or units funded by the Campus-Life Fee shall be made known and available to the Registration Fee Committee.
- In the future, if an area or unit receiving allocations from the Campus-Life Fee no longer exists, the Campus-Life Fee will be reduced by the amount of the allocation.
- The Chancellor's Office and UCSD Administration will provide all funding necessary to relocate the Campus Police and clear the site for Price Center expansion from non-student fee sources.
- The money allocated to Sports Facilities by the Campus-Life Fee shall be used only for lighting at Warren Field, synthetic turf at Muir Field, and twenty-four hour use of the Main Gym.
- Decisions regarding the expenditure of the allocations resulting from passage of this referendum will be made by existing or formed committees with students comprising at least two-thirds of the voting members.
- The Administration will, with the exception of the aforementioned examples, under no circumstances change the per student per quarter allocation amount.

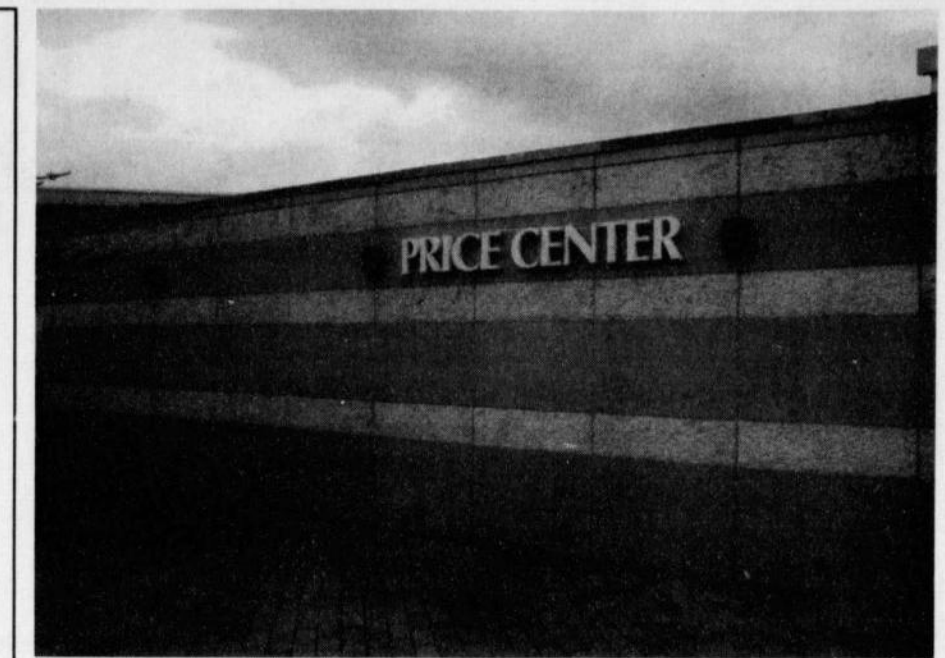
### Annual \$71.40 per Quarter Fee Allocations - Chart #1

College Lounges:	\$0.70
Cross Cultural Center:	\$1.50
Expansion/Renovation of University Centers:	\$28.50
Five Colleges:	\$5.00
Intercollegiate Athletics (NCAA):	\$19.00
International Center:	\$0.25
LGBTRO:	\$0.50
Oasis:	\$2.50
Sixth College:	\$0.35
Seventh College:	\$0.35
Sports Clubs:	\$2.50
Student Gov't ASUCSD:	\$1.50
Student Gov't GSA:	\$1.75
Student Organizations:	\$4.25
Women's Center:	\$0.25

## New Years 2006 Resolutions

Eliminate currency  
Stop markets  
Go to jail

Howard Buckstein  
February 28, 2001



Do we really need more of this?

## Price:

continued from page 9

would be expanded over the Price Center. More room could allow for more co-ops to draw in students with different tastes than what is currently offered. For example, the demise of Tia Molly's in the Price Center could be alleviated with a Mexican food co-op in the SCC.

So, one might ask, why has there not been a proposal to expand the Student Co-operative Center? While that question cannot really be answered here, it seems obvious who would most benefit an expansion of the Price Center over the SCC.

If the Fee Referendum committee really wanted to fulfill their job, which is to make decisions on how money from the increased fees should be allocated to best benefit the students, they would consider a proposal to expand the SCC, or peti-

tion the administration to make one.

It seems as though this fee referendum is getting pushed through as quickly as possible, so that alternate proposals other than those which will benefit the administration won't even get a chance to be considered. The same amount energy that has gone to the five years of attempted expansion of the Price Center needs to go into a proposal for a SCC expansion proposal, especially if the point of raising student fees is to assist the students who pay them. Fee referendums are supposed to make life better for students, not UC admin and big corporations, which is exactly the danger we face with this Campus Life Fee Referendum.

-- Jessalyn Aaland

THIS IS A SURVEY BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NEW INDICATOR COLLECTIVE

(please use the reverse side to answer the survey)



### Top 10 Fee Referendum Meeting Quotes

10. "This is a student run committee for students who support the referendum. Tommy Tucker called me to ask me to come talk to him because I disagree with some of the dominant sentiments. I rejected his offer because I want my concerns to be addressed to this committee, not to him in the privacy of his office."  
SAAC Rep Tamra Webster

9. "[it is important that] we raise the fees this year ... our college wants to have the ERC semi formal at the Zoo and without the referendum this would not be possible."  
Co-Chair Jenn de Camp

8. "It is important that we consider the fact that \$75 a quarter or whatever it ends up being is a lot of money, especially for people that are having a hard time affording UCSD already. This is a public university, and we need to keep in mind that keeping it accessible to lower income students is more important than the legacy of certain administrators or division 2 sports."  
Member of the Public, Brie Finegold

7. "The co-ops aren't necessarily against additional fees, but we're against this administration driven

committee and this process which goes against national and state bylaws."

Co-ops Rep. Carolyn Gan

6. "As members of this committee, you need to be able to cut through this inappropriate noise."

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Tommy Tucker, responding to a presentation by the co-ops about legal guidelines governing student fee funded facilities.

5. "Doc, why are you participating in the de-democratization of this committee?"

Member of the Public

4. "I know this makes me seem like an administrative pawn, but why can't we just kick the students out and let the administrators stay?"

Muir College Council Rep. Christina Villegas

3. "THIS IS MY COMMITTEE!"

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Joe Watson

2. "Well, since it's a student committee, I think that it's actually our committee; comprised of students, representing students."

GSA Rep. Kris Bohling

1. "NO, IT'S MY COMMITTEE!"

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Joe Watson

# GROUNDWORK

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## SURVEY

Please take a moment to fill out the following questionnaire and return it via campus mail to:

New Indicator Collective  
c/o Ché Café Collective  
B-023C Student Center  
La Jolla, CA 92093

### What do you think about the Proposed Fee Referendum?

1. Do you feel that administration has the right to spend student fees?
2. How should we be improving campus life and apathy at UCSD?
3. Price Center or Student Cooperative Center?
4. Should UCSD have more cooperatives?
5. Do you support the independence of the student councils and student fees?

### What do you think of the New Indicator?

(please leave your comments below)

What's that?  
You have too much time on your hands?  
Too many technical skills, but no place to use them?  
Like to write, but hate your Humanities class?  
Jerk off to Typography?  
Pissed that UCSD has no design courses?

# JOIN THE NEW INDICATOR COLLECTIVE

info/submissions: [newindicator@libertad.ucsd.edu](mailto:newindicator@libertad.ucsd.edu)

New Indicator Collective  
c/o Ché Café Collective  
B-023C Student Center  
La Jolla, CA 92093