STUDENT EXCELLENCE FEE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

September 2023

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 were 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
- Peer Advisors and Mentors for undergraduate and graduate students
- Peer learning and student teaching student programs
- Research Mentorship

- Student Assistants to collaborate with instructors to support students enrolled in large lecturer courses and be present at group study annex
- Student Success Initiative workshops
- Tutors for students in gateway courses and low-completion rates including math education, math and science, business, engineering, statistics, and arts disciplines
- Programs for engineering honors students
- Preparation for CalTPA assessment required for teacher candidates
- First-Year Experience Programming and Transfer Learning Communities
- Summer Orientation and support for Freshman
- Career Readiness, Career Advisors, and Internship Programs
- Transfer Learning Communities programs
- ALEKS Chemistry placement test for all incoming pre-chemistry and pre-biology freshman
- Inclusive Environment Activities to support retention and closing opportunity gaps.
- Remote Education Support to explore more robust methods for online/hybrid courses
- Supplemental Instruction

Since the implementation of SEF-HVDI, the university has made significant progress on student success initiatives.

We have increased degrees awarded over the past four years. In 2015, CSULB awarded 7,880 bachelor's degrees. This increased to 8,990 in 2019, and in 2022, we awarded a new high of 9,265. This is an 18% increase in degrees awarded since 2015 and a CSULB record.

We have increased access in ways we thought were impossible. In Academic Year 2017, we enrolled 9,250 undergraduate students. In 2019, CSULB enrolled a total of 9,989 undergraduate students; in 2019, 11,600. And finally, in 2023, CSULB plans to maintain enrollment at around 10,590 undergraduate students.

We are making these significant gains while **we retain our commitment to local access**. CSULB receives over 100,000 applications for our undergraduate programs (highest in CSU). About 6,000 of these are local applicants who meet CSU admission criteria. CSULB continues to provide admission to ALL qualified local applicants as part of the Long Beach Promise commitment. Hence, close to 50% (2,500 out of ~5,200) of our enrolled class each Fall are from the local area.

Our **4-year graduation rate this year is projected to be 39%**. This rate has doubled over the past four years. Our **6-year graduation rate is projected to be 70%**.

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 $1000. 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 uses directly benefits student learning. Highest priorities include student computer labs, high-tech classrooms, and other instructional equipment such as for science and engineering. The 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 and simplify information sharing.
- Provide technology to integrate, enhance, and promote collaborative learning environments that allow students to learn in groups, one-to-many, distance education
- Maintain software (site licenses) for STEM instructional and Research software including Mathematica, MATLAB, Minitab, and Qualtrics.
- Upgrade/ refresh technology in classrooms and large lecture halls to enable instructors and students to leverage technology for a more productive and effective learning experience.
- Replace older, fully depreciated computers in the student labs to give students access to newer and more powerful workstations capable of meeting the needs of more demanding software applications.
- Maintain software (site license) for online video proctoring platform, Respondus Monitor, to ensure students will not need to pay additional instructional materials fees to take exams that require proctoring.
- Implement software to enhance accessibility technology for students in the Dream Success Center computer labs, Maxient software, outreach virtual tours, financial literary 101 classes.
- 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.
- Maintain software (site licenses) warranties and contracts; including Adobe Creative Cloud and LinkedIn Learning which provide students and faculty with high-quality videos on a wide range of topics such as preparing a resume and how to interview.
- Provide additional streaming videos, eBooks, and online databases for students.
- Provide students with state-of-the-art technology and expand the 3D printing lab for the campus housed in the library.
- Partially offset miscellaneous course fees for general services courses.
- Expand the campus' student virtual computer lab

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, and Multicultural Student Centers

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:

- Internship Week
- Men's Success Initiative Programming
- Notetakers and Classroom Aides in accordance with ADA compliance
- Beach Buddy Program provides peer mentorship for incoming students
- Cultural Welcomes for Asian/Asian American, Black/Pan African, LGBTQIA+, Latinx, and American Indian and Pacific Islander student communities
- UCLA PEERS training for school-based professionals to support adults with Autism
- Workability IV Employment Program for Students with Disabilities
- Latina Connection Conference through the Career Development Center
- LIFE Project Cooking Class
- Student Life and Development student organizations
- Long Beach College Promise outreach
- Career Ambassadors
- Diversity Beach Pathways
- EOP 100 Course
- EOP Peer Advisors and Mentors
- EOP Tutoring Center
- EOP Summer Bridge
- Women and Career Symposium
- Butterfly Peer Mentoring Program for Dreamers
- Color Me Queer community space
- The Womxn's Collective Womxn of Color Student Success Program
- Undocumented Student Success Research Fellows
- Office of Multicultural Affairs Student Resource Center Programming

Administration and Finance – Campus Shuttles

The campus provides shuttle services on campus and around the surrounding community to assist with ingress and egress and reduce 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.

The campus shuttle program costs approximately $1.2 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 250 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. Athletic Scholarships play an integral role in a successful NCAA D1 program. SEF helps support over 250 student-athletes currently receiving athletic scholarships, $2.2M.
- Supports team operating budgets consisting of team travel, meals, and equipment and apparel, and game expenses such as officials.
- Student-Athlete health and wellness is now a vital component to student-athletes. Funding contributes to the nutrition and mental health support for student-athletes and provides resources such as athletic trainers and sports performance.
- Recruits and employs over 200 CSULB students and alumni in a range of positions helping students gain valuable workforce experience in venue and event management, hospitality and customer service, nutrition, athletic marketing and promotions, business, administration, video production, tutoring and mentoring, and communications.

Consultation with Associate Student Inc. (ASI) Leadership

In spring 2023, 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 in 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/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.

DIVISION	SEMESTER COST PER STUDENT	2021-22 ACTUALS	2022-23 ACTUALS	2023-24 Projected
Fall and Spring terms:				
Academic Affairs				
- Highly Valued Degree Initiative	**$33**	$2,527,489	$2,483,745	$2,537,587
- Academic Chairs Services Fund	**$2**	$153,181	$150,530	$153,793
- Student Tech/Equip/Facilities	**$79**	$6,050,654	$5,945,935	$6,074,828
Total		$8,731,324	$8,580,210	$8,766,208
Student Services				
- Student Success, Health & Welfare	**$6**	$459,543	$451,590	$461,379
- Multicultural/Student Centers	**$3**	$229,772	$225,795	$230,690
Total		$689,315	$677,385	$692,069
Administration & Finance - Partial funding of UPass Program and campus shuttles	**$2**	$153,181	$150,530	$153,793
Athletics - Partial funding of student-athlete scholarships	**$34**	$2,604,079	$2,559,010	$2,614,483
Instructionally Related Activities Reliance Relief (from Intercollegiate Athletics)	**$7**	$536,134	$526,855	$538,276
ASI Reliance Relief (from Intercollegiate Athletics)	**$7**	$536,134	$526,855	$538,276
Total Allocation	**$173**	$13,250,167	$13,020,845	$13,303,105