FY27 SFAC Innovation Grants

VCSACL Leadership Meeting

Finance & Operations | January 2026

What is SFAC and What are Student Services Fees?

- The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) is a committee of faculty, staff, and (mostly) students who are charged at every UC campus to oversee Student Services Fees (SSF), which are an element of tuition, and are restricted to supporting **non-instructional student services** and related financial aid.

- Every graduate and undergraduate student pays ~$444 per quarter (AY26 cohort), generating ~$50M annually.

- The committee's charge is to ensure the revenue is used in the best interest of the university and its students, and in compliance with existing policies and guidelines.

- The committee is also charged with implementing a grant program to foster innovation, test new ideas, and fund **one-time investments that support the student experience.**

UC San Diego

What Departments are Funded by SSF?

- VCSACL Arts & Activation

- VCSACL Campus Life

- VCSACL Global Initiatives

- VCSACL Recreation

- VCSACL Student Affairs

- VCOT Student Retention & Success

- Student Health & Wellbeing

- Undergraduate Colleges

- Graduate Education & Postdoctoral Affairs

- CARE @ SARC

- ADA Transportation

- Financial Aid

- Capital Projects & Debt Service

UC San Diego

What are Innovation Grants?

- SFAC will issue up to $250,000 in multiple grants of **one-time funding** for innovative ideas that meet emerging student needs. The grants will range in value from **$20,000 - $70,000** and each proposal will be evaluated on two *quantitative* measures and two *qualitative* measures:

  <u>Quantitative</u>

  - **Breadth:** Number of students served divided by number of students eligible to participate.
  - **Value:** Cost of program or service divided by the number of participants.

  <u>Qualitative</u>

  - **Depth:** Subjective measurement of how deeply each participant is impacted by the program or service.
  - **Equity:** Subjective measurement of how a program assumes responsibility for the elimination of inequities.

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What is the Application Process?

- Historically, **most budget proposals have not scored highly in every category**, nor is there an expectation that they will. However, SFAC recommends that your request highlights how it will support these values, where applicable.

- Provide an overview of your request, including your intended outcomes and metrics for measuring impact or success. **Proposals with an emphasis on collective impact are encouraged.** If funded, you will be expected to work with VCSACL Resource Planning to develop an assessment plan.

- All requests will require a meeting between the requesting unit head and a subcommittee of SFAC members to answer clarifying questions and provide additional details. **Formal presentations are <u>NOT</u> an expectation.**

- Please limit the length of your request to **two pages or less.** SFAC is interested in thoughtful, intriguing, and compelling requests that will have a meaningful impact on the student experience. Please attach any supporting documentation like proof of concept at other institutions, supporting research, survey results, or impact reports, if any.

UC San Diego

Due: Friday, Jan 23, 2026

Student Fee Advisory Committee
FY 25-26 Innovation Grant Request Narrative

SUBMIT TO: JOHNHUGHES@UCSD.EDU BY JAN. 23, 2026

The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) will be issuing multiple grants of one-time funding for innovative ideas that meet emerging student needs. The grants will range in value from **$20,000 - $70,000** and each proposal will be evaluated on two *quantitative* measures and two *qualitative* measures.

Quantitative
- **Breadth:** Number of students served divided by number of students eligible to participate.
- **Value:** Cost of program or service divided by the number of participants.

Qualitative
- **Depth:** Subjective measurement of how deeply each participant is impacted by the program or service.
- **Equity:** Subjective measurement of how a program assumes responsibility for the elimination of inequities.

Historically, most budget proposals have not scored highly in every category, nor is there an expectation that they will. However, the committee wants you to be aware of its metrics and SFAC recommends that your request highlights how it will support these values, where applicable.

In the expandable text box below, please provide an overview of your request, including your intended outcomes and metrics for measuring impact or success. Proposals with an emphasis on collective impact are encouraged. If funded, you will be expected to work with VCSACL Resource Planning to develop an assessment plan.

All requests will require a meeting between the requesting unit head and a subcommittee of SFAC members to answer clarifying questions and provide additional details. Formal presentations are NOT an expectation.

Please limit the length of this request to **two pages or less,** not including this cover page. SFAC is interested in thoughtful, intriguing, and compelling requests that will have a meaningful impact on the student experience. Please attach any supporting documentation like proof of concept at other institutions, supporting research, survey results, or impact reports, if any.

Proposal Title:	
Dept or Unit:	Request Amount: $

Expandable Text Box

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Student Fee Advisory Committee
FY26-27 Innovation Grant Budget Summary

SUBMIT TO JOHNHUGHES@UCSD.EDU BY JAN. 23, 2026

Proposal Title: EXAMPLE: Student Engagement App and Associated Pilot Program

Executive Summary: EXAMPLE: With a $47,000 one-time grant, in combination with $20,000 of department funding, CSI proposes to develop and pilot a novel civil engagement app to meet an emerging student need. With these funds, our unit will deliver a cohort-based experience that culminates in a year-end symposium event that will include assessment.

Functional Area: EX: AVC Campus Life   Dept. or Unit: EX: Center for Student Involvement

Collective Impact: If you will be collaborating with another unit(s), please list: EX: UG Colleges

Scope or Scale: ☑ Scope: This proposal introduces a new program or service to meet emerging needs.
☐ Scale: This proposal expands an existing program or service to meet increased demand.

Alignment with VCSACL Strategic Plan:

Best Aligns With: ⦿ Resourceful Resilience ○ Technological Empowerment ○ Inclusive Belonging ○ Communal Responsibility ○ Other

Also Aligns With: ☐ Resourceful Resilience ☐ Technological Empowerment ☑ Inclusive Belonging ☐ Communal Responsibility ☐ Other

Explanation if Other:

Budget Line Items

General Assistance (includes student employees, casual employees (STE) & contracted services, rounded to nearest $100)
NO career staffing requests will be considered

Working Title	Annual Hours	Rate/Hour	One-Time Funding
Contract App Developer	1000	$50	$50,000
Student Program Coordinators	500	$20	$10,000
General Assistance Subtotal			$60,000

Non-Compensation (supplies, expenses, equipment & travel, rounded to the nearest $100)

Description	One-Time Funding
Program Supplies	$2,000
Event & Assessment Expenses	$5,000
Non-Compensation Subtotal	$7,000

Total Innovation Grant Request

	One-Time Funding
Subtotal General Assistance and Non-Compensation	$67,000
Department Matching Funds: Deduct from Subtotal General Assistance and Non-Compensation (if any)	-$20,000
Total Innovation Grant Request Amount	$47,000

Please attach request narrative and all supporting documentation.