Sacramento State students vote ‘no’ on new fee for Event Center

A record turnout of Sacramento State students voted this week on the adoption of a fee to build and maintain a new Event Center on campus. By a 79.6 percent to 20.4 percent vote, the proposed $219-per-semester fee increase was rejected. About 7,000 votes were cast, or approximately 25 percent of the student body head count.

In Fall 2013, the University Union utilized the Alternative Consultation Process to determine the support for an increase in the University Union Fee to build an Event Center on campus. At the conclusion of the process, the University Union Board of Directors and the campus Student Fee Advisory Committee provided a recommendation to proceed with the implementation of the increased fee level.

At that time, Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez decided against implementing the recommended fee increase in response to concerns that not enough student voices were being heard. In October 2014, Gonzalez requested that the University hold an advisory referendum regarding the fee increase.

“The democratic process has been followed. A majority of the votes cast recommended against the fee increase for the proposed Event Center,” Gonzalez said. “Although I could have implemented the additional student fee last spring following the completion of the Alternative Consultation Process, I wanted students to have the opportunity to vote on the issue.”

Gonzalez added that the current climate of concern among students in regard to rising state tuition costs and student success fees was all the more reason to provide students the opportunity to have a direct say in the matter.

Pam Stewart, chair of The University Foundation at Sacramento State, noted that the Event Center remains a project within the University’s long-term campus master plan.

“As we look to the future, the University Foundation stands ready to provide long-term fundraising support for student scholarships, academic programs and capital projects, including a state-of-the-art Event Center that will serve our students and strengthen the campus connection with the Sacramento region,” Stewart said.

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