



May 14, 2004

To: Faculty Electorate

From: Irene Matz, Chair  
Senate Elections Committee

Subject: Results of May 10-13, 2004 All-University Election  
Electronic Voting

**TOTAL VOTED = 676** Full-Time: 543; Part-Time: 133

**STATEMENTS OF OPINION**

1. **The university should charge students higher fees for courses they repeat.**

87	Strongly disagree	135	Strongly agree
121	Disagree	187	Agree
16	No opinion		

**If you agree or strongly agree, the higher fees should be charged after**

137	a. the first 3 units of repeated courses
101	b. the first 6 units of repeated courses
45	c. the first 9 units of repeated courses
40	d. the first 12 units of repeated courses

2. **Students should be charged higher fees for units taken in excess of the minimum total units required for their degrees.**

160	Strongly disagree	52	Strongly agree
165	Disagree	135	Agree
22	No opinion		

**If you agree or strongly agree, the higher fees should be charged for units in excess of \_\_\_\_% required for their degree.**

80	a. 110 (this would be in excess of 132 units for most majors)
79	b. 120 (this would be in excess of 144 units for most majors)
22	c. 130 (this would be in excess of 144 units for most majors)
20	d. 140 (this would be in excess of 144 units for most majors)

3. **Student fees should be proportional to the number of units the student is taking.**

80	Strongly disagree	99	Strongly agree
107	Disagree	210	Agree
31	No opinion		

4. **Currently there are several commercial vendors operating within the confines of the Quad. The Quad should be off-limits to commercial operations.**

123	Strongly disagree	102	Strongly agree
182	Disagree	67	Agree
57	No opinion		

5. **There should be a ban on amplified sound in the Quad during class hours.**

65	Strongly disagree	168	Strongly agree
123	Disagree	133	Agree
43	No opinion		

April 30, 2004

**TO:** Academic Senate Electorate

**FROM:** Lee Gilbert  
Chair Academic Senate

**SUBJECT:** STATEMENTS OF OPINION

In the context of the Governor's proposed 2004-2005 budget for the CSU, several proposals relating to the fees students should pay for repeated courses or courses which are taken in excess of the minimum units required for their degrees are being discussed at the system level. Items one through three below are designed to solicit your views on those proposals. **The following Statements of Opinion questions shall be placed on the ballot for the May 10-13, 2004 All University election.**

**1. The university should charge students higher fees for courses they repeat.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion        |   |

**If you agree or strongly agree, the higher fees should be charged after**

- a) the first 3 units of repeated courses
- b) the first 6 units of repeated courses
- c) the first 9 units of repeated courses
- d) the first 12 units of repeated courses

**Pro:** While no one wants students to pay more in fees, the reality is that the state is failing to make an adequate contribution towards the running of the CSU. Hence, the question is not whether student fees should increase, but rather how they should increase. This statement of opinion focuses on asking students who are repeating courses to pay more money. The rationale for this is that the state's obligation is to give students funding for education, but when a student repeats a class, he or she is taking a seat away from some other student. By charging students a higher fee for course repetition, this will encourage students to be more careful in deciding how many courses they should enroll in. Additionally, it will generate additional funds for providing seats to students who have to repeat classes. Of course, there should be some allowance for students to drop some classes without penalty and the second half of the question asks how much of a leeway you would like to provide to students.

**Con:** Why do professors forget that one of the reasons they are professors is that they did well in school? Not everyone does! Students already face a significant restriction about repeating courses. Only 16 units of repeated courses can "wipe out" a previous failing grade. This proposal would penalize students who need help, and that seems both unfair and certainly unsupportive. This measure and the two that follow have a vaguely anti-student aura that the Senate electorate should reject.

**2. Students should be charged higher fees for units taken in excess of the minimum total units required for their degrees.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion        |   |

**If you agree or strongly agree, the higher fees should be charged for units in excess of \_\_\_\_\_% required for their degree.**

- 110 (this would be in excess of 132 units for most majors)
- 120 (this would be in excess of 144 units for most majors)
- 130 (this would be in excess of 156 units for most majors)
- 140 (this would be in excess of 168 units for most majors)

**Pro:** This statement of opinion asks whether you feel students should pay more if they take substantially more units than they need to graduate. While nearly all faculty would support allowing students to take as many classes as they desire, the reality is that there are limited funds to support the CSU. Having students pay more for taking classes above a certain threshold may encourage students to give more careful thought to their academic plan and will more fairly allocate limited state resources.

**Con:** Most students take more than a minimum number of units for one reason: they change majors. Those of us who changed majors when we were undergraduates can appreciate students' dilemmas when they find themselves in a course of study they regret. The University is here to provide opportunities for students beyond just job training. Students shouldn't be penalized for exploring a number of options until they find the major that suits their vocational and intellectual needs.

**3. Student fees should be proportional to the number of units the student is taking.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion        |   |

**Pro:** This statement of opinion addresses the means by which students should be charged for their education. Our current system, in which students pay the same fee whether they are taking seven units or seventeen units, encourages many students to over-enroll in their class load. For example, data compiled by the Office of Admission and Records showed that in each of the past three semesters approximately 14% of students received a W, WU, D, or F in their class. Charging students by the unit would encourage students to be more careful consumers of academic resources and give more careful thought as to a reasonable study load.

**Con:** As it stands today, students who take seven units pay the same as those who take 18 or 21. Why penalize students who want to get through their education more quickly by charging them more money? We should be applauding them for making space for others. Even if some students may enroll in more courses than they plan to complete, this measure would penalize all students for the excesses of a few, and that isn't fair.

**4. Currently there are several commercial vendors operating within the confines of the Quad. The Quad should be off-limits to commercial operations.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion        |   |

**Pro:** The Quad on America’s campuses has traditionally been reserved for activities central to the University or College mission. These would include political and free speech rallies, career fairs for students, cultural events and entertainment, especially by their own students. In none of these cases is the smell of popcorn, the hawking of wares or the vending of sandals essential to the mission. There are plenty of places on campus for crass and non-crass commercialism and tackiness. The Quad is NOT one of them. Please vote YES on Opinion Question #4.

**Con:** There are two types of “commercial vendors” operating in the Quad -- those with permission operating under the auspices of Campus Dining and the County Board of Health, (and from which all net proceeds remain on campus), and those operating without permission-- which are in violation of Campus Policy requiring them to be located outside the Bookstore. A no vote would remove ALL commercial vendors from the Quad, would deny students and faculty of food that they obviously desire--and would deprive the campus of several thousand dollars/year in net revenues.

**5. There should be a ban on amplified sound in the Quad during class hours.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree          | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion        |   |

**Pro:** There are several reasons to ban amplified sound in the Quad during hours of instruction. The first reason is that currently there is no apparent regulation on the sound levels for the activities currently taking place in the Quad, and the sound is so loud that it interferes with instruction; the sound carries into the surrounding classrooms including those in McCarthy Hall. In addition, loud sound has been shown to be harmful to people’s hearing. Another reason to ban amplified sound in the Quad is that the Becker Amphitheatre is already designated for events that require amplified sound. There is a place for such activities to take place. And, perhaps the most compelling reason is that there ought to be one place on our campus where students, faculty, and staff can congregate and engage in conversation without being assaulted by unwelcome noise.

**Con:** There is a long history of student activities on the Quad which serves as a natural gathering place for CSUF students. Students use amplified sound for debates, speakers, cultural festivals, and college based activities, all of which contribute to the learning environment. The Quad also serves as the Free Speech area for the campus.

Controls in place include 1) amplified sound may only be used between 12:00 – 1:00 PM, 2) students must use university equipment /operators and abide by a set decibel level.

**6. The university should require faculty to return all library materials checked out to them once a year.**

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

Disagree

Agree

No opinion

**Pro:** Library materials are purchased for the common benefit and use of the entire CSUF community. Availability of intellectual materials in support of curricular and research needs is enhanced by books being on library shelves when not in active use by a specific borrower. Materials sitting in faculty offices are less readily available to others. Returning once a year for physical verification all checked-out items will encourage retention only of materials serving current needs.

**Con:** Requiring faculty to return every book checked out once a year, rather than renewing them online as they do at present, wastes faculty and staff time and energy when, facing a budget crisis, we ought to be conserving those resources. There is no evidence that faculty are irresponsibly hoarding books or depriving students of them.

**7. The university should require all faculty members to submit the list of their required textbooks to the Titan Bookstore.**

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

Disagree

Agree

No opinion

**Pro:**

1. Students need a central source of advance information about required textbooks (and a convenient campus bookstore at which to buy them). Same for ETC students, 1/3 of whom enroll only at El Toro, with its own Titan Shops branch.
2. Textbook information not provided to Titan Shops is also denied to Disabled Student Services, impeding support for disabled students and making the University vulnerable to law suits.
3. Textbook scholarship recipients have Titan Card credits that Titan Shops alone honors.
4. As University professors and public employees, it is unethical for us to restrict book orders to one off-campus vendor.

**Con:** Titan Shops regularly provides poor service and inflated prices. Faculty should retain the right to provide book order information only to students and vendors that achieve the best combination of service and pricing. Due to the privileged location of Titan Shops, the proposal would result in disastrous financial consequences even for vendors with a proven track record, including buy-back service and special considerations for disabled students and students with scholarship vouchers. Without this competition, the record of poor on-campus service would become even worse in the future. This would be a serious disservice to students and faculty. Please vote no.

**6. The university should require faculty to return all library materials checked out to them once a year.**

84	Strongly disagree
70	Disagree
25	No opinion

184	Strongly agree
177	Agree

**7. The university should require all faculty members to submit the list of their required textbooks to the Titan Bookstore.**

185	Strongly disagree
95	Disagree
41	No opinion

103	Strongly agree
116	Agree