



## **STUDENT EXCELLENCE FEE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**

September 2018

California State University, Long Beach

## **Student Excellence Funding**

The Student Excellence Fee (SEF) at CSULB was initially proposed under The California State University Fee Policy, Executive Order 1054 and approved in February 2011 for implementation in the academic year 2011-12. The initial fee approved was \$94 per semester. In October 2013, an additional Student Excellence Fee was approved for implementation effective spring 2014. The revised fee increased from \$94 per student per semester (fall/spring) to \$173.

SEF was implemented in two parts: Part I in 2011 and Part II in 2013.

- SEF Part I supports:
  - Student success, student health and welfare, student centers, student transportation (U-Pass), athletics, and a small amount for academic department chairs.
  - Student success dollars replaced a funding source for improving outcomes for students that was lost to budget cuts and protected academic advisors from layoffs.
  - Athletics dollars helped cover the rising cost of athletic scholarships as tuition fees increased.
- SEF Part II supports:
  - “Technology that touches students” – This has been an effort to modernize the campus with respect to digital technology for teaching and learning.
  - Modernizing instruction in digital technology is very costly to implement and maintain, and there are very large costs to train faculty to effectively utilize the technology.
  - The technological changes, however, are very welcome by students. The new high-tech classrooms are among our most popular venues for teaching and learning.

SEF dollars have therefore been a mixture of funds that offset budget reductions and funds that provide critical modernization.

CSULB budgets are by no means fully restored in inflation-adjusted dollar terms and remain well short of funding needed to modernize instruction with digital technology, which is costly to implement and maintain.

## **Academic Affairs Student Excellence Funding**

In Academic Affairs, SEF funds are distributed in three categories: Highly Valued Degree Initiative, Academic Chairs Educational Services Fund, and Student Technology Services & Academic Equipment & Lab Facilities.

## Highly Valued Degree Initiative

SEF funds support CSULB's student success projects that meet our academic purpose to "graduate students with highly valued degrees." Successful proposals for SEF-HVDI include a variety of effective programs and initiatives:

- Academic advisors
- Tutors in low-completion rate courses
- Peer advisors/mentors and graduate assistants in college and university advising centers
- Programs for university and engineering honors students
- Writing coach and targeted workshops on writing skills and strategies for students
- Electronic learning enhancements for math
- Men's Success Initiative for African American and Latino males
- Internship development
- Beach Learning Community tutors and writing support
- Supplemental Instruction
- Student access to science and academic advising

Since the implementation of SEF-HVDI, the university and its colleges have increased first-year student retention and graduation rates to an all-time high (6-year rate: 68%, 4-year rate: 26%) corresponding to about 800 more students graduating this year. All ethnic group graduation rates have increased. The graduation rate for transfer students has also reached an all-time high (4-year rate: 86%).

Consultation process: All seven colleges submit proposals under the leadership of the deans. The proposals are developed by faculty and staff in various units in consultation with the respective student organizations. Proposals are reviewed by the HVDI Steering Committee and assessed based on evidence of prior success at CSULB or support in national literature and the extent to which they directly supported the goals of HVDI. These recommendations are presented to the Associate Student Inc. (ASI) leadership for their input and recommendations. The provost reviews the recommendations and submits them to the president for final approval.

## Academic Chairs Educational Services Fund

The Academic Chairs Educational Services fund provides department chairs with professional development opportunities for their faculty. This enables faculty to attend professional conferences and provide students with timely instructional materials.

Consultation process: Funding is provided to each department based on the number of full-time equivalent faculty with a minimum of \$750. Department chairs review faculty requests and allocate the funding to benefit faculty development and student success.

## Student Technology Services & Academic Equipment & Lab Facilities

The SEF-TECH fund enhances “technology that touches students.” The main criterion for awards is that the technology use directly benefits student learning. Highest priorities include student computer labs, high-tech classrooms, and other instructional equipment such as for science and engineering. Second priority is assigned to maintenance, support, and training for instructional technology. Other requests may be supported, if funds are available, so long as uses involve “technology that touches students.”

Funded requests include:

- Improve classroom instructional delivery, simplify information sharing, and provide lecture capture;
- Implement new software to support student success, update and upgrade student computer labs, and add technology collaboration spaces;
- Implement software to enhance accessibility technology for students to include software licenses for Commonlook Office and PDF, JAWS screen reader licenses, Kurzweil 3000, Titanium scheduling system, and virtual servers to host and expand the quantity of e-reserves and electronic instructional materials;
- Enable students to use academic-licensed software on personal devices (smartphone, home computer, etc.) for classroom assignments;
- Enhance wireless access, improve bandwidth, and add more coverage and allow multiple student device connectivity;
- Provide active learning classrooms with smart technology for instructional spaces;
- Maintain and refresh smart rooms;
- Upgrade old classroom with new smart room technology;
- Refresh computers every three to four years in student open access labs, teaching labs, computer labs, and computer classrooms;
- Maintain software (site licenses) warranties and contracts;
- Provide additional streaming videos, eBooks and online databases for students;
- Provide students with state-of-the-art technology and 3D printing lab for the campus housed in the Library;
- Offer first-year freshman and transfer students an online financial literacy platform;
- Implement an online scholarship management system that creates a simple, effective, student-friendly process for students to locate and apply for scholarships;
- Address miscellaneous technology needs, e.g. servers, and partially offset miscellaneous course fees for general services courses; and
- Replace, maintain, and upgrade instructional lab equipment and facilities to meet and enhance student learning experiences.

Consultation process: Deans, vice presidents, and directors are requested to develop proposals with appropriate student and faculty consultation. Student consultation should include one or both of the two ASI elected senators from the respective college. The provost reviews the baseline plans and proposals with the ASI and academic leadership and submits the recommended allocations to the president for final approval.

## **Student Services – Student Success, Health and Welfare**

The funding allows the Division of Student Services to continue providing and enhancing services to students and student groups. Student success, health and welfare programs include:

- On-campus Career Readiness Internship Program
- Latina Connection Conference
- Continuing mental health provision resources
- CSULB Student Emergency Intervention Program
- Student Development Fellows Program
- Summer Bridge Program and Guardian Scholars for peer mentors and tutoring support
- Assistants with comprehensive programming of cultural resource centers and advocacy for ethnically and culturally diverse students
- ATOD programs
- Yoga and Mindfulness Programs
- Men’s Success Initiative
- Body Positive at the Beach
- Long Beach College Promise
- Assistant Program Directors and faculty to support comprehensive programming of cultural resource centers and advocacy for ethnically and culturally diverse students

## **Administration and Finance – U-Pass Program and Campus Shuttles**

The university provides two important transportation-related services to the campus community:

- The U-Pass program is a contractual agreement between Long Beach Transit and CSULB that allows qualifying students, faculty, and staff unlimited boarding on all Long Beach Transit buses. The U-Pass program is an important form of alternate transportation that provides a valuable service to our campus community while reducing our parking demands and greenhouse emissions.
- The campus provides shuttle services on campus and around the surrounding community to assist with ingress and egress and reduces on-campus traffic. Due to the size of the campus and the many students who live nearby, this has proven to be a very valuable and popular service.

Between the U-Pass program and the campus shuttle services, the university spends approximately \$1.6 million annually. The allocation of Student Excellence Fees helps defray the ongoing cost of providing these valuable services to the campus community.

## **Athletics Department - Student-Athlete Scholarships**

The CSULB Athletics Department supports over 350 student-athletes on 19 different men's and women's teams. The majority of these student-athletes receive some form of financial assistance (scholarship) from the Athletics Department. These scholarships allow some who may otherwise not have the opportunity to attend college to obtain their college degree while participating in athletics. Moreover, athletic scholarships help recruit better student-athletes, thereby producing successful teams and bringing added notoriety to CSULB. The annual total of scholarship expenditure for student-athletes exceeds \$2.7 million. The allocation of Student Excellence Fees helps defray the ongoing cost of providing athletic scholarships.

## **Consultation with Associate Student Inc. (ASI) Leadership**

In spring 2017, the review committee consisting of the vice presidents, associate vice presidents, executive director for Athletics, and ASI Leadership members, both in-coming and out-going elected president, vice president and treasurer, met to discuss the proposals submitted for Student Excellence Fee, Parts I and II funding. Each area eligible for SEF funding was invited to present their proposals. The presentation included proposals that were developed with consultation with students, faculty, and staff at the college-division levels.

Proposals requesting funding from SEF Part I, Student Success, adhered to the framework outlined in EO 1055 for highly valued degree initiatives and first-year academic support programs, student success, health and welfare funds, academic chair funds, sustainability/U-Pass/Shuttle, Multicultural/Student Center, and Intercollegiate Athletics.

Proposals requesting funding from SEF Part II, technology that touches students, were evaluated based on how the items benefitted the greatest number of students and priority was given to currently enrolled students over future students.

The provost reviews the recommendations and submits them to the president for final approval.

California State University, Long Beach  
Student Excellence Fee Allocations

DIVISION	Semester Cost Per Student	2016-17 Actuals	2017-18 Actuals	2018-19 Estimates
<b>Fall and Spring terms:</b>				
Academic Affairs				
- Highly Valued Degree Initiative	\$33.00	\$2,334,249	\$2,451,770	\$2,284,177
- Academic Chairs Services Fund	\$2.00	\$146,841	\$148,417	\$137,000
- Student Tech/Equip/Facilities	\$79.00	\$5,728,017	\$5,828,017	\$5,728,017
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,209,107</b>	<b>\$8,428,204</b>	<b>\$8,149,194</b>
Student Services				
- Student Success, Health & Welfare	\$6.00	\$440,523	\$445,251	\$412,000
- Multicultural/Student Centers	\$3.00	\$220,262	\$222,626	\$206,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$660,785</b>	<b>\$667,877</b>	<b>\$618,000</b>
Administration & Finance	\$2.00	\$146,841	\$148,417	\$137,000
- Partial funding of Upass Program and campus shuttles				
Athletics	\$34.00	\$2,496,299	\$2,523,091	\$2,336,000
- Partial funding of student-athlete scholarships				
Instructionally Related Activities Reliance Relief (from Intercollegiate Athletics)	\$7.00	\$513,944	\$519,460	\$481,000
ASI Reliance Relief (from Intercollegiate Athletics)	\$7.00	\$513,944	\$519,460	\$481,000
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$173.00</b>	<b>\$12,540,920</b>	<b>\$12,806,509</b>	<b>\$12,202,194</b>