

## **BALLOT LANGUAGE**

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 of The Green Initiative Fund Fee at \$8.00 per student per semester?

## **Background**

The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Fee was a student-initiated mandatory \$5 student fee (increasing to \$6 over 10 years) established in 2007, and 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 student internships.

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

- 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-benefiting projects.

**The mandatory fee will apply to all registered graduate and undergraduate students, and will be governed by UC Berkeley's standard schedule of refunds.**

**The fee is subject to the following costs and conditions:**

- 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. The fee will be in effect for ten years, from Fall 2017 through Spring 2027. Students registering in the summer will be assessed a fee in the same amount as the following Fall Semester, beginning with summer 2018.
- After Spring 2020, the fee will increase every three years to cover the cost of inflation and increased demand and size of future projects in the following manner:

<b>Years</b>	<b>Fee per Student per Semester</b>
<b>2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-2020</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

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</b>		<b>Proposed Per Semester Fee-Recipients of Fee</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%

## **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 A: The Green Initiative Bylaws**

The attached bylaws were last updated in September of 2012. TGIF's current committee is planning on amending them this coming spring semester to better reflect the current mission of the program.