Pro Statement:

Vote YES on the Graduate Student Association Activity Fee Referendum

This is the only student fee that goes directly back to graduate and professional students in its entirety.

$4.26 of the fee will go to the GSA to support its mission of improving graduate student life. This referendum will support:

- Department per Capita – money directly to grad students
- Quarterly Free-For-All’s
- Appropriation Funds – money directly to graduate student groups
- Restoration of the Lounge Improvement Fund
- Social, Cultural, and Diversity Programming

$1.74 of the fee will be returned to grad and professional departments via block grants.

The GSA has NOT RAISED the activity fee SINCE 2002

Over the last decade the GSA has drastically expanded services including:

- Social Coordinator position and expanded social programming
- Cultural Coordinator position and increased opportunities to participate in events around San Diego.
- Expansion of the Appropriation Funds to include Academic, Diversity, and Family Friendly programming.
- Increased representation of grad and professional student issues at both the state and national legislatures.

GSA has picked up the slack during the UC budget crisis by funding activities dropped by UCSD. We are asking for your support of grad and professional student life at UCSD.

Despite no increase in fees in over a decade, GSA continues to support grad students at increasing levels. Without this referendum, reductions in the GSA’s services will become a reality.

VOTE YES on the GSA activity fee so GSA can continue to support grad and professional students for the next decade.

Con Statement:

VOTE NO on the Graduate Student Activity fee increase

Students tired of ENDLESS tuition and fee increases?
- Graduate students: $14,381
- Medical students: $32,009.5
- Pharmacy Students: $31,666.5
- IR/PS students: $33,518
- Rady School of Management: $52,392

STOP THE FEE INCREASES!

First, in terms of budgeting, GSA needs to justify a budget plan, provide information on near term fiscal health, and outline reasons for spending changes. No plan has been provided.

MANY CURRENT AND FORMER GSA MEMBERS AGREE: GSA does not need more funding. Current fees cover amazing events that WILL continue and WILL be funded by CURRENT fee revenues. Do not let the proponents fool you.

This 50% fee hike disproportionally impacts international and non-funded graduate students and represents a burden on students of all disciplines and departments during a time when departmental budgets and financial aid is being slashed with increased need.

Every student will have to pay the fee. However, departments do not receive the proportionate funding they put in and do not fairly benefit from the activities. SCIENCE, SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES, PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS are under-represented on the GSA

Demand accountability and a plan for how the money will be spent. Demand more from your council, and VOTE NO on the GSA activity fee increase.
Rebuttal to Pro Statement:

Vote NO on GSA Fee Hike!
Why is almost QUARTER-MILLION---$225,000.00 not enough?

"Fee increases disproportionately impact already marginalized students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, students of color, LGBTQI students and women, because the combination of high debt and high interest rates creates a strong disincentive to pursue and complete graduate education," according to the UC Davis -Graduate Ally Coalition.

Why are proponents hiding the facts? Proponents present no quantitative data---why?

· The GSA fee is unchanged but total revenue has: Income generated by fees swelled to $180,000 (2011)
· Total operating revenues of $249,000.00 with vending machine income. (2011)
When our departments are cutting travel, activities are cut, GSA spends:
· $40,000.00 for flights and "lobbying" since 2010, $208,000 in GSA Officer Wages and $9600 allocated for supplies (2009-2011), 60% increase in combined appointed officer compensation to $16,000 (2011-2012).

And GSA lacks accountability, when compared to Berkeley, there is NO gross reporting distinguishing revenue/expenditure/financing by committee.

VOTE NO

Rebuttal to Con Statement:

Students are tired of fee increases that go only to the administration. The **GSA activity fee** is the **only fee** that goes **back to grad students entirely**. No administrative middleman.

Money directly to grad and professional students.

The GSA provides yearly budgets and holds all budget meetings in public forums. Budget allocations and decisions are directly accountable to grad and professional students via the GSA representatives. Plans for what GSA would look like after cuts in programming have been made available to the public on the GSA website. **Check it out - gsa.ucsd.edu.**

If the fee **does not pass** more **cuts to services are guaranteed**. Look at this year with the abolition of the Lounge Improvement Fund and the reduction of DPC by 50%.

While the money requested is a 50% increase on the current fee, it is from a low base. And 29% of the fee increase will be returned to graduate and professional departments to help offset the increased fee.

The GSA has been a good steward of grad and professional student fees by **not increasing the fee in over a decade AND increasing services in the meantime.**

**VOTE YES** on the Graduate Student Association Activity Fee referendum to support grad and professional student life at UCSD.