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CSUF approves ASI wellness initiative



SERGIO GONZALEZ / DAILY TITAN

CSUF President Ronald Rochon speaks during a press conference at the SRC.

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Editor

Cal State Fullerton President Ronald Rochon, alongside student leaders from Associated Students and other campus administrators, announced the approval of the ASI Wellness Initiative on Tuesday afternoon.

Starting in the fall, the Campus Union fee, one of many student fees charged in addition to tuition, will increase from the current \$170 to \$211 per semester for the 2025-26 school year. The fee will then increase to \$266 in 2026-27, \$372 in 2027-28 and \$536 in the 2028-29 school year.

By the 2028-29 school year, students will see a 215% increase in the amount they pay every semester towards the Campus Union fee.

While students can soon expect to see an increase in fees, construction and renovation plans are not solidified at the moment, according to ASI President Joe Morales.

However, students can anticipate more short-term changes as a result of the initiative's approval such as the addition of a fall concert hosted by ASI, as well as increases in club funding and available ASI scholarships, according to ASI Executive Director Dave Edwards.

Notably, one project repeatedly mentioned during the press conference

was the construction of a "wellness center," which could include massage therapy, acupuncture and relaxation workshops.

Another item in the initiative includes a plan for a centralized basic needs center. Per the proposal, this would relocate the ASI food pantry, CSUF Basic Needs Services, Tuffy's Career Closet, CalFresh, a teaching kitchen, cold storage lockers and laundry facilities to one location.

According to Edwards, said projects would first need to be approved by the CSU, while construction would be handled by CSUF, given that these facilities would be built on state property. Funding would be allocated from the ASI student fees and once construction is completed, ASI will then take on the day-to-day operations.

The initiative, which was first approved by the ASI Board of Directors in 2023, aims to increase resource funding, ASI programming, renovation and more through a gradual increase of student fees, according to the most recent proposal.

Though the project was set back as former CSUF President Sylvia Alva blocked it in February of last year, Rochon approved the project a little more than halfway through his second semester on campus.

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CSUF students advocate against budget cuts

EMILY FERNANDEZ
Asst. Editor

This week Cal State Fullerton students attended the California Higher Education Student Summit, an annual conference hosted by the Cal State Student Association, an organization intended to enable students to advocate change for "affordable, accessible, and quality" education.

During the two-day conference held in Sacramento, CSU students participated in training sessions in preparation for Advocacy Day — an opportunity for students to lobby for their interests — on state governance, lobby visits, higher education and public policy. Students were also given the chance to network with state legislators and student leaders from the CSU's 23 other campuses.

On day two, the student advocates met with legislators to lobby on behalf of the CSU.

Cal State Fullerton's participating students voiced rejection of Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget proposal, which if passed would cut 8% from the CSU budget, amounting to \$375 million.

"We broke down the legislation into three themes and that's how my group

lobbied. Accountability, accessibility and then protecting our students," said Megan Hannoun, fourth-year political science major and chief governmental officer of Associated Students.

Each student had their own section of interest to focus on that they spoke about to legislators to lobby votes against the proposed budget.

Most legislators were receptive and forthcoming to the students at the conference, according to Brian Walkley, ASI representative for the College of Education, who was surprised to find that most of the legislators had already penned a letter to Newsom rejecting the budget cut.

CHESS talking points assert that the budget cut would result in larger class sizes with fewer courses, meaning students would potentially graduate slower and pay for more semesters. Tutoring, advising and mental health services would have cuts, campus jobs and internships would decrease in number and fees would increase.

"As someone that benefits greatly from all these programs on campus, just knowing that different funding and that those programs can be cut is something that hits me hard," said Lupita Jimenez, fourth-year computer science major and president of the Association for Computing Machin-



SERGIO GONZALEZ / DAILY TITAN

Students from CSUF attended the California Higher Education Student Summit to meet with lawmakers.

ery-Women.

CSUF President Ronald Rochon spoke on the budget cuts last month at the ASI board of directors meeting, assuring that the university is adjusting its resources accordingly.

"Preparing for the worst, hoping for the best is how I would put it," Hannoun said.

CSUF students rely on clubs and

organizations to network and talk to their peers outside of a classroom setting because of the university's structure as a commuter school, Jimenez said.

She added that though some students who attended the CSSA conference are concerned about the future of the school, programs and clubs, they believe that, as leaders, there is always

a path for people to follow and step up to advocate for their campus.

"We weren't out there for ourselves," Hannoun said. "We were out there to do our best to represent the 43,000 students on our campus as well as the 460,000 students in the whole CSU system."