

Recreation & Athletics
Campus Based Fee Proposal

- I. Referendum Title
2021 Recreation & Athletics Facility Fee
- II. Ballot Language

The Recreation & Athletics Department is proposing a new fee to support expanded facility operations within the Recreation & Athletics Department. This fee would support the operations and maintenance of the following new facilities:

- Aquatics Center
- Recreation Field
- Bobcat Field
- Outdoor Basketball Courts
- Outdoor Tennis Courts

This fee would provide access to these facilities during their normal posted operating hours without additional membership fees. If this fee is not approved, access to these facilities would require student to purchase an additional membership on a semester basis, currently estimated at \$100/semester. This fee would also support a study of the cost to add sports lighting to the Outdoor Basketball and Tennis Courts.

The fee of \$55 per fall and spring semester and a \$25 summer fee (paid only in first session enrolled each summer) for all undergraduate and graduate students would be collected starting in the fall 2021 semester. Beginning fall 2024, the fee would increase every four years by an amount equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Fresno, California or 3%, whichever is greater. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the fee, or \$13.75 per semester in academic year 2021-2022, would be returned to students as financial aid.

Do you approve a fee of \$55 per semester (fall/spring) and \$25 per summer to support maintenance and operations of new recreation and athletic facilities at UC Merced?

_____ Yes, I hereby support the 2021 Recreation & Athletics Facility Fee

_____ No, I hereby do not support the 2021 Recreation & Athletics Facility Fee

Commented [UCOP1]: UCOP Comment: As a reply to comment or in an email to UCOP, please confirm that a UC student who enrolls in summer session C and D would be assessed the \$25 fee once.

Commented [DD2R1]: You are correct, the fee would only be charged for the first session the student enrolls in.

III. Referendum Text

The 2021 Recreation & Athletics Facility Fee will be used to support the maintenance and operations of the expanded facilities provided by the 2020 Project. The project did not provide funding for the operation of these new recreation and athletic facilities.

The maintenance and operations of these facilities includes utilities, pool chemicals and maintenance supplies, and annual maintenance and operation costs required by the 2020 Project for annual maintenance and long term renewal of the facilities. The facilities supported by this fee are:

- Aquatics Center
- Recreation Field
- Bobcat Field
- Outdoor Basketball Courts
- Outdoor Tennis Courts

In addition, this fee would fund a study to determine the cost to add sports lighting to the Outdoor Basketball and Outdoor Tennis Courts and, if funding is available, would provide for the installation of and operation of the sports lighting.

The current Recreation Fee was not designed to support the facilities added by the 2020 Project as it currently supports the debt service, operations, and maintenance of the Joseph Edward Gallo Recreation Center and the Student Activities and Athletics Center (SAAC).

With the passing of this fee, students will have access to the facilities during the posted open recreation periods during the semester. These hours will vary by facility and time of year. Failure to pass this fee will require students to purchase memberships each semester in order to utilize these facilities. The membership fee is currently estimated to be \$100 per semester.

IV. Background

The 2020 Project has brought several new and much needed recreation and athletics facilities to the campus, but the departments must pay to maintain and operate these facilities. The facilities' operating costs are substantial and they have a considerable impact on the Recreation & Athletic Department budget. The current Recreation Fee cannot support these additional costs.

The entire student body would benefit from this fee through the access provided to the new 2020 Project recreation & athletics facilities. All graduate and undergraduate students would have access to these facilities with this fee in place.

