Safeguard Student Health Care **Fee Referendum Election: Spring 2005**
Election Manager Report

Overview and Results

The Safeguard Student Health Care Fee Referendum election took place March 8 – 10, 2005 and was conducted online at the Bear Facts portal. Students decided whether or not to approve a new mandatory $43 fee each semester ($31 during Summer Session) to fund health services and programs that would be available to all students. University Health Services sponsored the referendum, with guidance from the student-staffed Health Fee Advisory Committee (HFAC) as to the content of the referendum and priorities for the use of funds.

The referendum passed by a significant margin:

Voter turnout: 9,384 (29.6% of registered students; required 20% = 6,336)
Yes votes: 6,350 (67.7%) (50% + 1 (4,693) votes required for passage)
No votes: 3,034 (32.3%)

Votes cast Tuesday, March 8: 4,860
Votes cast Wednesday, March 9: 2,601
Votes cast Thursday, March 10: 1,923

The voting results were verified on March 11, 2005 with Helen Lee, Associate Director of Student Information Systems, in the presence of Marites Ares and Payal Hathi (co-chairs of the Committee on Student Fees), Tracy Bunting and Claudio Meneses (independent student representatives and members of the nonpartisan election staff), Bene Gatzert (University Health Services), and Nad Permaul (co-chair of the Student Fee Referendum Committee).

No technical problems with Bear Facts were reported during the election, although two complaints were submitted to the Election Manager on the morning of the first day of the election: some students could not read the referendum ballot because the page background appeared as dark blue, thus obscuring the black text of the ballot. This problem did not affect all students (several reported having no trouble reading the ballot on Tuesday morning), and the problem was fixed promptly that same morning. None of the other comments or complaints submitted to the Election Manager were related to voting irregularities, violations of campus or election guidelines, inaccurate information, or other matters requiring further investigation or resolution. A log of messages received by the Election Manager, and responses (where applicable) is appended to this report. Student Information Systems received no calls or emails during the election requesting technical support or registering complaints related to the election.

By way of comparison, turnout and results at recent student fee referenda were as follows:

Fall 2001 Class Pass Referendum:
Voter turnout: 9,590 (29.8% of students)
Yes votes: 8,482 (88.5%)
No votes: 942 (9.8%)
Abstentions: 166 (1.7%)

Fall 1999 BEARS Referendum:
Voter turnout: 8,419
Yes votes: 3,219 (38.2%)
No votes: 5,186 (61.6%)
Abstentions: 14 (0.2%)

Spring 2001 Student Fee Referendum:
Voter turnout: 6,507
Yes votes: 3,573 (54.9%)
No votes: 2,934 (45.1%)

Spring 1999 Class Pass Referendum:
Voter turnout: 9,347 (30.9% of students)
Yes votes: 8,307 (88.8%)
No votes: 1,035 (11.2%)

Abstentions: 5 (0.05%)

Election Manager Activities: Voter Education and Election Publicity

The Election Manager coordinated numerous activities to publicize the election and educate students about the referendum. Some of them were coordinated in tandem with the Committee on Student Fees and University Health Services. These activities included the following:

- **Official Election Web Site:** With the support of the computer resource specialist at the Office of Student Life, Edgar Ortega, we designed and launched a Web site with official nonpartisan information about the health fee referendum. The Web site included prominent links to the nonpartisan Voter's Guide prepared by the Committee on Student Fees, the pro-fee Web site created by HFAC, and a solicitation for any students opposed to the health fee referendum to contact the Election Manager for information about available support and resources. Also included on the site were several FAQs about the referendum and online voting, the official complaint procedure, a sample ballot, and links to relevant Web sites (including the Committee on Student Fees, University Health Services, and the Student Fee Referendum Committee).

  Election Web site metrics: Traffic on the official election Web site was modest from the time of initial setup until one week prior to the election. During the month of February, the Web site home page averaged 35 unique visitors per day. In the seven days leading up to the election, the daily averaged jumped to approximately 310 unique visitors per day. The home page had 2,400, 1,321, and 1,196 unique visitors on the first, second, and third days of the election, respectively.

- **Bear Facts Voting System, Prize Drawing Entry, and Bear Facts "Advertising":** The Election Manager worked with Helen Lee at Student Information Systems to design the process flow for voting on Bear Facts and subsequent (voluntary) entry into a prize drawing, aiming to make this process as simple as possible for students. The architecture of the voting system remained the same as the system used in the Fall 2001 online referendum election, with a couple of slight modifications. An "interim" page included between the "election" button and the actual ballot page in the 2001 election was eliminated, with the corresponding referendum information simply being included on the ballot page. The purpose of this change was to streamline the steps from Bear Facts logon to the ballot page. Another particularly useful modification was to include the button link to election voting at the top of the Bear Facts page after students logged in to the system (in 2001, the "election" button was positioned below 12 other buttons on the page after student login). A link to the official election Web site was included at the top of the ballot page, and launched a separate browser window to prevent students from losing their place on the Bear Facts site if they wanted to read more about the referendum before voting within Bear Facts.

  After voting, students were given the option to enter a drawing to win a 20GB iPod, which was obtained by University Health Services with donated funds. Entry in the drawing required only one additional mouse click, but we intentionally kept it separate from the election to preserve the anonymity of students who voted, and so that we could

maintain separate databases of who voted, how individual students voted, and who entered the prize drawing. (The iPod was given to the student winner on April 4.)

We also posted a reminder of the election, as well as a link to the official election Web site, on the Bear Facts home page and the student login page starting about 10 days before the election commenced. This was a very useful means for planting the seed in students' minds, before the fact, that Bear Facts would be the place to vote once the election started.

- **Daily Cal Advertising:** We placed several advertisements in the Daily Cal to inform students about the election and to remind them to vote. These began one week in advance of the election with a half-page ad containing the nonpartisan "Voter's Guide" prepared by CSF, and was followed on the day before the election with another half-page Voter's Guide advertisement. During the first two days of the election, we ran two quarter-page ads reminding students to vote at Bear Facts and directing them to more information on the official election Web site and the CSF Web site.

- **Cal Mail Distribution:** Every registered Cal student received two email reminders from the Chancellor about the election. The first email was distributed one week before the election (March 1), and the second was delivered on the evening of the first day of the election (March 8). Each email included links to more information about the election, and the second email included a link to the Bear Facts student login page. The mass student emails were probably the most effective and resource-efficient tools we employed to disseminate election information and to remind students to vote. We noticed the most significant spikes in traffic on the official election Web site in the days immediately following each of these emails.

- **Advertising in "The Facebook":** We ran a three-day announcement on the popular Web site "The Facebook" reminding students about the election and linking to the official election Web site. The Facebook is a useful vehicle for reaching students, because thousands of them use it each day, and the advertising rates are reasonable ($16 per day). However, because the election advertising was cycled through the site's "announcement" space with numerous other ads, it was difficult to gauge the level of exposure and effectiveness of this tool.

- **Informational Tabling on Upper Sproul Plaza:** Beginning two weeks before the election, the nonpartisan election staff hired by the Election Manager provided information to students about the election from a table on Sproul Plaza, handing out informational flyers and answering questions about the referendum. During most of these days, members of CSF joined the nonpartisan election staff to distribute Voter's Guides and answer questions. Traffic at the information tables was fairly light, with increasing activity in the week of the election.

- **Information at the Office of Student Life:** We posted flyers, provided informational handouts, and answered student questions about the election at the front desk of OSL in 102 Sproul Hall.

- **Campus Computer Labs:** With the permission of Workstation Support Services, we affixed 8 x 2-inch high flyers to the tops of more than 400 computer monitors at 11 campus computer labs during the three days of the election, reminding students to vote. This seemed to be another highly effective tool for getting out the vote, since most students at the campus computing centers were online anyway and therefore only a couple of clicks away from being able to vote.

- **Residence Halls and Residence Hall Computing Centers:** The Residence Hall staff assisted us by posting 250 informational flyers about the election in the residence halls. At the residence hall computing centers, students were also reminded to vote in the election upon logging in to their computer workstation accounts by means of a small popup window.

- **Campus Events Calendar:** The election was included in the campus events calendar and, upon request, was noted as a highlighted event during the week of the election.

- **Voting Information Booths:** During the three days of the election, we staffed three information booths across campus – at North Gate, in between Wheeler and Dwinelle Halls, and on the east side of Kroeber Hall near Bancroft Way – to provide informational materials and answer questions about the election. Each station had prominent banners reminding students to vote. Traffic at the information booths was not heavy, but remained fairly steady throughout each of the three days. The Voter's Guides were the most popular handouts taken by visitors to the information booths.

Other Publicity

The health care referendum was publicized by numerous other means on campus, most notably by the activities of the Health Fee Advisory Committee, efforts by the Committee on Student Fees, and media coverage.

- **HFAC Activities:** HFAC coordinated extensive efforts to advocate in favor of passage of the election, including professionally printed handbills, campus shuttle bus advertising, Daily Cal ads, email campaigns, activities on Upper Sproul Plaza, and public presentations at lecture halls and student group meetings.

- **CSF Activities:** As noted above, CSF was involved in daily tabling on Upper Sproul Plaza during the two weeks prior to the election, and at information booths during the election, to provide information and answer questions about the referendum. The CSF Voter's Guide was a very useful source of information for hundreds of students who visited the information tables and booths. CSF also sponsored a "Rock the Vote" event on Upper Sproul during the second day of the election to encourage voter participation.

- **Media Coverage:** The Daily Cal ran several news articles about the referendum, as well as an editorial in favor of the health fee and letters to the editor in favor of and opposed to the fee. In addition, the Daily Cal included a voting reminder on its masthead during all three days of the election. Local news radio stations, including KCBS and KQED, also covered the election

Recommendations

While the "Safeguard Student Health Care" fee referendum election went smoothly, a few suggestions may be worth consideration for future student fee referenda:

- **Finalizing Referendum Language:** It is crucial to finalize the language of any student fee referendum as far in advance of the election as possible. The "Safeguard Student Health Care" referendum language was not final until Tuesday, February 22, a mere two weeks before the election started. This short time frame dramatically reduced the window during which students could review, digest, and comment upon (whether they were in favor of or in opposition to) the terms of the referendum before their peers went to the polls to vote on it.

- **Greater Opportunity for Student Opposition:** Related to the previous point, it seems that students should have a broader opportunity to organize opposition to any proposed referendum. Given that a sponsoring department begins planning a referendum well in advance of its placement before the student body, and given that staff and students are able to plan advocacy activities far in advance of the election, there is a considerable structural disadvantage to students who may oppose a referendum. They have far less time to consider the merits of the referendum's terms, and may not be aware of the availability of funding resources for them to advocate in opposition to the referendum (although one solution to the latter concern is to alert students about potential resources for those who may oppose the referendum, as we did on the official election Web site). In addition, depending upon the timing of the referendum, students who may oppose a referendum may be so involved in preparing for midterm exams that they simply do not have the time to organize any opposition.

- **Neutrality of the Committee on Student Fees:** CSF serves a critical role as an independent student voice providing nonpartisan analysis of student fee referenda. For this reason, it is important that this role not be even slightly compromised by any perception that CSF or its members have a role in advocating for, or opposing, a student fee referendum. In this election, several members of CSF participated in advocacy activities in favor of the referendum. Although in this case there was no cause to believe that CSF members' advocacy activities hindered their ability to be nonpartisan, it creates the *appearance* of a conflict of interest, which should be avoided if at all possible. Perhaps it should be a clear rule that any members of CSF interested in advocating for or against a student fee referendum recuse themselves from all CSF activities, including analysis and publicity, related to the fee referendum.

- **20% Voting Requirement:** Several students objected to the requirement that for a referendum election to be valid, at least 20% of registered students must vote in the election. These students made the legitimate argument that where a referendum has the momentum and support of well-established staff and student advocacy efforts, those who may be opposed to the referendum are placed in a awkward dilemma: if they are sufficiently outnumbered, their participation in the election – even with a "no" vote –

potentially helps passage of the referendum by tipping the voter turnout above the minimum 20% required threshold. This is an admittedly knotty problem without a clear answer, but two possible alternatives come to mind: one is to require student participation in a fee referendum, perhaps as a prerequisite to semester registration or class selection. Another is to simply provide a wider time window for the election – for example, two weeks or a month – where the voter turnout consists of those who choose to vote during the time window, without any minimum turnout threshold. In this way, students will be encouraged to vote whether they support or oppose the referendum because they know the minimum threshold is not a factor in the potential passage of the referendum. If the time window is broad enough, meeting a minimum 20% threshold should not be difficult.

- **Remote Computer Voting Setup:** During the last student fee referendum election (the Class Pass in Fall 2001), which was the first referendum election conducted online, a few computers were set up at the campus information booths during the three days of the election to enable students to vote at the booths if they wanted. For this election, we decided against such a setup, judging that the marginal convenience of a few voting terminals was not justified by the cost, which would have been well over $1,000 (possibly several thousand dollars) and would have presented logistical, security, voter privacy, and voter anonymity challenges. A much more cost-effective tool was advertising in the campus computing centers and the residence hall computing centers, where students were already online. For this reason, setting up remote voting terminals specifically for students to vote in the referendum seems unnecessary: students have so many other alternative computing resources that it does not make much sense to incur the expense or the difficulty.

List of Appendices

The following appendices are attached:

Safeguard Student Health Care **Fee Referendum Election: Spring 2005**

Election Manager Report

Appendix 1

Log of Comments and Complaints Submitted to Election Manager

(All replies, as applicable, were written the same day the messages were received, usually within an hour or two.)

```
>From: Chiara Goitein <chiara21@berkeley.edu>
>To: electionmanager@hotmail.com
>Subject: health care voting
>Date: Tue, 01 Mar 2005 14:29:58 -0800
>
>hi,
>i have logged onto bearfacts as a student but there is nowhere to
>vote???? i would like to vote but i don't see how to do this.

      Hi Chiara,

      The election starts on March 8 and ends March 10, so you will be able to vote
      starting at 12:01 a.m. next Tuesday and ending at midnight on next Thursday.
      Once you log on to Bear Facts, you will see a button for voting.

      If you have any other questions, just let me know!

      Mark

>From: James Hilger <hilger@are.berkeley.edu>
>To: electionmanager@hotmail.com
>Subject: voting
>Date: Tue, 08 Mar 2005 11:29:57 -0800
>
>I can not read the details.  This election should be re-run.
>
>Please contact me and send me the details with out a dark blue back
>ground.  This is horrible.
>
>Sincerely,
>
>James Hilger

      Hi James,

      We're correcting the problem right now.  Sorry for the inconvenience.  The
      corrected page should be live any minute now.  To view a sample ballot, go to
      http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/referendum/referendum_text.htm

      Please log back in to Bear Facts this afternoon to vote.  Apologies again for
      the hassle.

      Mark

>From: "Paras R. Patel" <paras@berkeley.edu>
>To: electionmanager@hotmail.com
>Subject: Can't Read Voting Page
>Date: Tue, 08 Mar 2005 10:01:21 -0800
>
>Once you log on to the page where you can actually vote it is almost
>impossible to read the text. Black text against a dark blue
>background is not ideal.  Please change this if possible.
>
>Paras Patel

      Hi Paras,

      We're correcting the problem right now.  Apologies for the inconvenience.  The
      corrected page should be live any minute now.

      Please log back in to Bear Facts this afternoon to vote.  Thanks for your email,
      and for your patience.

      Mark
```

Appendix 1

Log of Comments and Complaints Submitted to Election Manager

>From: Jessica Timsit <jess4success@gmail.com>
>Reply-To: Jessica Timsit <jess4success@gmail.com>
>To: electionmanager@hotmail.com
>Subject: voting question
>Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2005 18:03:39 -0800
>
>to whom it may concern,
>
>i was just a little confused on how this referendum, if approved,
>would affect the co-payments. would it lower the co-payment than what
>students have to pay right now?
>it seems like this referendum mainly helps in adding staff and
>additional hours at the tang center, but will students who use the
>tang center actually be saving money (after the $43 charge?)?
>
>thank you for your prompt response
>

Hi Jessica,

Thanks for your note. Currently, students do not pay a co-payment for visits to the Urgent Care or Primary Care clinics at Tang, or for their first three visits for counseling services. University Health Services says that if the referendum doesn't pass, it will institute co-payments for those visits that could be anywhere from $20 to $35.

Whether or not students save money will depend on how many times they need to visit Tang each year. Assuming the the co-payments were the lowest amount proposed by UHS ($20), then 2 visits per semester would cost $40, while the student health fee would be $43. Three visits per semester with a $20 co-payment would cost $60 compared to the $43 health fee.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Mark

>From: "Michael Kao" <mckao@berkeley.edu>
>To: <electionmanager@hotmail.com>
>Subject: Attention: Election Manager. Complaint
>Date: Wed, 9 Mar 2005 14:56:17 -0800
>
>To election manager:
>
>Although I am not often not concerned with campus election procedures,
>while I was reading about how many votes this referendum requires to
>pass, some major problems seemed to jump out at me.
>
>Is it true that this referendum will pass:
>If a majority of 20% of the students vote
>
>It would seem that those much more interested in the referendum passing
>would be more inclined to vote, and that a mere 10% of the student body
>could hypothetically pass a fee for the other 90%. I would consider
>voting no on this issue, but I would like to know whether or not the
>minimum 20% of votes will be reached. If it isn't likely it would be
>reached, there is no point for me to vote no, for that would simply
>increase the probability of the referendum passing. Please consider
>showing a live tally of percentage of student body voting at the time if
>possible, I'm sure this is likely possible to some degree, and there is
>no reason I can think of that this information should not be made
>public. This would make the election much more fair and biased to both
>sides, instead of favoring the passing of the referendum.
>
>Thanks You.
>
>Always,
>Michael Kao

Greetings Michael,

Thanks for your message. You are correct about the 20% threshold and the theoretical point you raise. I understand your concern about the possibility that voting "no" can potentially assist in the passage of the referendum by increasing the vote tally above 20%. I plan to highlight this issue in my comments to the Student Fee Referendum Committee once the election has been completed.

It is extremely likely that the 20% threshold will be met -- this minimum requirement has been met in every past student fee referendum, as far as I am aware, and in the last referendum (the "Class Pass" election in 2001), the minimum voting number was exceeded by a wide margin.

Whether or not to vote is your decision, of course, but I would encourage you to have your opinion on the referendum counted, particularly given the high likelihood that the 20% minimum will be reached.

Best Regards,
Mark

From : <gmei@berkeley.edu>
Sent : Saturday, March 12, 2005 10:54 PM
To : electionmanager@hotmail.com
Subject : Unfair Representation?

Dear Election Manager,

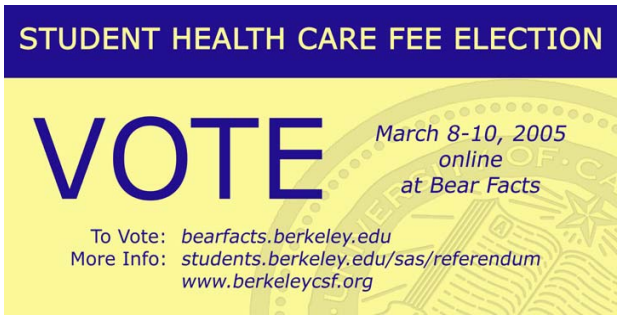
While I felt that the entire voting process was fair, I almost never saw any publicity for the opposition to the health care fee. The campus and residence halls seemed to be dominated by pro-fee posters or nonpartisan posters that either failed to mention, or deemphasized, the $43 mandatory fee that would be imposed on all students, regardless of whether they use the university health services. I'm beginning to wonder if all the voters really knew where this extra funding was coming from - from the pockets of students, including the 25% of their fellow students who don't visit Tang per year.

I expected the fee to pass anyway; I just didn't expect the opposition voters to be outnumbered 2 to 1. I sure hope the supporting voters made informed votes.

Gordon

Safeguard Student Health Care **Fee Referendum Election: Spring 2005**
Election Manager Report
Appendix 2
Banner, Advertisement, and Web Site Designs

Banner for information tabling on Sproul Plaza (4′ x 2′):



Banner for information booths during election (6′ x 2.5′):

CSF Voter's Guide advertisement in Daily Cal (1/2 page – 40 column inches):

Voter's Guide Referendum 2005: Safeguard Student Health Care Fee

VOTE ONLINE March 8th, 9th & 10th: bearfacts.berkeley.edu

CSF Committee on Student Fees

The student-directed Health Fee Advisory Committee (HFAC), in partnership with University Health Services, is requesting a $43 per semester mandatory "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee.

Vote YES:
Statement in Favor of "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee:

Current funding received by UHS is insufficient to support the growing and changing health care needs of Berkeley students in the face of nationwide, double-digit increases in healthcare costs. The "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee will maintain and expand urgent, primary, and mental healthcare for all Berkeley students, including those not enrolled in SHIP and those relying on financial aid. Students on 4 of 10 UC campuses pay a similar type of fee. The following are the top reasons why you should vote in favor of this fee:

• Over 24,000 students use on-campus health services each year. The average student visits the Tang Center 2.5 times a year. If this fee is not passed, the Tang Center will have to introduce co-payments (visit fees) as high as $35 per visit. Based on this information, the average student will break even or save with the pre-paid "Safeguard" fee.

• "Safeguard" secures and promotes overall health in the Berkeley community by allowing greater on-campus access to healthcare for ALL students, even those without SHIP membership. 25% of UC academic withdrawals are for medical reasons. As students, we cannot wait for the university, the state, or the federal government to fund our health services. It is essential to our quality of life and our success.

• Next year, students will have to pay for health care in some form. This referendum gives students a say in how they will pay for those expenses. "Safeguard" is the most equitable way to pay. Without the mandatory fee of $40 at the beginning of each semester, consequences will include the introduction of co-payments (visit fees), additional increases in the student health insurance (SHIP) premium, and increases in user fees for medical services (e.g. labs, x-rays, etc). "Safeguard" will also help prevent a decline in the availability of services at the Tang Center.

• The pre-paid "Safeguard" fee protects students from the risk of expensive co-pays in the case of sudden and unexpected illness or injury.

Vote NO:
Statement in Opposition to the "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee

Paying for "Safeguard" will force students to further subsidize other students' health care. By voting no, more students will pay fees only for the health services that they use. This fee is one of many other mandatory campus fees, which will inevitably increase with inflation. The following are top reasons why you should vote against this fee.

• In the past three years, students' fees have risen 55% for resident undergraduates and campus-based fees are already too high. Currently, the highest campus-based fee is a $37.20 per semester fee for Class Pass. Students should not have to pay another mandatory fee.

• Approximately one-fourth of students do not visit the Tang Center in a given year. These students should not be required to pay for the health care of students who visit Tang. Students can pay for their own personal health costs as long as they are the ones incurring them.

• This is another example of costs being unfairly shifted onto students by the university and the state of California. Students should not have to pay more mandatory fees for essential services. If the Tang Center's services are considered important by students, then the campus should continue to provide support for these services.

• Students who have private insurance can use local medical providers and facilities covered by their own insurance plans.

visit www.berkeleycsf.org for complete Voter's Guide

www.berkeleycsf.org The Committee on Student Fees (CSF) is the non-partisan student voice on student fee and policy at UC Berkeley. 210 Eshleman Hall

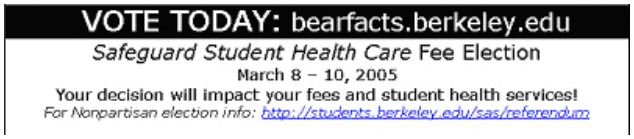
Appendix 2

Banner, Advertisement, and Web Site Designs

Election reminder advertisement in Daily Cal (1/4 page – 24 column inches):

Banner link on Bear Facts home page:

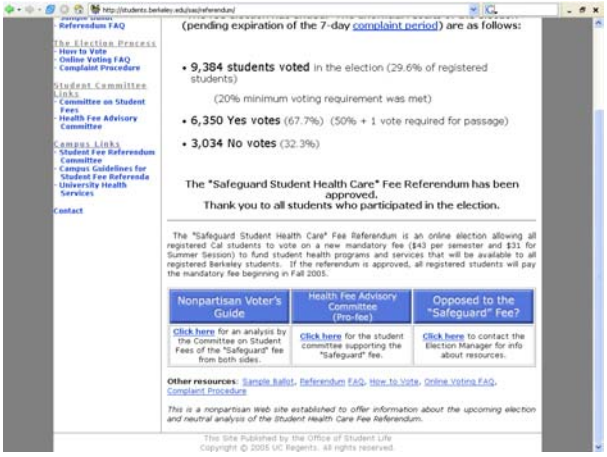
Computing Center Flyers (8″x 2″):



Appendix 2

Banner, Advertisement, and Web Site Designs

Screenshots of Official Election Web Site:



Safeguard Student Health Care **Fee Referendum Election: Spring 2005**

Election Manager Report

Appendix 2

Banner, Advertisement, and Web Site Designs

Appendix 3
Text of Cal Mails

Cal Mail #1:

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2005 18:34:14 -0800
From: "Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau"
Subject: "Student Health Fee Election"

Dear Student,

On March 8-10, you will have the opportunity to vote in the Safeguard Student Health Care Fee Referendum. During this election, you will decide whether or not to approve a mandatory campus fee to fund student health programs and services that will be available to all registered Berkeley students. I encourage you to learn more about this potential fee and to vote in the upcoming referendum.

For more information, please consult the official campus election website at http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/referendum/.

A nonpartisan election guide, prepared by the Committee on Student Fees, is available at http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu.

The website of the student campaign committee supporting the fee is located at http://safeguardhealth.berkeley.edu.

Robert J. Birgeneau
Chancellor

Cal Mail #2:

From: Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 6:37 PM
Subject: "Please Vote: Student Health Fee Election Underway"

Dear Student,

An important student fee referendum election is currently underway online. I encourage you to go to https://bearfacts.berkeley.edu/stlogin and vote on whether or not to approve a mandatory campus fee to fund student health programs and services that will be available to all registered Berkeley students. The voting period ends at 11:59 pm on Thursday, March 10.

For more information:
- Voters Guide by the non-partisan Committee on Student Fees: http://www.berkeleycsf.org
- Campus election website: http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/referendum/
- Student campaign committee (pro-fee): http://safeguardhealth.berkeley.edu

To vote, log on to Bear Facts with your Student ID Number and your Bear Facts passphrase. After you have voted, you will have the option to enter a drawing to win a 20 GB Apple iPod.

If you have not used Bear Facts before, you must first obtain a passphrase by clicking the "First Create Your CalNet ID" link on the Bear Facts logon page and using your Tele-BEARS PIN as your current passphrase. Follow the instructions carefully to choose a new passphrase. If, for any reason, you are unable to obtain a new passphrase or are unable to log on with your current passphrase, you must go in person to User and Accounts Services, (2195 Hearst Avenue, Room 111) between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to obtain a new Bear Facts passphrase.

Robert J. Birgeneau
Chancellor

Safeguard Student Health Care Referendum

To protect and improve student access to high quality, on-campus medical and mental health care, **do you approve a mandatory fee to support Berkeley's student health and counseling services**?

The fee will exclusively support **student health and counseling programs and services available to all registered Berkeley students**, even those who do not enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP).

The fee is ***intended to supplement but not supplant*** the portion of UC Berkeley's Registration Fee income currently allocated to University Health Services, Tang Center.

As the cost of health care continues to rise, this fee will ensure that Berkeley students have direct access to affordable, reliable, quality health care on-campus.

The fee is subject to the following costs and conditions:

— Collection of the fee will begin in Fall 2005 and will be assessed as a **$43 charge each Fall and Spring semester** and as a $31 charge for students registered in Summer Sessions. The fee is subject to annual adjustment within the limits described below.

— An **independent student health advisory committee will work with campus health officials, to ensure that fee money is allocated to meet students' changing health care needs** in the areas of urgent care, basic medical care, mental health care, specialty medicine, lab and pharmacy services, and preventive health education.

— By February of each year, the **independent student health advisory committee will recommend any increase or decrease in the fee rate to campus health officials**. Increases in any one year may not exceed health care inflation rates for physician and clinical services published annually by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (currently 5-7% per year).

— In accord with campus policy, **one-third of fee revenues will be returned to financial aid** to help offset the cost of this fee for the neediest students who are eligible for campus-based financial aid.

Do you approve this mandatory fee to support Berkeley's student health and counseling services?

___ Yes

___ No

About the Referendum

From March 8th to 10th, all UC Berkeley students will have the opportunity to vote online in the *Safeguard Student Health Care* referendum. This measure would establish a new mandatory fee ($43 per semester, $31 for summer session enrollees) to safeguard access to student health and counseling services on the Berkeley campus.

Voting for this referendum will be conducted online, via Bear Facts (a secure campus server). A majority of student voters must approve the fee before it can be implemented.

What new services would the fee provide?

For 2005-06, the fee will be allocated for the following student health priorities:

Urgent Care and Medical Services	
More medical appointments available each week Longer Urgent Care hours— Open until 6pm Expanded Pharmacy hours— Open Saturday Faster service at the Pharmacy Extended Lab and X-ray hours	**$15**
Mental Health Services	
Additional same-day urgent drop-in appointments Shorter wait for on-campus counseling appointments Shorter wait for on-campus psychiatry appointments	**$8**
Information Systems & Technology	
Online scheduling for medical appointments Improved phone scheduling of medical appointments	**$5**
Preventive Health Services	
Expanded prevention programs and services for health topics critical to optimal student health	**$1**

Allocations are based on student demand, as indicated by student surveys and health care utilization data. These allocations may change annually based on input from an independent student health advisory committee.

Financial Aid Component	
One-third of the fee is directed to financial aid to help offset the cost of this fee for the neediest students who are eligible for campus-based financial aid.	**$14**

What do I lose if the fee fails?

Consequences for students if the fee fails will include some or all of the following:

What could happen:	What you need to know:
New visit fees ("co-payments") of $20-35 per visit for every medical or Urgent Care visit to the Tang Center.	**These fees may <u>not</u> be covered by financial aid**, and may deter some students from seeking treatment when they need it, worsening their medical condition.
Increased user fees for all students who access health services at Tang.	**These fees may <u>not</u> be covered by financial aid**, which means that some students will face barriers to accessing health care.
Premium increase for SHIP (the Student Health Insurance Plan) beyond projections based on current plan use.	When primary health care services are not provided by the campus, student health insurance has to pay for it, which **drives up health insurance costs for students**.
Reduced number of appointments for counseling and psychiatry at the Tang Center.	More students would be referred off campus, resulting in **delayed care and higher costs for counseling and psychiatry visits.**
Reduced hours of operation at the Tang Center.	**Less access to convenient, on-campus medical care** when you need it most.

Why is this fee needed now?

Right now, colleges and universities across the country are facing the same health care crisis that all Americans are experiencing. Unprecedented health care inflation rates (nationwide)— along with severe cuts in campus funding and increased student demand for care— have eroded the essential on-campus medical and mental health services we rely on. As members of the student Health Fee Advisory Committee, we are willing to pay $43 a semester in order to protect and improve our access to health care in Berkeley. We hope that you will join us.

What's happening on other campuses?

Students on 3 UC campuses have voted to pay mandatory health fees— like this one— to stabilize access to essential student health services in the wake of the national health care crisis and State and UC budget reductions. Another 3 UC campuses have built access fees into their student major medical health insurance premiums.

If I already have health insurance, why should I pay this?

Student health insurance, like SHIP, pays mostly for major medical care, like surgery or hospitalization after a traffic accident. To keep the cost of insurance affordable for students, it does not typically pay for basic or primary health care needs.

As a result, some students are faced with heavy out-of-pocket costs for basic health services—particularly when low-cost, on-campus health care is not available (for example when the Tang Center is closed).

To minimize out-of-pocket costs, the mandatory *Safeguard Student Health Care* fee would provide additional funding to University Health Services, to restore staffing for services and to make improvements in the student health resources available at the Tang Center. It protects equal access to health services for all Berkeley students— so that you can afford high quality health care, no matter how much pocket money you have.

What about summer?

Students will be charged for campus medical services during the summer, depending on their summer registration status and whether or not they have the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). The following chart explains the fee schedule that would begin in summer 2006 if the *Safeguard Student Health Care Fee* is approved.

	If you are registered in Summer Sessions	**If you are NOT registered in summer**
If you have SHIP	$31 *Safeguard* fee	Low co-payments for each primary and urgent care office visit
If you do NOT have SHIP	$31 *Safeguard* fee	Higher rates for office visits and other services

Non-UC students registered in Summer Sessions will pay a separate rate but will receive the same level of access as UC students registered during the summer.

What efforts have been made to find funding elsewhere?

Given the recent decline in campus support available to support health services, the Tang Center has sought additional funding from federal grants, one-time gifts, and donor support. It has also implemented innovative measures to improve efficiency in its clinics and administrative offices.

However, without additional funds, continued increases in costs for on-campus student health services will result in additional fees for services, fewer operating hours, and reduced access to health care for some students.

Background

By paying Registration Fees, every currently registered Berkeley student has access to clinicians, counselors and services at the Tang Center, regardless of which health insurance they have. Many basic health services are provided at no additional charge to registered students.

Each year, 74% of Berkeley's 32,000+ undergraduate and graduate students access basic and urgent health care on campus. Over 100,000 visits per year are made by students to the Tang Center.

Services at the Tang Center currently include:

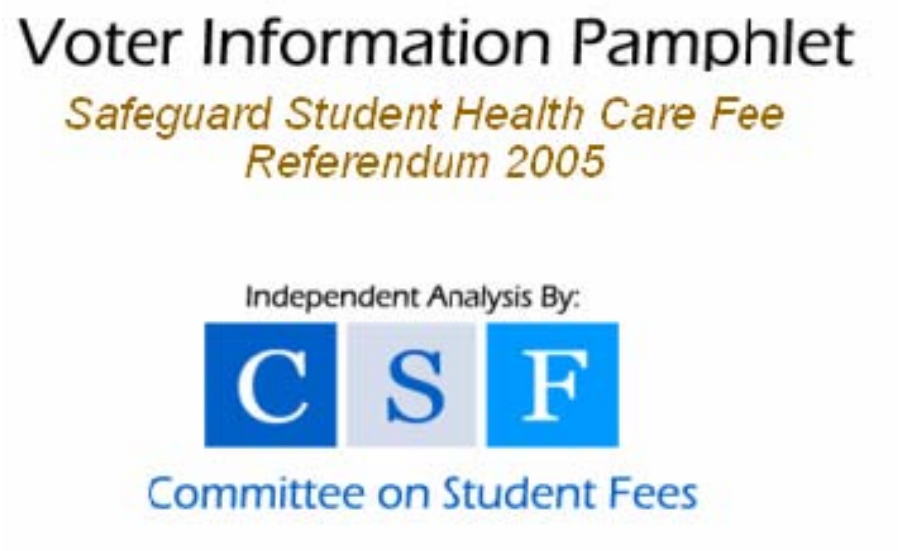
- Same day appointments for medical and mental health concerns
- Urgent care and triage
- Women's health care
- Counseling and psychological care
- Psychiatry consultations
- Pharmacy (prescription and non-prescription medications)
- Laboratory and x-ray
- Physical therapy and sports medicine
- Nutrition counseling
- Immunizations for flu, hepatitis, meningitis, travel, etc
- Night and weekend phone service for medical referrals
- Dermatology
- Counseling for substance abuse, eating disorders, sexual health
- Consultations with specialty MDs

The Fine Print

This referendum states that funds would be used to supplement but not supplant current campus funding for University Health Services. Students understand this to mean that the campus cannot protect UHS from across-the-board cuts to Registration Fees but will protect campus Health Services from differentiated cuts.

Each year, the independent student health advisory committee overseeing this fee may recommend changes in the allocation of fee revenues, to meet the evolving health needs of Berkeley students.

The committee may also advise on adjustments to the fee level. Any fee increase recommended by the committee may not exceed the rate of increase for per-capita health care expenditures for physician and clinical services, published annually by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Election Dates: March 8th, 9th & 10th 2005 Vote Online: http://bearfacts.berkeley.edu

The purpose of this student fee referendum is to give students a yes or no option of paying a mandatory fee in order to maintain and improve the level of student services, programs, and facilities at the University Health Services (UHS). The student-directed Health Fee Advisory Committee (HFAC), in partnership with UHS, is requesting a $43 per semester mandatory "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee.

The Committee on Student Fees (CSF) is the non-partisan student voice on student fees and policy at UC Berkeley. To educate the campus community, we have created a Voter's Guide to help teach students about the referendum process and the details of this fee. We encourage you to visit our website at **http://www.berkeleycsf.org** or to stop by our office at 210 Eshleman Hall.

Table of Contents:

Vote online though Bear Facts: http://bearfacts.berkeley.edu
March 8th, 9th & 10th

Voter's Guide brought to you by:
The Committee on Student Fees and Budget Review

Marites Ares, Internal Affairs Chair
Payal Hathi, External Affairs Chair
All inquiries about the Voter's Guide should be sent to:
info@berkeleycsf.org

Safeguard Student Health Care Fee Proposal Summary:

Purpose:

- To protect and improve student access to affordable, high quality, on-campus medical and mental health care for all Berkeley students at the Tang Center.
- To meet significant growth in student demand for health services by increasing Tang Center staff.
- "Safeguard" is intended to supplement but not replace current campus funding of University Health Services.
- This fee is intended to support student health and counseling programs and services available to ALL registered Berkeley students, even those who do not enroll in SHIP (Student Health Insurance Plan).

Fee Requested:

- $43 per semester
- $31 for those enrolled in Summer Sessions

Sample Services Provided with the Fee:

- Urgent Care and Medical Services: additional medical appointments, extended urgent care, lab and x-ray hours, and expanded pharmacy hours
- Mental Health Services: more same day drop-in appointments, shorter wait and faster access to on-campus counseling and psychiatric services
- Technological Efficiency: Online scheduling for medical appointments and faster service when scheduling appointments by phone.
- Preventative Health Services: Programs addressing health topics critical to optimal student health (some examples include: STD education, HIV awareness, etc.).

Vote YES:
Statement in Favor of "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee:

Current funding received by UHS is insufficient to support the growing and changing health care needs of Berkeley students in the face of nationwide, double-digit increases in healthcare costs. The "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee will maintain and expand urgent, primary, and mental healthcare for all Berkeley students, including those not enrolled in SHIP and those relying on financial aid. Students on 4 of 10 UC campuses pay a similar type of fee. The following are the top reasons why you should vote in favor of this fee:

• Over 24,000 students use on-campus health services each year. The average student visits the Tang Center 2.5 times a year. If this fee is not passed, the Tang Center will have to introduce co-payments (visit fees) as high as $35 per visit. Based on this information, the average student will break even or save with the pre-paid "Safeguard" fee.

• The pre-paid "Safeguard" fee protects students from the risk of expensive co-pays in the case of sudden and unexpected illness or injury.

• "Safeguard" secures and promotes overall health in the Berkeley community by allowing greater on-campus access to healthcare for ALL students, even those without SHIP membership. 25% of UC academic withdrawals are for medical reasons. As students, we cannot wait for the university, the state, or the federal government to fund our health services. It is essential to our quality of life and our success.

• "Safeguard" will help restore student health services lost during previous UC budget cuts. This upfront investment in health care will allow Tang to improve existing services, provide new technologies such as online scheduling of medical appointments, as well as increasing the hours for pharmacy and urgent care to better meet student demand.

• Next year, students will have to pay for health care in some form. This referendum gives students a say in how they will pay for those expenses. "Safeguard" is the most equitable way to pay. Without the mandatory fee of $43 at the beginning of each semester, consequences will include: the introduction of co-payments (visit fees), additional increases in the student health insurance (SHIP) premium, and increases in user fees for medical services (e.g. labs, x-rays, etc). "Safeguard" will also help prevent a decline in the availability of services at the Tang Center.

• With "Safeguard" one-third of the proposed fee revenue will be directed to financial aid to provide financial support for the neediest students. Co-payments do not have a financial aid component and will most likely come directly from students' personal budgets.

• Per visit co-payments may deter students from seeking necessary health services when needed. In a Fall 2004 survey of several thousand Berkeley students, 17% said that if $20 co-payments were introduced at the Tang Center, they would definitely delay seeking health care—even for an urgent problem. Almost 50% said they might delay seeking help if a $20 visit fee were required.

• Passing "Safeguard" will improve access to on-campus psychiatry services and will expand

counseling services and programs. Student demand for mental health services has grown significantly over the past two decades, but Tang has not been able to meet demand.

Vote NO:
Statement in Opposition to the "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee

Paying for "Safeguard" will force students to further subsidize other students' health care. By voting no, more students will pay fees only for the health services that they use. This fee is one of many other mandatory campus fees, which will inevitably increase with inflation. The following are top reasons why you should vote against this fee.

• In the past three years, students' fees have risen 55% for resident undergraduates[1] and campus-based fees are already too high. Currently, the highest campus-based fee is a $37.20 per semester fee for Class Pass. Students should not have to pay another mandatory fee.

• Approximately one-fourth of students do not visit the Tang Center in a given year. These students should not be required to pay for the health care of students who visit Tang. Students can pay for their own personal health costs as long as they are the ones incurring them.

• Students who have private insurance can use local medical providers and facilities covered by their own insurance plans.

• In this period of severe budget cuts, it is unfair to mandate that all students contribute to maintaining on-campus health services, particularly when health care is not a priority for some students. Students should not be required to pay for services beyond basic primary care. Students should not have to pay for services and programs at the Tang Center that they may never use (e.g. STD education, HIV awareness, or alcohol and drug prevention programs).

• Co-payments could prevent the abuse of health services and ensure that students will only use the Tang Center when it is absolutely necessary.

• Students currently experience long wait times for appointments and inconvenient hours of operation at the Tang Center. We have no guarantee that this fee will improve these services.

• This is another example of costs being unfairly shifted onto students by the university and the state of California. Students should not have to pay more mandatory fees for essential services. If the Tang Center's services are considered important by students, then the campus should continue to provide support for these services.

• "Safeguard" is intended to supplement but not replace campus funds allocated to University Health Services, but this fee will not protect against across-the board budget cuts (e.g. 10% cut to all student services). It will only protect against cuts targeted to UHS.

[1] This percentage was calculated using the Educational Fee, Registration Fee, and Campus Based Fees from the 2002-03 to the 2004-05 academic school years.

Frequently Asked Questions

Health Specific:

1. Why is this happening now?

There are several reasons that this fee is being voted upon right now. National healthcare costs are rising at about 10-15% per year making healthcare unaffordable for many people, including students. At Berkeley, campus financial support for student health services has eroded due to budget cuts while student demand for health services is on the rise.

2) I have my own private health insurance. What can the Tang Center do for me?

Students do not need to be enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to access services at the Tang Center. All students can use the Tang Center to meet a variety of needs and services. 90% of graduate students and 74% of undergrads are enrolled in SHIP.

Fee Specific:

1) What other Campus-based fees do I currently pay per semester?

-ASUC fee ($27.50)
-Student Center fee ($6)
-Ethnic Studies fee ($2.25)
-Intramural Sports Facility fee ($28.50)
-Life Safety fee ($31.50)
-Recruitment and Retention Centers fee ($3)
-Class Pass ($37.20)

2) If passed, how can we ensure that the money collected will meet student demands and priorities?

To build in accountability to students, the referendum will establish an independent student advisory committee to ensure that the "Safeguard" fee, if passed, is used to meet student health needs. This advisory committee will advise the Director of UHS on the allocation of fees. Any increases or decreases can be recommended, but will ultimately need the approval of campus management.

Referendum Specific:

1) What is a Referendum?

A student referendum is a vote, or ballot election, conducted to determine student support for a measure or a new mandatory fee. It is a process that enables any group to place an issue directly onto the public ballot for approval or rejection.

2) How many students will need to pass a referendum?

Any new mandatory student fee must be approved by a simple majority of voting students (50% of voters plus 1 vote), and 20% of the registered student population must vote. Without student approval, the fee will not be assessed.

3) When and where do I vote?

Voting will take place online on Bear Facts on March 8th, 9th &10th.

4) Who is eligible to vote?

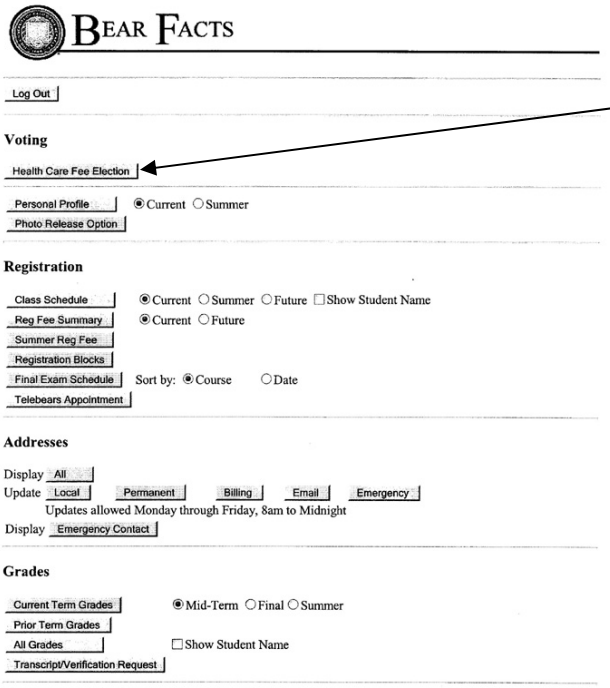
All registered students for the Spring 2005 Semester.

5**) Where can I get more information?**

Official nonpartisan Election Web site: http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/referendum/
Committee on Student Fees: http://www.berkeleycsf.org/

Safeguard Student Health Care **Fee Referendum Election: Spring 2005**
Election Manager Report
Appendix 6
Bear Facts Voting and Prize Drawing Pages

Bear Facts "Logged In" Page:



Note high placement of election button on page

Voting Page:

Appendix 6

Bear Facts Voting and Prize Drawing Pages

Student Health Care Fee Election Ballot

The dates for voting are between 08-MAR-05 and 11-MAR-05

Student Health Care Fee Election Information

Voting Ballot

To protect and improve student access to high quality, on-campus medical and mental health care, **do you approve a mandatory fee to support Berkeley's student health and counseling services?**

The fee will exclusively support **student health and counseling programs and services available to all registered Berkeley students,** even those who do not enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP).

The fee is ***intended to supplement but not supplant*** the portion of UC Berkeley's Registration Fee income currently allocated to University Health Services, Tang Center.

As the cost of health care continues to rise, this fee will ensure that Berkeley students have direct access to affordable, reliable, quality health care on-campus.

The fee is subject to the following costs and conditions:

- Collection of the fee will begin in Fall 2005 and will be assessed as a **$43 charge each Fall and Spring semester** and as a $31 charge for students registered in Summer Sessions. The fee is subject to annual adjustment within the limits described below.
- An **independent student health advisory committee will work with campus health officials, to ensure that fee money is allocated to meet students' changing health care needs** in the areas of urgent care, basic medical care, mental health care, specialty medicine, lab and pharmacy services, and preventive health education.
- By February of each year, the **independent student health advisory committee will recommend any increase or decrease in the fee rate to campus health officials.** Increases in any one year may not exceed health care inflation rates for physician and clinical services published annually by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (currently 5-7% per year).
- In accord with campus policy, **one-third of fee revenues will be returned to financial aid** to help offset the cost of this fee for the neediest students who are eligible for campus-based financial aid.

Do you approve this mandatory fee of $43 per semester and $31 during Summer Session to support Berkeley's student health and counseling services?

(•) Yes
( ) No
[Cast Vote]

About the Referendum

From March 8th to 10th, all UC Berkeley students will have the opportunity to vote online in the Safeguard Student Health Care referendum. This measure would establish a new mandatory fee ($43 per

https://bearfacts.berkeley.edu/st_gatekeeper/report/8020f25de758c5422f2a56/bfw_vote_ref 3/9/2005

Voting Confirmation Page:

Referendum Voting Confirmation

Your vote has been registered. Thank you.

Click below to enter a drawing to win a 20GB iPod:

[Enter iPod Drawing]

Please note: Information about how you voted is kept separate from your identification information in the drawing

(The iPod was purchased using money donated to University Health Services.)

[Log Out]

Drawing Entry Confirmation Page:

Appendix 6

Bear Facts Voting and Prize Drawing Pages

Referendum Prize Entry

Your entry into the iPod drawing has been submitted. Winner will be notified by email by March 31.

Thank you for voting in the "Safeguard Student Health Care" Fee Referendum Election.

Log Out

"Campus Fee Hike in Students' Hands"
November 30, 2004
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17100

"Health Services Fee Slated for Vote"
February 9, 2005 (front page)
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17556

"Students to Vote This Week on Health Services Fee"
March 7, 2005 (front page)
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17908

"Students Stake Out Positions on Health Care Fee"
March 8, 2005 (front page)
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17989

"A Toast to Your Health"
March 8, 2005 (Editorial)
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17917

"Safeguard Referendum Terminally Flawed"
March 8, 2005 (Opinion)
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17985

"Fee Will Improve Upon Important Health Services"
March 8, 2005 (Opinion)
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17919

"Students Approve New Health Services Fee"
March 14, 2005 (front page)
http://dailycal.org/article.php?id=17963

Safeguard Student Health Care **Fee Referendum Election: Spring 2005**

Election Manager Report

Appendix 8

Campus Contact Information

Task	Name	Phone	Email/Web Site
Bear Facts – Voting System and Home Page	Helen Lee, Associate Director, Student Information Systems	642-9507	hlee@berkeley.edu
Cal Mail Distribution	Claudia Bayless, Programmer Analyst II, Student Information Systems	642-9886	claudiab@berkeley.edu
Official Count of Registered Students	Walter Wong, Associate Registrar	643-1640	oua2wong@berkeley.edu
Workstation Support Services (campus computing center advertising)	Sian Shumway, Staff Supervisor, WMF	643-1528	sian@socrates.berkeley.edu
Residential Life (Flyers and Academic Centers)	Troy Gilbert, Associate Director, Academic Services, RSSP	643-9843	troyg@berkeley.edu
Nonpartisan Voter's Guide	Current chairperson of Committee on Student Fees	642-1639	http://berkeleycsf.org/
Campus Events Calendar	Web site submission		http://www.berkeley.edu/

Safeguard Student Health Care **Fee Referendum Election: Spring 2005**

Election Manager Report

Appendix 9

Election Management Budget

Student Health Fee Referendum: Costs/Budget			
Task	**Resp. Party**	**Cost**	**Notes**
Election Administration and Set-up			
BearFacts Voting site set-up	SIS	$1,584	SIS - 22 hours ($72/hour)
Referendum Informational Web Site	EM	$1,207	Computer Resource Specialist (.25 FTE for 2 months)
Prize for Drawing	UHS	$0	iPod donated from gift funds
OSL Senior Analyst	EM	$9,200	1.0 FTE for 2 months
Subtotal		**$11,991**	
Election Publicity			
Daily Cal Ads			
Voter's Guide Ad 1 week before election	EM	$680	1/2 page ad (40 column inches). 2/28/05
Voter's Guide Ad 1 day before election	EM	$680	1/2 page ad (40 column inches). 3/7/05
Reminder Ad on 1st day of election	EM	$408	1/4 page ad (24 column inches)
Reminder Ad on 2nd day of election	EM	$0	No cost (ad run by mistake)
Voter's Guides (CSF)	CSF	$680	1,200 pamphlets from Zee Zee ($532.88 and $146.81)
Banner for Sproul Tabling	EM	$105	One 4x2 banner
Banners for info booths	EM	$435	Three 6x2.5 banners
Campus Informational Stations	EM	$1,230	Rental Fee for all 3 days (1 canopy, 6 tables, 12 chairs)
Cal Mails	EM/UHS/SIS	$144	Re-charge from SIS ($72 for each message)
Subtotal		**$4,362**	
Supplies			
Office Depot 2/22	EM	$52	Colored paper for flyers; tabling supplies
Office Depot 2/23	EM	$23	Tabling supplies
Office Depot 2/24	EM	$25	Information booth supplies
Photocopies - 102 Sproul	EM	$48	Approx. 1,200 copies
Candy and snacks	EM	$25	
Thank you gifts	EM	$200	
Subtotal		**$373**	
Student Election Staff ($11.15/hr)	Hours		
Claudio Meneses	14	$156	
Chika Obih	21.5	$240	
Tracy Bunting	31	$346	
Daisy Paz	9	$100	
Brittany Carter	9	$100	
Qiana Barnes	20.5	$229	
Alejandro Diaz	10.5	$117	
Caren Auchman	3	$33	
Subtotal		**$1,321**	
TOTAL		**$18,047**	