

## Student Resource Building Fee Initiative

The proposed Student Resource Building is a student initiated and run effort to better the campus services that are considered part of the over all University goal of diversity and excellence.

Over the years, many students have expressed their need for space to meet, organize and hold activities because currently there are not sufficient accommodations on campus. We all know how difficult it can be some times to find rooms to meet, even in the MCC and UCEN. This strong sentiment was finally recognized by the administration when several hundred of us students walked out of class and demanded this building which would provide many student services. The walkout left an immense impact on our political consciousness and has definitely influenced our motivations in our activities yet, it is difficult to measure the progress achieved in our demands. This building has the potential to bring about a lasting legacy of the hard work and efforts necessary so that student space and services, such as CLAS, EOP and the Women's Center, maintain credibility. Several of these needed departments, including Greek Affairs and EPCA operate out of space too small for their needs. We know that the struggle for a diverse student population continues and that a building would further institute vital services giving them a permanent place on campus. These concerns are legitimate as they impact our retention here at UCSB, as well as the experience of future students and must receive valid accountability. Remember that this building was our idea and we are the only ones who can make it happen!

Many students want to know why student fees should pay for a new building. It is important to understand that non-academic buildings, like the proposed Student Resource Building, cannot be and are not funded by monies allocated by the State Legislature for capital projects. This means that new buildings constructed by Student Affairs must, by UC policy, be funded from student fees or other sources like donations or gifts. (Recent examples of such buildings are the Rec Cen and the UCen expansion funded by student lock-in fees and the Student Affairs-Administrative Services Building funded by operating funds from Student Affairs.) At this time, the plan is to finance the SRB by a combination of a mandatory student fee, registration fees allocated by the student-run Student Fee Advisory Committee, and Student Affairs' operating funds. Efforts are also being made to find a donor who would be willing to contribute to the building.

Another valid concern is the costs, which will not take affect until 2004, especially for students on financial aid. Yet, Financial Aid adjusts student aid packages to cover all mandatory student fees. So, students receiving financial aid would have this fee added to their package.

Although this building would not be built until a few years from now, this building will enhance the campus environment for future UCSB students. By supporting this initiative, you will give future students access to the better facilities for our world class university. Just imagine how our college experience would have been like if students before us had not had the foresight to envision improved student facilities such as the RecCen and the MCC? Whether we each use these resources or not, we all know that there are always a stream of students that do use them and if we ever want to try them out, they are always available for us.

With the importance of this building in mind, please support the SRB!!! Vote April 24th and 25th!!!

Sincerely,

Johanna Romero

Sydia Lopez

Ira Munn

## Student Resource Building Fee Initiative-VOTE "NO" on this initiative

1. No adequate proposal for the building exists. The little information available is insubstantial and unprofessional. At the very least, voters should expect a detailed written estimate of building costs and a written commitment to the services to be housed in the building and the space allocation that each would receive.
2. Students-graduate and undergraduate alike-should not in any way subsidize any costs associated with Student Information Systems (SIS) and Student Affairs Information Technologies (SAIT). The proposal as written does not make any such guarantee.
3. There is no reason to expect graduate students to pay for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the Fraternity/Sorority Council and Greek Advisor, Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS), or Early Academic Outreach (EAO). If the fee initiative goes into effect, graduate students will subsidize undergraduate services. In the case of CLAS, many graduate students will be paying for their own workspace!
4. The fee increase will charge graduate students approximately \$250,000 per year. Much of that cost will be charged against already limited funds available for graduate fellowships, TAships, and RAships. The math is simple: if it costs more to go to UCSB, then fewer fellowships, TAships, and RAships will be available.
5. The Student Fee Advisory Committee, the organization endorsing this ballot initiative, has overstepped its role as an advisory committee by choosing to propose and lobby for a student fee. Moreover, SFAC has circulated misleading information, particularly regarding financial aid, in order to win support. To be clear: Financial Aid packages for graduate students will cover this fee increase ONLY by increasing loans.
6. The Office of Student Life, indeed the entire Student Affairs division, has a direct financial interest in the outcome of this election. The same officials supporting the initiative are supervising the election-a clearly inappropriate conflict of interest. We are concerned that OSL reviewed all Pro/Con statements submitted to the Nexus prior to publication. Moreover, the GSA is concerned that OSL and Student Affairs resources may have been used improperly to advance this initiative. These improprieties may have involved the misuse of Federal Work-Study funds, since Student Affairs student employees have campaigned for the initiative while on the job.
7. Little or nothing has been done to involve or to educate the GSA or graduate students in general about the impact or importance of this building. Without compelling arguments supporting this incredible \$100 per year fee hike, UCSB graduate student simply cannot support it.