

2024-2025 Student Fee Advisory Committee
Annual Report

Funding Priorities for 2024-2025 Budget Requests

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee by,
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Executive Summary

In the Winter of 2025, twelve Innovation Grant Request Narratives were submitted to the 2024-2025 Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) at UC San Diego for review. Each request ranged in value from \$20,000 - \$70,000 and was judged on two *quantitative* (Breadth & Value) and two *qualitative* (Depth & Equity) measures. Grant awards will be distributed on a one-time basis, at the start of fiscal year 2025 for implementation during the 2025-2026 academic year. In a year marked by record budget cuts, the SFAC remains steadfast in its commitment to empower innovative ideas that positively impact the student experience. **The Committee's formal recommendations are listed below, with full funding proposed for the first five units.**

Funded

1. **Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC):** Family Pantry & Children's Closet
2. **Recreation (Rec):** CPR
3. **Recreation (Rec):** Hudl Focus Camera
4. **Recreation (Rec):** Uplevel Gaming Facility
5. **Recreation (Rec):** Beach in a Box

Not Funded

6. **Career Services Center (CSC):** Pre-Health Voucher
7. **Career Services Center (CSC):** Future Ready Library
8. **Recreation (Rec):** Bright Breaks
9. **Center for Student Accountability, Growth, and Education (SAGE):**
Restorative Justice Day
10. **Center for Student Accountability, Growth, and Education (SAGE):**
CollegeVine
11. **Global Initiatives:** RISE
12. **International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO):** Sustainable Video Library

The subsequent pages of this report outline detailed descriptions of the Committee's methodology and values, as well as individual commentary on each proposal.

Introduction

In 1994, the University of California (UC) Regents Policy 3101 established the Student Services Fee (SSF) and the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) as a direct oversight body. The SSF is intended to “support services and programs that directly benefit students and that are complementary to, but not part of, the core instructional program.” Today, the SSF is the largest fee charged to UC students and generates over \$50 million in revenue per year.

For the past four years, the SFAC has received \$200,000 - \$250,000 from SSF revenue to allocate towards programs. From Winter to Spring 2025, our committee underwent a rigorous selection process to choose the Innovation Grant recipients. Firstly, preliminary discussions were held to note initial reactions and additional questions for applicants. Members were then split into four separate subcommittees to streamline information and ensure an unbiased and diverse range of perspectives. Subcommittees were tasked with reviewing three proposals each, engaging in interviews with professional staff, and presenting their observations to the larger committee. The selection process came to a close after a series of thoughtful discussions on all information that was gathered, which culminated in the final recommendations as indicated above.

Challenges

A glaring challenge of this year’s term is record budget cuts from the state and federal levels. For the 2026 fiscal year, California Governor Gavin Newsom proposed a nearly 8% cut to the University of California (roughly \$400 million). Moreover, under the Trump Administration, the Federal Government has slashed research grants. As a result, UC San Diego is planning for a 5.25% cut to all departments, including the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs & Campus Life (VCSACL), under which SFAC and most of SSF is housed. (See Fiscal Year 2024 Student Services Fee (SSF) Expenditures, Figures 2.1 and 2.2 for a full breakdown of FY2024 SSF expenditures) Due to the University’s strong emphasis on job retention, VCSACL departments have had to resort to creative means to deliver the same quality of services but at a lower cost. One of the methods by which this was accomplished was through AI proposals submitted to SFAC. This

was the first year that the Committee received an influx of these proposals, and it may foreshadow future trends amidst this current financial climate.

The UC and others will likely suffer additional cuts in the future, which will further impact essential student services and programs. This poses significant concerns for the future of student affairs and all activity conducted at institutions of higher education, as they are key pillars of knowledge; social mobility; and community engagement. The current reduction in financial resources threatens the ability of these institutions to fulfill these critical roles, which leaves students and communities at risk of losing systems that serve to mobilize society and facilitate progress.

I anticipate that these challenges will have definitive impacts on SFAC in the coming years. It is my hope that the Committee can adapt to a forward-facing role and directly support administrators in making difficult decisions, as well as continue to empower student voices at UC San Diego.

Procedure

The Innovation Grant selection process began with an intensive, thorough discussion on preliminary reactions to each proposal. Members fleshed through basic details and noted additional questions, as well as ranked each proposal on two *quantitative* (Breadth & Value) and two *qualitative* (Depth & Equity) measures. As briefly mentioned earlier, members were split into subcommittees — each with a subcommittee lead and three proposals to independently review. Leads initiated contact with each applicant to schedule a 30 minute to 1 hour, in-depth interview process. Commentary from the aforementioned discussions were directly brought to these interviews, where applicants had the opportunity to provide additional context and expand on their proposal. Each subcommittee was then tasked with sharing all updated information with their respective affiliate bodies, like the eight college councils and the Associated Students (AS) body. Finally, all of this information was summarized in a final presentation to the SFAC and a final discussion was initiated to decide each proposal's rank and funding status.

A norm in SFAC's selection procedure over the last few years has been the use of the 4 Scoring Metrics: Breadth, Value, Depth, and Equity. The former two are strict,

quantitative metrics that aim to measure tangible impact to students. The latter two are more subjective, aimed to gauge depth of impact to the student experience. Proposals ranked from whole number assignments on a scale of 1 to 10 for each metric.

Quantitative Measures

Breadth: A measure of how many students are affected by or use this service. This score is standardized by comparing the total number of students who are eligible for a service by the unique number of students that are served.

Value: A measure of how cost matches impact. Also referred to as cost per student – This score measures the amount and quality of services that can be provided per student, per dollar. Other factors may be taken into consideration, like duration of a proposed program and/or accessibility of a resource outside of the University.

Qualitative Measures

Depth: A measure of how deeply a student that uses this service is affected by it. For example, does it target a student's well-being, academics, career, or other future endeavors? Does it have long-term, tangible impacts that can significantly shift their college experience? To give an example, a program that is geared towards career readiness tends to score higher on this metric.

Equity: A measure of how a program assumes responsibility for the elimination of inequities. Similar to Depth, this metric is one that focuses on impact. Is the program addressing any underrepresented or underprivileged groups on campus? If so, how deeply would this group be impacted?

Proposal Rankings

The 2024-2025 Student Fee Advisory Committee's formal recommendations are listed below in descending order, with full funding proposed for the first five units.

Note that final rankings do not align with the overall scores for a few of the proposals. While our scoring metrics are reliable, they are only meant to be guidelines and may not entirely reflect the Committee's priorities for investments.

Proposal	Budget Request	4 Scoring Metrics					Rank
		Breadth	Value	Depth	Equity	Overall	
SVRC: Family Food Pantry & Children's Closet	\$50,000	6.1	7.6	8.3	8.4	7.6	1
Rec: CPR	\$49,700	8.0	9.1	8.7	7.7	8.4	2
Rec: Hudl Focus Camera	\$20,000	7.7	8.0	6.9	7.2	7.4	3
Rec: Uplevel Gaming Facility	\$70,000	7.4	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.8	4
Rec: Beach in a Box	\$20,000	7.5	7.2	5.7	6.0	6.6	5
CSC: Pre-Health Voucher Program	\$70,000	3.5	4.8	6.9	6.6	5.5	6
CSC: Future Ready Library	\$61,000	6.5	5.2	5.4	6.8	6.0	7
Rec: Bright Breaks	\$37,000	4.6	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.9	8
SAGE: Restorative Justice Day	\$28,150	3.8	2.8	5.6	5.2	4.4	9
SAGE: CollegeVine	\$70,000	5.2	4.7	4.3	3.9	4.5	10
Global Initiatives: RISE	\$70,000	2.3	2.2	4.1	3.7	3.1	11
ISEO: Sustainable Video Library	\$38,700	4.5	3.3	2.9	3.7	3.6	12
Average	\$49,623	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.9	-
Total	\$545,850	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1 – 2024-2025 SFAC Final Proposal Rankings

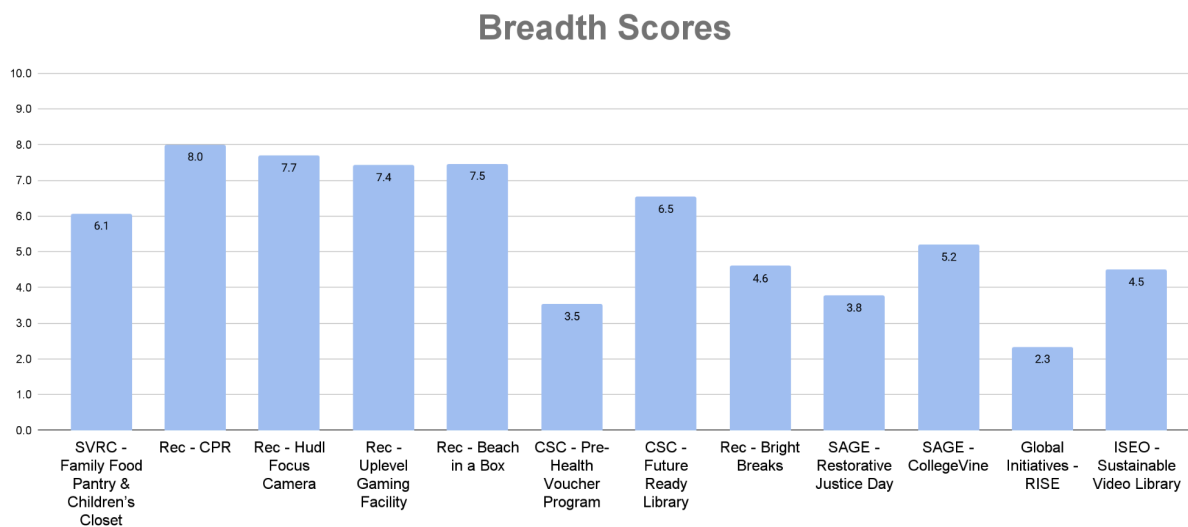


Figure 1.1 – Breadth Scores

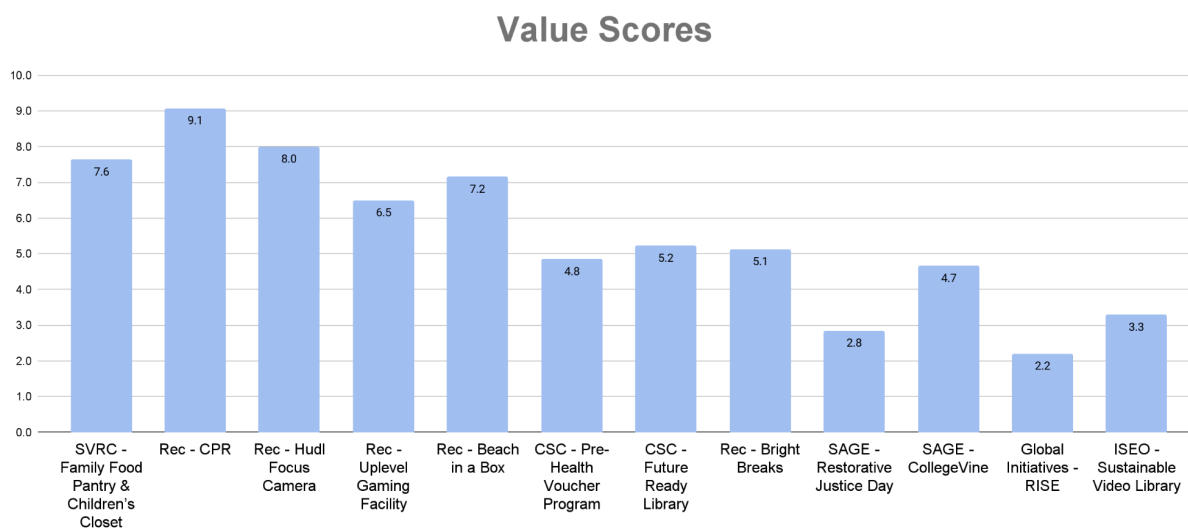


Figure 1.2 – Value Scores

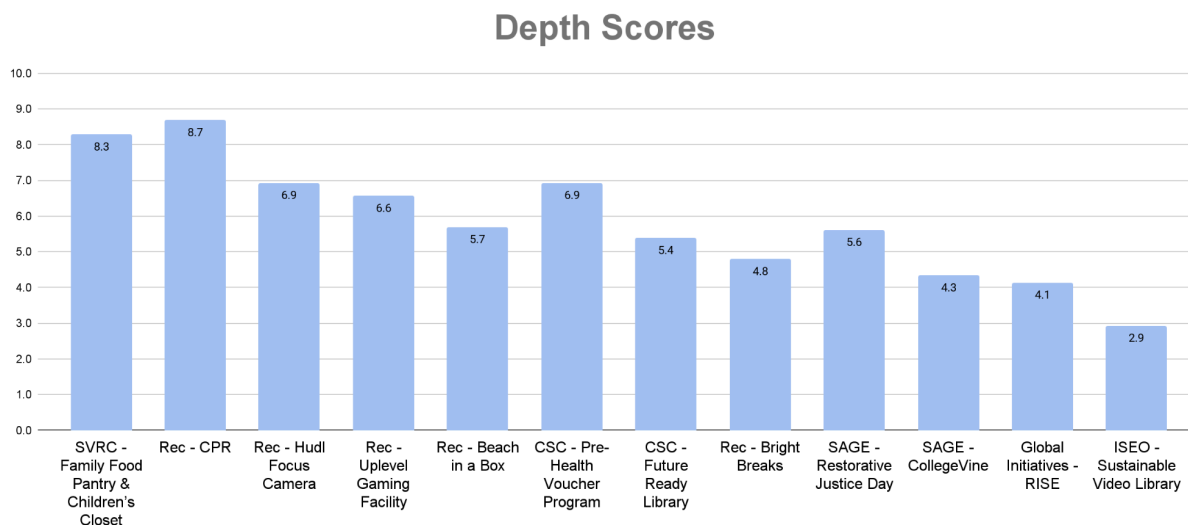


Figure 1.3 – Depth Scores

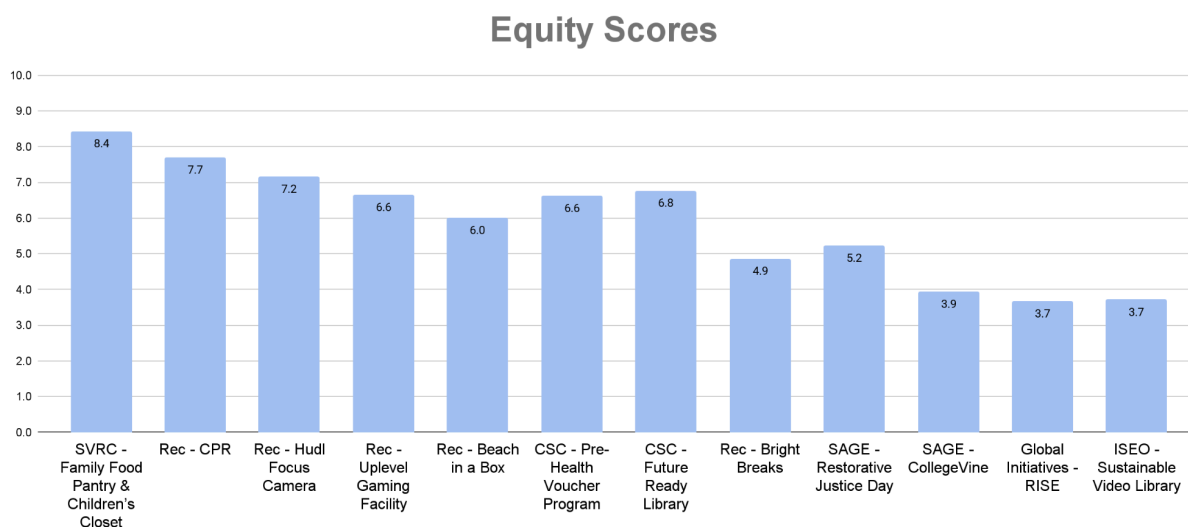


Figure 1.4 – Equity Scores

Unit Commentaries

1. Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC): Family Pantry & Children's Closet – 7.6

The Family Food Pantry and Children's Closet relies on a partnership between the Triton Transfer Hub, Student Veterans Resource Center, and the Students with Dependents Program to provide a strong foundation for the initiative. The \$50,000 Innovation Grant funded by the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) will result in the launch of the Family Food Pantry and Children's Closet containing basic needs items like food, children's clothing, childcare essentials, grocery gift cards, and school supplies to support dependents. Furthermore, data collection efforts will aim to secure precise statistics on the number of undiscovered parenting students in need of resources and assistance. The initiative will be readily accessible to parenting students during flexible hours to not only mitigate the upfront cost of the aforementioned necessities, but also decrease the time spent to obtain these items and support the success of hardworking student caregivers at UC San Diego. The Family Food Pantry and Children's Closet not only serves as an innovative extension of a service that provides students with the items above, but also minimizes miscellaneous costs, making education more equitable at UC San Diego.

SFAC is confident in the mission of the Family Food Pantry and Children's Closet and recognizes that the values of the initiative closely align with SFAC's 4 metrics: Breadth, Value, Depth, and Equity. The Committee recognizes this by awarding this project with one of the highest post-interview scores, affirming the proposal's strength and innovative potential. This initiative specifically earned the highest Equity score due to its goal of actively eliminating hardships faced by UC San Diego's population of student caregivers. In turn, this student demographic has more freedom to focus on their education and families. Without SFAC's approval of funding, these services would not be able to meet the demand of such a critical student population. SFAC is eager to support innovative initiatives, such as the Family Food Pantry and Children's Closet, that create campus-wide resources and assistance, benefiting students with dependents over time.

2. Recreation (Rec): CPR – 8.4

UC San Diego Recreation proposes to extend its existing CPR/AED instruction program to over 87 subsidized certification courses in CPR, AED, First Aid, and Narcan training. These courses are designed to equip up to 870 students and staff with life-saving skills that are applicable in real emergencies, on- and off-campus. While the typical cost of certification is over \$90, Recreation has secured a reduced rate of just \$57.15 per student, which will be fully covered by the SFAC Innovation Grant of \$49,700. This increases accessibility for students, especially those pursuing careers in healthcare who need these certifications for internships or employment. The expansion also reflects a timely response to ongoing public health concerns by integrating Narcan administration into the curriculum.

SFAC supports this proposal for its exceptional Value (9.1), Breadth (8.0), and Depth (8.7), recognizing its potential for long-term impact on campus safety and wellness. Additionally, with an Equity score of 7.7, this proposal also increases access to life-saving certifications, particularly for students from low-income backgrounds who may not be able to afford these training sessions. We encourage Recreation to continue promoting equity, such as reserving seats for underrepresented students and prioritizing student access. We also recommend hiring certified student instructors to lead training classes, which reinforces peer-led education and supports student employment and professional growth. This proposal aligns strongly with SFAC's mission and is a great investment in the health of the UC San Diego student community.

3. Recreation (Rec): Hudl Focus Camera – 7.4

UC San Diego Recreation is requesting \$20,000 from SFAC's Innovation Grant to enhance its competitive sports program through the implementation of Hudl Focus Camera technology. Recreation plans to acquire two mounted and four portable cameras to enrich the experience for students participating in intramural and club-level sports. This investment will provide professional-grade tools to over 6,000 students (enrolled in intramural and club-level sports) at a cost of approximately \$12 per student.

SFAC awarded this proposal an overall score of 7.4. The Committee recognized this initiative as a valuable opportunity to level the playing field by providing all UCSD

students access to professional-grade equipment. Since students themselves have expressed a desire for these tools, this investment will offer significant benefits, including high-quality video analysis, live streaming capabilities, and professional development opportunities. With the continued growth of UCSD's competitive sports scene, this proposal expands opportunities for student athletes and elevates the University's presence in the competitive sports community. Additionally, the proposal's emphasis on equity, engagement, and sustainability presents a compelling vision to enhance the recreational experience, empower students, and further advance UC San Diego's recreational sports vision.

4. Recreation (Rec): Uplevel Gaming Facility – 6.8

UC San Diego's new Uplevel Gaming Facility is a multi-dimensional initiative proposed by the Recreation Department. The Committee believes this project directly addresses the evolving needs of our student body by creating a space that fosters belonging, supports career development, and builds community. From Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, the existing Triton Esports Center (TEC) experienced 1,408 unique users and 5,883 total scans for Open Rec, with consistent waitlists during peak hours. These numbers clearly indicate that the current facility is at capacity, and expansion is overdue.

SFAC noted the strong financial structure of the proposal, especially the fact that \$49,000 out of the \$70,000 request (70%) will go directly back to students through paid Esports Assistant roles. The facility provides students with career-building opportunities in areas like game management, game design, and even students pursuing a career in esports — while offering valuable campus employment. The facility also has active partnerships with industry-facing departments and programs and alumni, ensuring that students using the facility are connected to broader professional networks.

Beyond employment skills and skills training, the social and emotional benefits of this facility were also a major point of discussion. Spaces like these can be transformative — particularly for introverted students or those new to campus — offering a welcoming environment to de-stress, meet others, and form lasting bonds. In Fall 2024 alone, TEC engaged 1,330 unique users and held 10 weekly events with 229 participants, further emphasizing its role as a community hub. We also discussed the proposal's

commitment to equity and access, including free use of high-end equipment and continued technology donation to underserved groups. It is a well-rounded, student-focused investment that supports mental well-being, inclusion, and professional growth.

5. Recreation (Rec): Beach in a Box – 6.6

UC San Diego Recreation is seeking \$20,000 to pilot the “Beach-in-a-Box” project during Fall and Spring Quarters 2025-26. This project guarantees increased student access to outdoor recreation, health, and civic engagement through affordable access to beach gear at Scripps Beach for UCSD students. These funds will be used for the purchase of high-quality sport and beach gear, and student staffing to supply staff to station the weekends. The Beach-in-a-Box will be a mobile recreation center, featuring but not limited to: beach chairs, umbrellas, boogie-boards, spike ball sets, cornhole, frisbees, paddleball sets, and other beach essentials for an active and enjoyable day at the beach. By leveraging UC San Diego’s unique coastal position, this project addresses student wellness in a holistic way — encouraging exercise, relaxation, and socializing in nature. Equipment will be checked out by students using their campus ID and will be run by Recreation student employees. Simplicity and sustainability are emphasized in the program, with the station serviced and refilled on a regular basis. While the initial committee rating of 5.6 was revealed to reflect some hesitation towards the extent of the proposal and long-term scalability; post-interview final rating of 6.6 reflects a deep rethinking after clarification of its intention, approach, and potential student impact.

UC San Diego Recreation demonstrated meticulous planning, budget-friendly approach, and apparent reason for requesting student input in evaluating the program’s viability in the future. The Committee appreciates the creativity and student-focused nature of this proposal. As a low-cost, highly participatory proposal, it is an innovative approach in the use of student fees for promoting wellness and community building. Beach-in-a-Box is congruent with SFAC’s mission to enrich student life through sustainable, inclusive, and meaningful programming. SFAC recommends funding for this project as a wonderful contribution to campus life that utilizes the special setting of UC San Diego to enrich overall student well-being.

6. Career Services Center (CSC): Pre-Health Voucher – 5.5

The mission of the Career Service Center (CSC) is to provide support and help students fulfill their career goals, regardless of their background. For this proposal, CSC is seeking to support pre-med and pre-health students that have financial difficulties with obtaining practical healthcare experiences and preparing for graduate programs. CSC is seeking \$70,000 to create a pilot voucher programs to offer 22 pre-med and pre-health students an opportunity to acquire their field required certification, including but not limited to: Phlebotomy Technician Certification, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), or Medical Assistant (MA). With the ability to obtain their certification from the Pre-Health Voucher Program, the targeted students would be able to develop other skills, such as patient communication and clinical procedures, while demonstrating their commitment towards obtaining practical healthcare experience.

SFAC believes that this proposal would ultimately create a big impact for pre-health students. This resulted in CSC receiving one of the highest Depth scores, emphasizing how this program would affect the student life experience at UCSD and beyond. CSC's proposal also received a high Equity score (6.6), due to its targeting of pre-med and pre-health students that are from a low income bracket or disadvantaged background. Besides that, SFAC also believes that the proposal would be a great stepping stone because students receive flexible amounts (depending on their program) and more applications may be accepted.

On the other hand, the uncertainty of how much each student receives from the \$2500 (after accounting for cost of certification and various programs) and the fact that 19% of the proposal is dedicated for the application review team, resulted in a Value score of 4.8. Aside from the Value, this program only targeted around 22 students – which resulted in a low breadth score (3.5). Overall, SFAC would like to see student fees be geared towards a more student-centric and innovative approach.

7. Career Services Center (CSC): Future Ready Library – 6.0

The UCSD Career Services Center hopes to create a Future Ready Library, addressing the gaps that students face in access, personalization, inclusivity, and efficiency in

career education at UCSD. This online library will provide resources such as videos, interviews, podcasts, and social media campaigns to support multiple student groups, and it would be located on Handshake where students have easy access while searching for jobs. They are hoping to collaborate with resource centers at UCSD, like APIMEDA, Cross-Cultural, Intertribal, LGBTQ+ identities, Raza, Student Veteran, OSD, etc, to provide catered career guidance. The Career Center is requesting a one-time, \$61,000 grant from SFAC, with \$57,600 of the budget going towards potential student employees for the project lead, resource liaison, video production manager, webpage manager, and project support. The rest of the funds would be used for monthly meetings throughout the project.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee had a total average score for this proposal at 6.0 on a scale of 10. This proposal scored relatively high in Breadth at 6.5. The online platform would make this project accessible to all, especially with its placement on Handshake, where a lot of students look during the beginning of their career search/education. However, this proposal received a lower Value score of 5.2 and Depth score of 5.4. While the Committee recognizes the importance of bringing awareness to student experience gaps in career education, we had some doubts about how much these videos would impact UCSD students in their career journey. Additionally, most of the resource centers on campus have similar initiatives to alleviate challenges for their students and it could be difficult to coordinate collaboration between the centers. SFAC scored this proposal high in Equity at 6.8, because this project and its purpose of lifting up marginalized groups of students during their career journey is commendable. While SFAC supports the ideals of this project and the goal of lifting up these groups of students, we believe that this proposal may not require immediate prioritization because of the redundancy of the initiative and limited impact on students.

8. Recreation (Rec): Bright Breaks – 4.9

UC San Diego Recreation's mission is to engage students and the campus community in pursuing lifelong well-being, growth, and success. With a vision of inspiring all Tritons to lead active lives that support both physical and mental wellness, the department is continuously exploring new ways to enhance student health. As part of this commitment, Recreation has proposed an innovative, online-based wellness

platform called Bright Breaks. This is a web and app-based wellness platform that features over 40 live-streamed 7-minute breaks each day and over 900 on-demand videos ranging from nutrition to mental well-being to personal development. To support this, Recreation is requesting \$37,000, with \$35,000 of this request being the Bright Breaks fee, and \$2,000 is to support marketing, events, and assessment.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) had an average score for this proposal of 4.9 on a scale of 10. SFAC appreciated the Bright Breaks proposal and its focus on student wellness. While the importance of supporting student well-being is strongly recognized, committee members felt the platform's offerings closely resembled wellness resources already available to students through UCSD-supported tools, such as Headspace, YouTube, and similar platforms. As a result, there were concerns about its alignment with current funding priorities and potential for long-term impact. There were also concerns about the platform's ability to have prolonged student engagement. As such, the proposal did not clearly demonstrate a unique value proposition or significant innovation. Although the cost per student is relatively low, the Committee encourages future iterations of the proposal to clearly define its competitive edge, outline plans for continuous engagement, and provide data-driven projections of student impact to ensure that wellness initiatives like these are not only accessible but also actively utilized.

9. Center for Student Accountability, Growth, and Education (SAGE): Restorative Justice Day – 4.4

The Center for Student Accountability Growth, and Education (SAGE) oversees UC San Diego's Restorative Justice Program, which is involved in the training of student leaders (such as Resident Assistants, Orientation Leaders, sorority and fraternity leaders, sports club captains, etc.) in restorative justice practices. With a one-time \$28,150 grant, SAGE proposes to host "Restorative Justice Day", a campus-wide professional development day where students, staff, and faculty can be trained on restorative justice practices including de-escalation training, conflict resolution bootcamps, hazing prevention courses, and more. The cost per student would be \$56.30, assuming 500 attendees. Within this budget, SAGE aims to provide food for participants, marketing materials, a keynote speaker, and 10 microgrants awarded to 10 students/staff in the amount of \$300, which would go towards funding more opportunities to attend training

and development opportunities related to restorative justice.

With SAGE's established reputation and frequent invitations to speak on restorative justice, the proposed training appears thoughtfully developed. This is reflected in its relatively high scores for Depth (5.6) and Equity (5.2), indicating strong content and alignment with campus values. The inclusion of Innovation Microgrants further strengthens the proposal, supporting SFAC's mission to fund innovative initiatives. Despite these strengths, the proposal faces several challenges. It received lower scores for Breadth (3.8) and Value (2.8), partly due to its limited reach and relatively high cost per attendee. Since only a small number of participants benefit directly from the microgrants, the broader impact may be limited. Redirecting a portion of the funds toward marketing or broader campus engagement could increase visibility and participation. Additionally, the target audience of student leaders, such as Resident Assistants and Orientation Leaders, already receive similar training, often directly from SAGE, which may limit both attendance and engagement. The proposed time (Fall Quarter Week 1) also presents a mixed outcome. While it may attract enthusiastic first-years who aren't yet overwhelmed by coursework, many students are likely to prioritize social or entertainment-based events instead. Furthermore, student leaders may be occupied with their own Welcome Week responsibilities. Overall, while the proposal shows clear promise, its impact could be significantly enhanced through adjustments to timing, audience targeting, and fund allocation.

10. Center for Student Accountability, Growth, and Education (SAGE): College Vine – 4.5

The Center for Student Accountability, , Growth, and Education (SAGE) has recently added compliance training under their belt. This means they must administer mandatory student training, collect and update emergency information, and training compliance for all student and staff training. This also means they must follow up on students who don't comply with the training. Around 2,628 unique students are impacted by student conduct cases and 8,000 students are impacted by compliance requirements annually. Of those students, 14% may require notifications and a hold placed on their student account. 9% of those students decided to walk-in, email, and call with questions about their training or a hold on their account. As the years progress, UCSD's student population is forecasted to increase, putting a lot of stress

on SAGE since they are required to manually put holds and follow up on students who don't follow the deadlines for these trainings. College Vine AI would provide a solution to this by automating this process. For this, SAGE is requesting \$70,000 to create and train the pilot version. With College Vine AI, SAGE's current overload of work would be reduced and expansion options for this program could be discussed.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) scored this proposal a 4.5 out of 10, with scores of 5.2 in Breadth, 4.7 in Value, 4.3 in Depth, and 3.9 in Equity. We acknowledge the large number of students who will be impacted by this proposal and how it could help them. However, this proposal was lower ranked by SFAC for a couple of reasons. A big deterrent to our decision of investing in the proposal are dire sustainability problems with AI, which goes against UCSD's focus on environmental preservation. Continuing on, we had accuracy and risk concerns about the AI. This idea of student holds, training, or conduct cases being mishandled is highly plausible due to the large number of students that the AI will handle. There were also uncertainties around AI training and how mistakes would be handled. Lastly, some students may not feel comfortable talking to an AI about sensitive topics. This remains a possibility due to lack of feedback, but a student's experience may be worsened if AI is not handled carefully.

We believe that the negatives outweigh the positives in this scenario. We do not see the merit in implementing a system where student conduct cases are automated, unless AI becomes more sustainable and precise.

11. Global Initiatives: RISE – 3.1

The Global Initiatives Rising International Scholar Experience (R.I.S.E) initiative aims to facilitate student's engagement in global professional development, with a particular focus on those who face financial or personal barriers to travel. This department includes the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor, ISEO, and Study Abroad UCSD. With a \$70,000 Innovation Grant request provided by the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC), Global Initiatives aims to support at least 10 undergraduate students in traveling abroad with a faculty or staff mentor to attend a major international conference, where each student receives up to \$7,000 to cover all

necessary expenses. Expenses are expected to cover the average of a 6-day conference.

SFAC affirms the merits of this proposal and the intention to assist students explore career interests through international conference participation. The R.I.S.E. initiative received a Breadth score of 2.3. The number of students served (10) appears relatively limited in comparison to the scale and impact of other requests. Additionally, the proposal received a Value score of 2.2, reflecting the cost-effectiveness of the program's request.

While the program's goals and intentions are commendable, reflected by its fair Depth score of 4.1 and Equity score of 3.7, the selection and oversight process may be taken advantage of for its lenient application process, which increases the potential for misuse or inequitable access. Moreover, the proposal does not clearly outline how student outcomes will be tracked or how long-term impact of the program will be measured.

SFAC fully supports the goal of expanding global engagement opportunities, with the intention to provide more opportunities for underprivileged students. Such experiences can broaden perspectives and enhance academic or professional growth. We also acknowledge that global affairs are an undeniably instrumental part of the student experience and campus community. However, we believe that there are other ways to directly support these students by using this specific training program. SFAC prioritizes the support of student-centered opportunities and proposals that can accommodate the needs of a broad campus community.

12. International Services & Engagement Office (ISEO): Sustainable Video Library – 3.6

The International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO) currently provides a range of services, including in-person and virtual advising, technical support for F-1/J-1 visa status, and course enrollment assistance. ISEO is requesting \$41,200 to develop a Sustainable Video Knowledge Library intended to streamline student visa advising services. The proposed initiative involves utilizing the AI software Synthesia to create video summaries addressing the top 50 frequently asked advising questions, with

content derived from existing web page information. A contracted content manager would be responsible for scripting the videos and integrating them onto the website. The software operates on a subscription model with varying feature tiers.

SFAC appreciates the potential of video content to enhance student engagement, but is concerned that AI-generated summaries may not be the most effective approach. The committee noted that because a human content manager is still required to develop all scripts, the added value of using Synthesia to produce videos may not justify the cost. ISEO already maintains an active YouTube channel, which could serve as a more cost-effective platform for distributing similar content. Additionally, some committee members raised concerns about the language fluency of Synthesia's avatar features, particularly when tested in Spanish. SFAC also noted that if the key information is already available on the ISEO website, duplicating it in video format may not be the most effective use of resources.

ISEO shared that they have allocated internal funding for the Creator Tier version of Synthesia. Their request was specifically to upgrade to the Enterprise Tier, which involves a significantly higher cost for features that may not be essential. Based on these considerations, SFAC concluded that ISEO could effectively move forward with this initiative without additional funding support.

Conclusion

There are two features that stood out about SFAC's activities this year: Almost double the number of proposals were submitted (compared to the previous year), and a majority of the funded proposals are from Recreation. Firstly, the Committee feels reassured that the SSF is increasingly recognized as a valuable channel for funding and resource distribution. Now, more than ever, it is important that student voices are heard and student needs are met. Given this, we felt that it was important to prioritize programs that tangibly impact the student experience — for example, career development and readiness, recreational activities, and community engagement.

Many of the AI proposals, submitted in response to budget cuts and staffing demands, received low overall scores. While SFAC is sympathetic to current constraints and acknowledges the need for coordinated action, we concluded that this year's funds could be allocated in a more productive and student-centric manner. This is not to deter or discourage AI (or any similar) submissions in the future. SFAC reaffirms its commitment to working alongside administrators for the betterment of UC San Diego and the student experience.

One of the Chair and Vice Chair's responsibilities is to attend quarterly Council on Student Fees (CSF) meetings, where SFAC representatives from each UC campus meet to discuss "policy positions on student fees, campus-based fees, and tuition issues of importance to all campuses" (Council on Student Fees Charter, 2018). My Vice Chair and I built on the practices of other campuses to formalize relationships with fee advisory bodies on our own campus. Although no such communication or collaboration had existed prior, we worked closely with the Recreation Facilities Advisory Board (RFAB) and University Centers Advisory Board (UCAB) to bridge that gap. It is my hope that these relationships will continue into future years and ultimately grow into a productive, collaborative space to discuss student fees.

Fiscal Year 2024 Student Services Fee (SSF) Expenditures

Figure 2.1 – FY2024 UCSD SSF Expenses by VC Area: \$51.4M (\$Thousands)

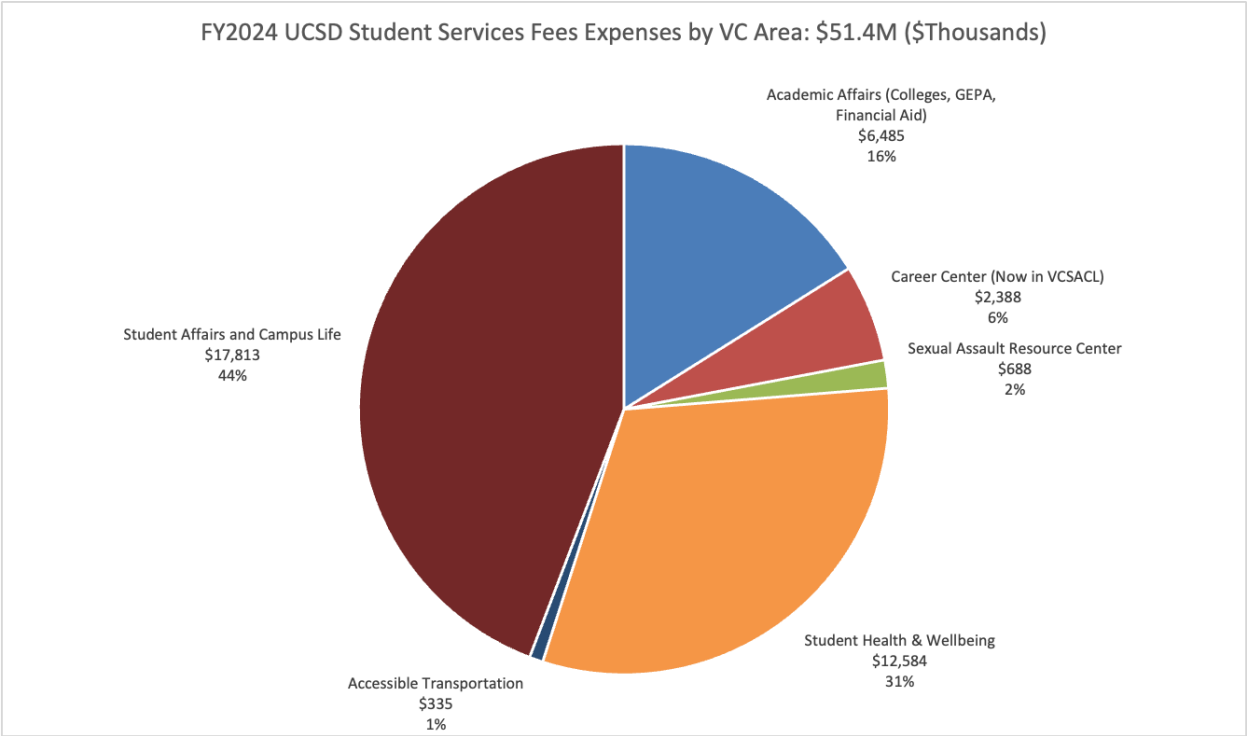
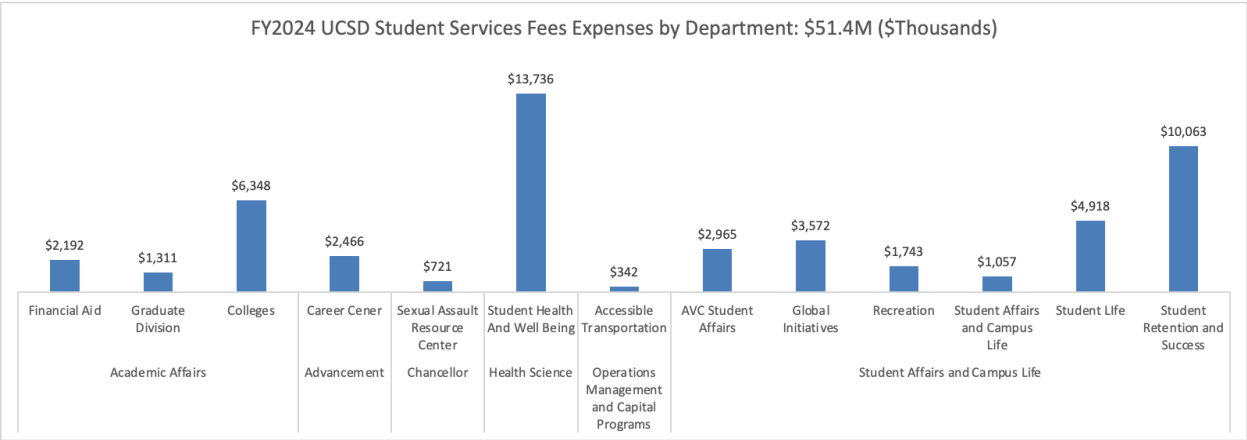


Figure 2.2 – FY2024 UCSD SSF Expenses by Department: \$51.4M (\$Thousands)



Chair Remarks

It has been my utmost honor to serve as this year's Chair, as well as the Vice Chair and Sixth College Representative in the previous two years. My time on SFAC has been one of growth and change, as we navigated the transition to one-time allocations; relationships with other fee advisory boards; and current budget cuts. I am confident that we have accomplished all that we set out to do this year and have set up the SFAC for success in future years. As we look forward, I'd like to extend my congratulations to next year's Chair and Vice Chair: Mina Nguyen and Snigdha Podugu. You have both demonstrated excellent leadership and dedication during your past two terms on SFAC. I feel assured that the future of this committee is in good hands, and I am so excited to observe your continued success next year.

With all the years that I've been on SFAC, there are many people who I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude towards. First off, thank you to John Hughes and Sara Kaup for your unwavering support throughout the years. You both are truly the drivers of the Committee, and it would not be able to function nearly the same without you. Thank you to my Vice Chair, Will Lang, for your help this year. This report and all of the work that we've done would not have been possible without you. I look back fondly on our long but silly CSF days, as well as all the countless hours we spent in meetings. Finally, thank you to each and every committee member: Annie H, Annie N, Carina, Divenaa, Ichiro, Jacob, Ketan, Marisa, Matthew, Mina, Nandhana, Nitin, Snigdha, Sofia, Sonal, Stephen, and Trung. If John and Sara are the drivers of the Committee, you all are the heart. I always look forward to our lively and productive conversations, and I am immensely proud of the work that we have accomplished together.



Lanchi Huynh Nguyen, SFAC Chair 2024-2025

Credits

This report was written in collaboration with the following:

Annie Hoang.....Sixth College Representative
Annie Nguyen.....Secretary
Divenaa Madan.....Revelle College Shadow
Jacob T. Hoang.....Associated Students Representative
Ketan Jain.....Seventh College Representative
Lanchi Nguyen.....Chair
Marisa Abrajano.....Warren College Provost
Matthew Heredia.....Marshall College Shadow
Nandhana Nair.....Sixth College Shadow
Nitin Pramnath.....Seventh College Shadow
Pablo Ichiro Shimizu.....Revelle College Representative
Snigdha Podugu.....Eighth College Representative
Sofia McComas.....Eleanor Roosevelt College Shadow
Sonal Mahajan.....Warren College Representative
Stephen Andrae Coronel Ulla.....Marshall College Representative
Thien-Han (Mina) Nguyen.....Eleanor Roosevelt College Representative
Trung Nguyen.....Muir College Representative
Will Lang.....Vice Chair
Ye Ying (Carina) YanEighth College Shadow