

## Ballot Language Draft #2

Since 1959, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) has served as the official voice of students and provided services and programs that meet the educational, social, recreational, and cultural needs of the Cal State LA's diverse student community.

Currently, the annual student body fee is \$53.75 per student, payable \$26.88 in the Fall semester and \$26.87 in the Spring semester. ASI has not adjusted its student body fee since 1996. As such, our fee is the lowest of the 23 campuses in the CSU System.

### Referendum, Children's Center and ASI History....

Cal State LA students opened the campus childcare center, known as the Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center, in 1968. Last semester the Center served 126 families, of which 50% were student families.

ASI first passed a referendum in 1988, which allocated to the Center \$1.50 per semester from each student's ASI student body fee. In 1996, with ASI support, the Center was expanded by the addition of four additional classrooms and the expansion of its services to accommodate more children (infants, school-age children, children with special needs, and evening childcare). In order to facilitate this expansion, a referendum was passed to raise the per student allocation to the Center to \$5.62 per semester.

ASI funding now constitutes about 7% of the Children's Center Operational Budget. Grants for low-income students make up 65% of its funding, parent fees 23%, and the University General Fund and IRA account for the remaining 5%.

ASI is proposing the current referendum to replace the per student allocation with a flat amount to be paid by ASI to the Children's Center each year.

### **Definitions:**

#### **For purposes of this referendum, the following definitions shall apply:**

- **Referendum:** A general vote by the student body on a ballot question that has been referred to them for a direct decision from the ASI Board of Directors. To pass a referendum it requires 50%+1 of the total votes cast during an election.
- Policy 206 – Reporting and Budgeting Guidelines for External Organizations Receiving Over \$3,000. – [REVIEW POLICY HERE](#)
  - Referenda changing the student body fee with a specification as to how additional money is to be spent shall be binding on the Board for the first three years of implementation. After three years, referenda are advisory to the Board of Directors.

This Question will show up on a separate page.

**Obligation Ballot Question One:**

Shall ASI amend the 1988 and 1996 referenda that provide financial support to Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center to require in lieu of a per student per semester fee, a minimum annual payment of \$140,000.00, subject to ASI Policy 206 – Reporting and Budgeting Guidelines for External Organizations Receiving Over \$3,000.

**Impact Statements & Data:**

- Approved ASI Annual Operating Budget 2017-18 is \$1,455,770 as of July 1, 2017.

	Required/Current	2017 Actual Allocation	2017 Amended Allocation	Proposed
Referendum Obligation	\$301,000	\$125,211	\$137,732	\$140,000

- The ASI Board of Directors has discretion and the ability to increase funding based on the Board priorities as outlined in Policy 206 – Reporting and Budgeting Guidelines for External Organizations Receiving Over \$3,000.
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**If the ballot passes:**

- It will ensure consistent and predictable financial support in the amount of \$140,000 per year for the Children’s Center and reduce the amount of ASI funding obligation under the prior referenda, which would be \$301,143 based on current annual enrollment of \$11.26 per student.

**If the ballot does not pass:**

- ASI would remain subject to the 1988 and 1996 referenda, which would require it to pay the Center \$301,143, or 21 percent of its operating budget based on current student body enrollment.
- Will result in a reduction in or loss of funds for other ASI programs and services.

- Please Cast Your Vote: YES | NO

This Question will show up on a separate page.

Referendum Ballot Question Two:

Shall ASI index the ASI Student Body Fee annually not to exceed the percentage set by Higher Education Price Index (HEPI).

Impact Statements & Data:

- **Annual Indexing:** The Commonfund Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) is an inflation index designed specifically to track the main cost drivers in higher education, from that in effect on the same date in the immediately preceding year. The increase for this referendum could be as high as 3.7% in 2019.
  - HEPI Ranges for past five years:
    - 2013 1.6%
    - 2014 3.0%
    - 2015 2.1%
    - 2016 1.8%
    - 2017 3.7%
  - Source: <https://www.commonfund.org/commonfund-institute/higher-education-price-index-hepi/>
- **New Fee Structure:**
  - Assuming an index of 3.7% increase in HEPI between 2017-2018 the effect would be as follows:

In 2017-2018, the annual student body fee is:  
\$53.75 = \$26.88 per student in the fall semester and  
\$26.87 per student in the spring semester.

The 2018-2019 annual student body fee will be:  
\$55.74 = \$27.87 per student in the fall semester and  
\$27.87 per student in the spring semester.

    - A \$1.99 increase

If the ballot passes:

- This increase will allow ASI to keep pace with inflation allowing the organization to continue to meet the needs of students.
- Allow ASI to provide Cal State LA students with new programs and services;

- If you receive financial aid the impact of this increase will have little to no impact on your aid.

If the ballot does not pass:

- Student Body Fee will increase on an annual basis.

Please Cast Your Vote: YES | NO