



## Senate Resolution No. 2015/2016-056

### *The Green Initiative Fund Renewal Fee Referendum*

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#### Primary Sponsor

Wes Adrianson (ASUC Senator)

#### Cosponsors

Jimmy Dunn (Chief of Staff, Office of Wes Adrianson), Allegra Saggese (Vice Chair, ECO Environmental Coalition at UC Berkeley), Katherine Walsh (Director, Student Environmental Resource Center), Sharon Daraphonhdeth (Coordinator, The Green Initiative Fund & Sustainability Initiatives), Lauren Murphy (Program Associate, The Green Initiative Fund), Pallavi Sherikar (Co-chair, Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability), Brian Gialketsis (Program Associate, The Green Initiative Fund), Boomer Vicente (Senator), Matthew Lewis (Executive Committee Member, ECO - The Environmental Coalition at UC Berkeley), Zoë Brouns (Senator), Kathy Tran (Senator), Will Morrow (ASUC Senator), Sheena Paul (Senator; BSC Board Representative), Benedicto Llave (ASUC Senator), Alana Banks (ASUC Senator), Diana Nguyen (ASUC Senator), Grace Ho Jung Kim (ASUC Senator), Sina Rashidi (ASUC Senator)

**WHEREAS**, in November 2015, at the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties, 195 nations made the commitment to prevent a global temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius by moving their economies towards carbon neutrality<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, President Obama has made it a national priority to reduce the United States' impact on the environment and advance sustainable innovation and implementation at the federal level<sup>2,3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, California Governor Jerry Brown issued an executive order last year geared

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/13/world/europe/climate-change-agreement-paris.html>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/11/06/statement-president-keystone-xl-pipeline>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/06/weekly-address-doubling-our-clean-energy-funding-address-challenge>

towards transitioning to clean energy for the entire state<sup>4</sup> and California has always been a leader in sustainable policies<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of California has implemented system wide sustainability goals<sup>6</sup>, including President Janet Napolitano's Carbon Neutrality Initiative<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, UC Berkeley has made commitments to sustainability above and beyond the University of California's mandates<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) has served as the financial manifestation of the Associated Students of the University of California's commitment to increasing energy efficiency of campus buildings, climate resilience of landscapes, access to local and sustainable food<sup>9</sup>, waste diversion, green transportation options, and student empowerment; and

**WHEREAS**, TGIF has disbursed a total of \$2 million over the past nine years to 149 projects<sup>10</sup>, including 246 student internships<sup>11</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous projects<sup>12</sup> have received local<sup>13 14</sup>, state<sup>15</sup>, and national recognition<sup>16</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, TGIF serves as a national model and has facilitated the development of green funds at other universities<sup>17</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, TGIF is the only UC Berkeley fund dedicated exclusively to environmental and sustainability projects; and

**WHEREAS**, The Green Initiative Fund Committee, the grant making body of TGIF, is a student majority committee with ASUC and GA representation; and

**WHEREAS**, TGIF is set to expire in 2017 as per the terms of the original referendum<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18938>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/05-06/bill/asm/ab\\_0001-0050/ab\\_32\\_bill\\_20060927\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/05-06/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/ab_32_bill_20060927_chaptered.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://ucop.edu/sustainability/index.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://ucop.edu/initiatives/carbon-neutrality-initiative.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/initiatives>

<sup>9</sup> <http://tgif.berkeley.edu/index.php/funded-projects/project-themes>

<sup>10</sup> <http://tgif.berkeley.edu/index.php/funded-projects/metrics>

<sup>11</sup> <http://tgif.berkeley.edu/index.php/funded-projects/project-internships>

<sup>12</sup> <http://tgif.berkeley.edu/index.php/media-publicity/press>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.dailycal.org/2014/07/28/hard-work-fun-times-soga/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.dailycal.org/2014/10/07/students-work-restore-strawberry-creek-dams/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/news/uc-berkeley-wins-sustainability-best-practice-awards>

<sup>16</sup>

<http://news.berkeley.edu/2012/11/15/america-recycles-day-epa-recognizes-campus-food-waste-red-uction/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.aashe.org/campus-green-fund-guide>

<sup>18</sup>

passed by the student body in 2007 by a 69% majority; and

**WHEREAS**, the ASUC senate placed the first TGIF referendum on the ballot in 2007;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Associated Students of the University of California place the following question as Proposition X titled, “The Green Initiative Fund Fee Referendum” on the 2016 ASUC General Elections:

The existing \$6.00 per student per semester The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Fee has awarded more than \$2 million to 149 campus sustainability projects and over 240 student environmental internships since 2007. In order to continue funding impactful environmental sustainability projects, new student internships, and sustainability programming and initiatives through the Student Environmental Resource Center at UC Berkeley, do you approve the renewal and increase of The Green Initiative Fund Fee at \$8.00 per student per semester?

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Associated Students of the University of California officially endorse The Green Initiative Fund Fee Referendum.

## **Appendix A: Full Referendum**

**Primary Proponent:** Wes Adrianson

### **Background**

The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Fee was a student-initiated mandatory \$5 student fee (increasing to \$6 over 10 years). Established in 2007, it has since awarded more than \$2 million to 149 campus sustainability projects and over 240 student internships. Such projects include: The Berkeley Student Food Collective Storefront, Student Organic Garden Association Intern Program, Strawberry Creek Stabilization Project, Tiny House in My Backyard, Installation of Bottle Refill Stations, and much more. For more information about projects TGIF has funded, visit [tgif.berkeley.edu](http://tgif.berkeley.edu).

The original TGIF fee, passed in 2007, is set to expire in 2017. As TGIF has proven its success through its far-reaching projects, the renewal and increase of the fee to \$8 is needed in order to continue the current program and to expand the pool of grant money available for sustainability projects. The fee will fund the expansion of food justice and security, water and energy conservation, habitat restoration, waste reduction and zero waste, sustainable transportation, environmental education, environmental justice, and and related student internships.

**The funds will be awarded by The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Committee, a student-majority ASUC committee comprised of:**

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<http://sa.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/TGIF%20ASUC%20Bill%202007.pdf#overlay-context=sfrc/fee-referenda>

- One graduate Student appointed by the Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Graduate Assembly (GA)
- One undergraduate Student appointed by the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC)
- One Student appointed by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS)
- One undergraduate Student-at-Large, selected by the TGIF Committee, via an application process
- One Faculty member selected by the Academic Senate
- One Staff member from Administration, selected by the Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance
- One Staff member from Real Estate, selected by the Vice Chancellor for Real Estate

**The Committee will award funds to projects proposed by students, faculty, and/or staff via TGIF application process, based on the following guidelines:**

1. Projects shall reduce UC Berkeley's negative impact on the environment.
2. Projects shall include publicity, education and outreach components.
3. Projects shall have received all necessary written approval by appropriate campus officials prior to consideration.
4. All current UC Berkeley students, staff, and faculty are eligible to submit project proposals; individuals and organizations outside of UC Berkeley are not.
5. TGIF will not fund projects already mandated by law or UC policy.
6. TGIF will fund projects that go above and beyond current legal or policy requirements.
7. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate the greatest reduction of UC Berkeley's negative impact on the environment for the least cost.
8. Preference will be given to projects that are able to repay the fund.
9. Preference will be given to student-led and student-focused projects.

**The mandatory fee will apply to all registered graduate and undergraduate students. The fee is subject to the following costs and conditions:**

- The fee will be in effect for ten years, from Fall 2017 through Spring 2027.
- Beginning in summer 2018, summer students will be assessed a fee in the same amount as the following Fall Semester.
- Collection of the fee will begin with Fall Semester 2017 at \$8.00 per semester and continue at that rate for three years, through Spring Semester 2020.
- After Spring 2020, the fee will increase every three years to cover the anticipated cost of inflation and increased demand and size of future projects in the following manner:

Years	Fee per Student per Semester
2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-2020	\$8.00
2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23	\$9.00
2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, and	\$10.00

2026-27

In accordance with campus policy, one-third of the fee will be returned to financial aid to help offset the cost of this fee for students who are eligible for financial aid.

	<b>Current Per Semester Fee- Recipients of Fee: AY 2015-16</b>		<b>Proposed Per Semester Fee- Recipients of Fee: AY 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20</b>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>The Green Initiative Fund</b>	\$4.00	66%	\$5.33	66%
<b>Financial Aid</b>	\$2.00	33%	\$2.67	33%
<b>Total Fee</b>	\$6.00	100%	\$8.00	100%
	<b>Proposed Per Semester Fee- Recipients of Fee: AY 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23</b>		<b>Proposed Per Semester Fee- Recipients of Fee: AY 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27</b>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>The Green Initiative Fund</b>	\$6.00	66%	\$6.67	66%
<b>Financial Aid</b>	\$3.00	33%	\$3.33	33%
<b>Total Fee</b>	\$9.00	100%	\$10.00	100%

### Oversight

The funds will be managed by the TGIF Committee and the TGIF & Sustainability Initiatives Coordinator, reporting through the ASUC Student Union.

The TGIF Committee and TGIF & Sustainability Initiatives Coordinator are governed by the Bylaws of The Green Initiative Fund.

### Appendix: The Green Initiative Bylaws

The attached bylaws were last updated in September of 2012. TGIF's committee intends to amend the bylaws this spring semester to better reflect the program's current mission.