

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Regarding the Student Involvement and Representation Fee (SIRF)

On January 28, 2015 the CSU Board of Trustees established a new voluntary student fee, the Student Involvement and Representation Fee, which goes into effect in the fall 2015 term. This fee is charged to all students unless they choose to opt out of the fee, which can be done via your student portal. The fee amount is \$2 per fall and spring term, and is used to support the student leadership, involvement, governance, and advocacy programs managed by the California State Student Association (CSSA).

Purpose of CSSA

CSSA is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization comprised of elected student leaders from all of the 23 CSU campuses with the sole purpose of representing CSU students to the California State University system and to the state and federal government, ensuring students are active participants in the decisions that shape their education.

Purpose of the \$2 Fee

Revenue from the fee will be used to ensure that students are able to meaningfully fund the activities of the CSSA and thereby ensure the overall ability of students to participate in policy development and higher education initiatives at the system, state, and national levels. Revenue from the fee will provide additional funding support for the development of student policy recommendations, participation in system, state, and national governance, involvement in leadership development activities, and program support through student and professional staff administration. Because CSSA is an independent, not -profit organization governed by Associated Students leaders, the use of this fee will always be determined by students.

Will Financial Aid Cover this \$2 Fee?

Because this fee is so small, it is unlikely to create a hardship on students. However, it is coverable by some financial aid resources, including loans, scholarships and grants, and federal aid, including the Pell grant.

How Do I Opt Out of this \$2 Fee?

The ability to opt out of this fee is provided to each student via their student financial portal, following registration for classes. When reviewing their list of fees, they will notice a new category called *Student Representation Fee*. This fee category includes a green dollar sign (\$), which can be selected and which then allows for students to continue to their final bill that will then exclude the \$2 fee if they so choose. There are some additional important details, as follows:

- There is a link in the Important *External Links* section of the student portal that provides additional information about this fee.
- On the enrollment screen of the student portal, there is a statement that asks students to “Please review account activity for any optional fees prior to making payment” which informs students to also review their overall account activity to learn about this fee.
- Campuses cannot refund the \$2 fee after the end of term. Prior to the end of term, students will have the opportunity to opt-out of the fee in accordance with campus policies.

How Do I Obtain Additional Information?

For additional information about CSSA or this specific fee, please use one of the following:

Visit the CSSA Web Site: www.csustudents.org

Contact the CSSA: (562) 951-4025 / staff@csustudents.org