

Historical Archive: 2025-2026 Alternative Consultation Process for the Instructionally-Related Activities Fee

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Background

San José State University is dedicated to strengthening academic excellence, expanding student support services, and enriching the overall student experience—core elements of a vibrant and successful university community. The new Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee approved by the California State University Chancellor's Office is intended to enhance the university's ability to deliver high-quality programs and address critical needs that students have identified as essential to their success and well-being. The IRA fee will be in effect beginning fall 2026 for all matriculated students enrolled in stateside programs. This excludes non-matriculated students and students in self-supporting programs like Continuing Education.

IRA funding will address student needs: instructional support (e.g. academic service centers, technology, equipment and experiential learning); alleviate parking and transportation pressures (e.g. by funding expanded student access to public transit); promote school spirit and student life through intramurals, club sports, student engagement, Division I athletic competitions; and elevate co-curricular programs such as journalism and the Spartan Marching Band.

Since the last increase of a mandatory campus fee in Fiscal Year 2012-13 (new SSETF which was subsequently reduced in FY 2014-15), the cost of essential student-focused services and programs has dramatically increased and State support of the CSU has been dramatically reduced. SJSU had to reduce its campus operating budget the last two fiscal years; for FY 2025-26 the operating budget was reduced by \$8 million.

Strategic Need Statement

The IRA fee is designed to provide stable, long-term funding for programs, services, and learning experiences that directly support student academic success and educational enrichment. The fee ensures that essential instructional activities—such as labs, performances, publications, field experiences, equipment access, and academic support programs—have the resources required to support an equitable learning environment for all SJSU students.

SJSU continues to face significant increases in the cost of delivering high-quality, hands-on, and experiential learning opportunities. Costs for equipment, technology, materials, field trips, and operational support for student academic programs have outpaced existing levels of funding. Many departments are unable to maintain or expand the instructional and other experiences students expect. The proposed IRA fee will sustain and strengthen instructionally related and co-curricular programs vital to student learning and success and will reinforce SJSU’s mission to empower students through innovation, inclusion, and experiential education.

Alternative Consultation Process and Results

The IRA fee is being implemented following a process called Alternative Consultation. The California State University system provides two mechanisms for increasing fees as outlined in Executive Order 1102. The mechanism identified for this proposed fee is alternative consultation which enables the university to meaningfully engage the campus community in a robust and holistic manner.

Open forums were held to ensure that students understand the fees and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. The Campus Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC) then compiled and analyzed student feedback, engaged in committee discussions and ultimately furnished a recommendation to President Teniente-Matson based on student feedback.

President Teniente-Matson was responsible for making the final campus decision. President Teniente-Matson secured final review and approval from the CSU Chancellor. The IRA fee will be implemented at SJSU starting fall 2026 in a phased approach, with approved allocations taking effect with each subsequent academic year and fee rates changing with the Higher Education Pricing Index (HEPI).

Note that projections on fee revenue are based on an estimate of 35,000 students. Actual revenue will be based on actual enrollment in the coming academic years.

How the Fee will be Implemented

IRA Fee Implementation Phases

	Approved Year One Fee: Academic Year 2026-2027	Approved Year Two Fee (AY27-28)	Approved Year Three Fee (AY28-29)	Originally-Proposed Fee
Semester Fee	\$122.50	\$148.75	\$175.00	\$369 per year, issued as \$184.5 per semester, immediately in Academic Year 2026-2027.
Annual Fee	\$245	\$297.50	\$350	
Percentage of total, eventual fee in AY2028-29	70%	85%	100%	

Notes			The IRA fee will increase with inflation following the Higher Education Pricing Index (HEPI) beginning in AY2029-2030.	
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How the Fee Revenue Will Be Allocated

IRA Fee Revenue

Allocation	Approved Year One Fee Allocation, effective fall 2026	Approved Year Two Allocation (AY27-28)	Approved Year Three Allocation (AY28-29)	Originally-Proposed Allocation (AY26-27)	Originally-Proposed Percent of New Funding for AY26-27	Notes
Academic/Instructional Support	\$2,245,000	\$2,745,000	\$3,745,000	\$3,745,000	29%	Net increase of \$2 million (reduction of \$1.745 (SSETF))
Alternative Transportation/Bay Area Transit Pass	\$1,715,000	\$1,715,000	\$1,715,000	\$1,715,000	13%	
Club Sports/Intramurals	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	7%	Net Increase of \$350K (reduction of \$250K SSETF) and an additional \$250K of New IRA will replace funding previously allocated through Athletic Dept (SSETF)

Intercollegiate Athletics	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000	39%	
Marching Band	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	2%	
Spartan Daily (student newspaper publication)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	0.2%	
Student Engagement Programs	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	2%	
Total	\$8,385,000	\$8,885,000	\$9,885,000	\$11,885,000	92%	
2026/27 Total Estimated IRA Fee Revenue (35,000 headcount)	\$8,575,000	\$10,718,750	\$12,250,000	\$12,915,000		Revenue projections are based on a \$245 assessed fee in year one; \$297.50 in year two; \$350 in year three. All years account for a 35,000 stateside student headcount. The fee revenue is based on an estimate of 35,000 students. Actual revenue will be based on enrollment.
Unallocated balance	\$190,000	\$1,833,750	\$2,365,000	\$1,030,000	8%	
Total					100%	

Additional Context

SJSU's campus mandatory fees for FY 2025-26 are \$2,396 per year. SJSU currently ranks #7 in the CSU with lower campus fees than Chico, Sacramento, Sonoma, San Diego, Maritime and Cal Poly SLO. The original proposal of \$369 per academic year, will instead be \$350 in the third year of implementation. This will increase SJSU's annual fees for FY 2028-29 to \$2,746 per academic year (a 14.6% increase in mandatory fees as compared to FY 2025-26). While a nominal increase, this would rank SJSU #4, below San Diego State (SDSU fees are currently \$2,730 per academic year but we understand they are proposing a \$250 annual IRA fee increase for FY 2026-27, Maritime (\$3,475/year), and Cal Poly SLO (\$7,000/year).

The new IRA fee will provide ongoing support for programs and activities that are integrally related to the formal instructional offerings of the University, consistent with CSU policy. The proposed IRA Fee will provide stable, equitable funding to sustain and enhance programs and initiatives that directly and meaningfully benefit SJSU students and that contribute to programs and initiatives that directly and meaningfully benefit SJSU students and that contribute to student learning, engagement, and campus life, including:

1. Instructional support activities (labs, fieldwork, undergraduate research, music/theatre performances, exhibitions)
2. Transit – Bay Area Clipper Pass for all students, or other alternative transportation needs
3. Student engagement initiatives
4. Club Sports/Intramural programs
5. The SJSU Marching Band
6. The Spartan Daily – student newspaper
7. Spartan Intercollegiate Athletics

Establishing this New Fee

An IRA fee is classified as a Category II – Campus-Based Mandatory Fee, as defined in CSU Executive Order 1102. Category II fees are required to enroll in or attend the University and are established through an alternative student consultation process and approval by the Chancellor following the recommendation of the campus president.

Instructionally Related Activities are integral components of a comprehensive educational experience, providing opportunities for applied learning, leadership development, and community engagement consistent with Education Code 89230.

Over the past decade, programs typically supported with IRA funding have faced increasing financial pressures due to not having a dedicated IRA fee as the prior IRA fee was bundled and included with the new Student Success fee (SSETF) in Fall 2012. This fee was subsequently reduced in Fall 2014. The reduction of this fee in Fall 2014 resulted in a cumulative loss to SJSU of almost \$87 million in cumulative funding over the past twelve years. Had that fee not been reduced, the campus would have had an additional \$9 million in funding for SSETF this fiscal year alone. Since Fall 2014, the SSETF fee pool has been challenged to be able to support the ongoing needs of SJSU students due to:

- Growth in student participation and program expansion
- Rising operational and equipment costs
- Diminished State (CSU) funding sources

- Greater demand for equitable support across academic and co-curricular programs

The proposed new IRA fee will ensure sustained investment in activities that directly benefit student learning outcomes and campus engagement consistent with other CSU campuses. SJSU is the only CSU campus without a dedicated, stand-alone IRA fee.

Financial Aid

Campus-based mandatory student fees (Category II) are included in the Cost of Attendance and may be fully or partially offset by financial aid awards. Coverage varies based on a student's eligibility. Currently, 40% of SJSU students (approximately 14,000) receive financial aid based on Cost of Attendance and will not be impacted by this fee increase; 26% (9,100) of SJSU students receive a partial financial aid award and will be impacted with a minimal fee increase.

Revenue Projections

Fee Amount and Revenue Projection

Fee	Approved Total Amount in Year Three of Implementation	Originally-Proposed Amount	Approved Frequency	Originally-Proposed Frequency	Effective Term	Population	Projected Annual Revenue*
Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Fee	\$350	\$369	Annual (\$175 per semester)	Annual (\$184.50 per semester)	Fall 2026, implemented in phases through fall 2028	Fully-matriculated students in a stateside program.	Approx. \$12.9 million (based on 35,000 students)

****Revenue projections are based on full-time equivalent student enrollment (headcount) and will vary annually. Fee will be increased each year in accordance with HEPI (Higher Education Price Index), a national higher-education cost inflation index.***

About the Allocations

1. [Instructional Support Activities](#)
2. [Alternative Transportation - BayPass](#)
3. [Student Engagement Initiatives](#)
4. [Club Sports/Intramural Programs](#)
5. [Marching Band](#)
6. [The Spartan Daily - student newspaper](#)
7. [Intercollegiate Athletics](#)
8. [IRA Committee Directed Annual Initiative Funding Pool](#)

1. Instructional Support Activities

Overview

Increase in base budget funding provided to Academic Affairs by \$3.745 million annually. Laboratory, field experiences, undergraduate research, music and theatre performances, and exhibitions are essential high-impact practices that directly advance SJSU's academic mission. These activities provide hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that elevate student success and deepen mastery of interdisciplinary skills.

Proposed Solution

Funding will support critical instructional experiences, including equipment and materials for labs and fieldwork; production costs for performances and student exhibitions; support for faculty-supervised student projects; enhanced accessibility of academic service centers (e.g. tutoring, supplemental instruction); updated technology and software (classrooms); and support for high-impact, experiential learning programs.

Rationale and Benefits

This investment ensures that all students have equitable access to experiential learning central to degree completion. Additional funding will strengthen academic quality, increase student engagement, and improve career readiness.

2. Alternative Transportation/Transit – Bay Area Clipper Pass

Overview

\$1.715 million new funding provided to Transportation Solutions to pay for the Bay Area Clipper Pass pilot program for all students. The Clipper Pass provides unlimited access to all bus, rail, and ferry services in the nine-county Bay Area region. Reliable and affordable public transit is a foundational component of student access, retention, and wellbeing. Many SJSU students are commuter-based and rely heavily on transit to participate fully in academic and co-curricular life.

Proposed Solution

Funding will support a Bay Area Clipper Pass for all enrolled full-time and part-time SJSU students in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement between Associated Students and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). This program will provide students with access to regional transit systems, reducing commuting barriers and improving campus connectivity. The MTC has committed to this program for SJSU students through June 30, 2027.

Rationale and Benefits

A student fee-supported transit pass reduces out-of-pocket transportation costs, promotes sustainability, and directly enhances students' ability to attend classes, labs, internships, and campus activities. Improved mobility supports retention, reduces parking demand, and aligns with SJSU sustainability goals.

3. Student Engagement Initiatives

Overview

\$300,000 annual new funding. Co-curricular engagement available to all students—including leadership programs, cultural events, service learning, and student development initiatives—is a proven driver of academic success and student belonging.

Proposed Solution

Funding will support a portfolio of structured student engagement programs that strengthen community, leadership development, and student wellbeing, ensuring broad access to meaningful out-of-class learning.

Rationale and Benefits

Enhanced engagement opportunities available to all students foster a stronger sense of belonging, improve retention and graduation rates, and contribute to a vibrant campus life. These initiatives support holistic student development and respond to student demand for more inclusive, accessible, and mission-aligned programming.

4. Club Sports and Intramurals

Overview

\$350,000 annual new funding. Club sports and intramural programs enrich the student experience by promoting physical wellness, teamwork, and community involvement. Participation is consistently high and contributes significantly to campus vibrancy.

Proposed Solution

Funding will support club sport travel, uniforms, equipment, safety requirements, league fees, facility access, and staffing to support intramural program operations. Funding will support creation of additional club sport teams and intramural activities.

Rationale and Benefits

Investment in recreational sport opportunities enhances student wellness, supports social connection, and provides leadership and teamwork experience. These programs contribute to campus health and wellness initiatives and provide inclusive, recreational options for the entire student body.

5. The SJSU Marching Band

Overview

\$250,000 annual new funding. The Spartan Marching Band is a signature student performance ensemble with over 135 student participants that contributes to academic achievement, campus spirit, and community engagement. It represents SJSU locally, regionally, and nationally and plays for a variety of athletic, campus, and community events each year.

Proposed Solution

Funding will provide a stable financial foundation, ensuring that our students can continue to perform at campus events, athletic competitions, and community engagements while enhancing school spirit and representing the university with pride. Funding will support instruments, uniforms, travel, instructional support from part-time Graduate Assistants, and other general operating needs in order to maintain high artistic and performance standards.

Rationale and Benefits

The Spartan Marching Band is a longstanding experiential learning program that enhances the visibility and pride of the university, strengthens recruitment, and provides performance-based learning opportunities for students in music and related disciplines. A strong marching band elevates campus culture and pride and enhances the student experience across athletic and university events and provides for community connection by playing at local and regional events.

6. The Spartan Daily – Student Newspaper

Overview

\$25,000 annual new funding. The Spartan Daily is a premier, award-winning student-run publication that provides real-world journalism experience while serving as an important source of campus news and civic engagement.

Proposed Solution

Funding will support essential operating expenses — including printing, equipment, digital production tools, and travel—to maintain the newspaper's high-quality journalistic standards and student training opportunities.

Rationale and Benefits

Support for the Spartan Daily enhances students' professional skills in reporting, multimedia production, and editorial management while promoting transparency and information-sharing across campus. A strong student newspaper contributes to civic literacy, accountability, and an informed student body.

7. Spartan Intercollegiate Athletics

Overview

\$3 million annual new funding (lower than the originally-proposed \$5 million) from the new IRA fee. Approximately 475 students participate directly in intercollegiate athletics. Intercollegiate athletics is a core student activity that builds community, enhances institutional visibility nationally through brand recognition, enhances alumni and donor engagement and support, and provides student-athletes with structured leadership, academic support, and competitive opportunities.

Proposed Solution

Increased funding will enhance student-athlete support, facility operations, sport team operations (travel, uniforms, equipment), facility maintenance costs, and academic and counseling services which align with Education Code guidelines.

Rationale and Benefits

Athletics is a driver of student, alumni, and community engagement, University branding, and donor cultivation. Universities that invest in their athletic programs benefit from increased student applications, stronger alumni engagement, enhanced campus culture, and athletic events contribute directly to the economic vitality of the local region.

This funding will strengthen student-athlete academic success, enhance campus spirit, and will support activities that engage the broader student community.

8. IRA Committee Directed Annual Initiative Funding Pool

Overview

Approximately \$1 million for an annual new funding pool to be administered by a new IRA Advisory Committee to annually fund initiatives. IRA Advisory Committees typically include students, faculty, and administrative representatives who evaluate campus proposals for funding.

IRA Advisory Committee

The IRA fund will operate with guidance from an advisory committee composed of nine (9) total members, co-chaired by the Provost and the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) President or their designees. Students will be the majority of voting members.

Committee membership will include:

- Provost (or designee), Co-Chair
- Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) President (or designee), Co-Chair
- Four (4) ASI student representatives
- Two (2) faculty members appointed by the President
- Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) (or designee)

Proposed Solution

A flexible method using the IRA Advisory Committee will annually evaluate initiatives and allow funding for activities and experiences integral, but not core, to the formal university instructional curriculum. Possible initiatives to be funded using the pool could include new academic competitions or hackathons, short-notice field experiences tied to grant or industry opportunities, pilot experiential learning initiatives, and many others. This pool would allow flexibility to support academic innovation without waiting for a full budget cycle, as the committee could potentially be structured to award funding during the academic year, rather than just at the beginning.

Rationale and Benefits

The IRA Advisory Committee would be charged with reviewing and recommending funding allocations from the initiative pool for additional IRA-designated programs, ensuring student consultation consistent with CSU fee policy, promoting transparency and accountability in how IRA funds are used, and confirming alignment with CSU criteria and SJSU's academic and student-success priorities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Fee?

The Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Fee is a new CSU Category II campus-based mandatory fee that supports instructionally related activities including IRA programs, intercollegiate athletics, recreational sports, etc. For SJSU, this fee funds:

- Instructional support activities (labs, fieldwork, undergraduate research, music/theatre performances, exhibitions)
- Transit – Clipper BayPass (free or discounted public transit passes for all students)
- Student engagement initiatives (student leadership development, student organizations, and inclusive campus events)
- Club Sports/Intramural programs (inclusive recreation opportunities, travel, coaching, safety equipment, facility access)
- The SJSU Marching Band (equipment, travel, and performance opportunities)
- The Spartan Daily – student newspaper (media training, printing, and distribution)
- Spartan Intercollegiate Athletics

Do other campuses have similar fees?

Yes. Prior to fall 2026, San José State was the only campus in the California State University system to not have an Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee.

How much is the fee?

The originally-proposed amount was 369^{per academic year} (184.50 per semester). This would increase total annual mandatory fees from \$2,396 to approximately \$2,765 per year (a 15% increase)—still lower than Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and San Diego State.

When did the fee change take effect?

As approved, the new IRA fee took effect at the start of the fall 2026 semester (Academic Year 2026–2027).

How does this fee benefit San José State students?

The new IRA fee benefits San José State students by directly supporting programs and services that enhance the overall student experience, academic success, and campus life. Specifically, the fee helps:

- Expand opportunities for involvement and school spirit through the Marching Band and Athletics, which promote pride and connection across campus.
- Support student recreation and community by increasing resources for Club Sports and maintaining inclusive fitness opportunities.
- Strengthen student learning and professional development through the Spartan Daily, which provides hands-on journalism and media experience.
- Enhance engagement and belonging by funding Student Engagement programs that foster leadership, cultural expression, and inclusive campus activities.

- Improve accessibility and sustainability through transportation support, helping students commute to campus safely and affordably. Together, these investments ensure that SJSU continues to offer high-quality, inclusive, and accessible programs that enrich every Spartan's university experience.

What does the consultation process entail?

The California State University system has established two mechanisms for increasing fees as outlined in Executive Order 1102. The mechanism identified for this proposed fee is alternative consultation.

Alternative consultation enables the university to meaningfully engage the campus community regarding the proposed fee. Open forums are held to ensure that students understand the fees and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

The Campus Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC) compiled and analyzed student feedback, engaged in committee discussions, and ultimately made a recommendation to President Teniente-Matson based on student feedback.

President Teniente-Matson is responsible for making the final campus decision. In 2026, the fee was approved by the president and the recommendation moved on to the CSU Chancellor where it secured final review and ultimate approval.

What is the Campus Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC)?

CFAC is a campus committee consisting of students, faculty, staff and administrators. [Learn more about the CFAC.](#)

When will I know if the fees are approved?

The CFAC made a recommendation to the president in spring 2026 based on the consultative process, including the open forums. A formal announcement was sent to all students when the decision by the President was made and when the fee was approved by the CSU Chancellor's Office.

What does the alternative consultation process involve?

Under CSU Executive Order 1102, if it is determined that a referendum is not the best mechanism for appropriate and meaningful consultation, and is not required by the Education Code, an alternative consultation process may be utilized. Alternative consultation strategies will be developed with input from Associated Students and CFAC in an effort to solicit input from the entire student body. Examples of alternative consultation activities include the following:

- The campus hosted open forums to inform and engage students.
- CFAC collected feedback, deliberated and made a recommendation to President Cynthia Teniente-Matson.
- The President approved the final proposal and submitted it to the CSU Chancellor's Office who granted final approval for SJSU's IRA fee.

Who can participate in the IRA fee survey?

Only matriculated students enrolled in state-supported (state-side) courses were eligible to participate in the 2026 IRA fee survey. This is because the IRA fee applies only to students in state-supported programs.

Why can't Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE) students complete the survey?

Students enrolled exclusively in Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE), also known as self-support programs, are not required to pay the IRA fee. As a result, they were not eligible to participate in the survey, which is limited to students who would be subject to the fee.

How can eligible students access the survey?

All eligible students enrolled in state-supported courses received a unique survey link by email in spring 2026. The survey was available through one.sjsu.edu and Canvas.

Conclusion

This fee is an investment in the academic future of every SJSU student, ensuring that the university continues to deliver high-quality instruction, maintain competitive academic programs, and provide enriching educational experiences.

In addition, an IRA Advisory Committee will be established to review and recommend annual budget allocations (for any unallocated fund balances) and will assess outcomes of programs and services receiving IRA funds. Annual expenditure and impact reports will be published on the campus website for student and campus community review.

Transportation Fee

Associated Students initially proposed a standalone transit fee as part of the AS fee to support a Clipper Bay Pass, recognizing that transportation costs and access directly affect students' ability to get to campus, attend classes, and participate fully in university life.

After review, the President did not approve the proposal in its standalone form due to unresolved concerns, including uncertainty about long-term pricing and limited information regarding sustained campus-wide student utilization. Because of these factors, the President concluded that the transit fee did not meet the threshold for approval at that time, even though the underlying goal, improving transit access, was understood and valued.

Rather than ending the conversation, campus leadership—particularly the Vice President for Student Affairs—explored whether the student-requested transit benefit could be preserved within a broader, allowable fee structure. Including transit in the IRA proposal is intended to keep the benefit under consideration for the upcoming academic year.

Why is transit being included in the IRA proposal?

Including transit in the IRA proposal was seen as a way to:

- Keep a student-prioritized benefit under consideration rather than losing it altogether
- Situate transit within a broader set of instructionally related and access-supporting activities
- Manage financial and contractual uncertainty within a larger, diversified fee structure, rather than placing all risk on a single-purpose fee

Was transportation evaluated on its own before being included in the IRA proposal?

Yes. Transportation was initially evaluated as a standalone fee proposal, as part of the AS fee. The President determined that a standalone transit fee would not be pursued due to unresolved concerns about long-term pricing and limited information regarding sustained campus-wide student utilization. This decision was not based on a lack of recognition of transportation as a student priority.

Why did the campus incorporate the transit fee into the IRA instead of the MSF fee?

While CSU policy allows limited transit-related uses under MSF, this fee category is more restrictive in scope and is primarily intended for course-specific materials and facilities. Using the Materials and Services Fee (MSF) for transit would require additional approvals and a separate consultation or referendum process.

The IRA pathway allows broader programmatic flexibility and could be implemented in time to be included in financial aid packaging for 2026–27.

Based on these considerations, the IRA pathway was determined to be the most feasible way to preserve transit funding within the required timeline.

Could transportation be moved to a different fee category in the future?

Yes. The campus is not opposed to reevaluating the appropriate fee category for transportation in the future. Any change would require:

- Compliance with CSU Fee Policy
 - Either a referendum or alternative consultation
 - Demonstrated student interest and support
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Athletics

What is the IRA fee?

The Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee is a mandatory student fee authorized by the California State University (CSU) system. It supports activities that are directly related to instruction but occur outside the traditional classroom, including labs, performances, and intercollegiate athletics.

Why are athletics considered “instructionally related”?

Athletics are considered instructionally related because they:

- Provide hands-on, experiential learning in leadership, teamwork, time management, and discipline
- Support student development outcomes aligned with SJSU’s educational mission
- Offer applied learning opportunities for students involved in sports management, kinesiology, athletic training, marketing, media, and event operations
- The CSU system explicitly recognizes intercollegiate athletics as a valid use of IRA funds.

How does the IRA fee benefit students who are not athletes?

Even if a student never attends a game, athletics funded through the IRA fee bring significant value to the broader campus by:

- Enhancing school pride, campus identity, and community engagement
- Increasing SJSU's visibility and reputation, which can strengthen the value of an SJSU degree
- Creating student jobs, internships, and leadership opportunities
- Supporting campus events that bring students together and improve overall student life

What specifically does the IRA fee support in athletics?

IRA funds used for athletics typically support:

- Student-athlete academic support services
- Coaching and instruction directly tied to athletic participation
- Equipment and facilities used for training and competition
- Compliance with NCAA and conference requirements
- Opportunities for students to participate in and attend intercollegiate competitions

IRA funds do not replace State general funds and are restricted to approved instructional purposes.

Why is additional or continued IRA funding needed for athletics?

Athletics costs continue to rise due to:

- Increased travel, equipment, and operational expenses
- Conference and NCAA compliance requirements
- The need to remain competitive and viable within Division I athletics

Without sufficient IRA support, programs may face reductions in opportunities, competitiveness, or student services, which can negatively affect both athletes and the campus community.

How does IRA funding support equity and inclusion?

IRA-supported athletics funding helps ensure:

- Equal opportunities for men's and women's sports
- Compliance with Title IX requirements
- Access to athletic participation regardless of a student's financial background
- This funding helps maintain a diverse and inclusive athletics program that reflects SJSU's student population.

Reducing the number of sport teams is not an option due to Title IX compliance requirements.

What happens if IRA support for athletics is reduced or eliminated?

Without adequate IRA support, SJSU could face:

- Cuts to athletic programs or teams
- Reduced student participation opportunities
- Lower competitiveness and visibility
- Fewer student employment and experiential learning opportunities

These impacts would extend beyond athletics and affect campus life and institutional reputation and opportunities for philanthropic support.

How many student athletes or % of student athletes receive aid?

There's a perception that all athletes and all teams receive full aid, housing, books, etc.

- Of our 451 student-athletes, 68% (307) are on some sort of Athletics aid
- 39% (175) receive partial aid
- 29% (132) receive a full scholarship

How many out-of-state students do we have that don't qualify for aid, such as Cal Grant, SUG etc.

159 Student-athletes (35%) are either out of state residents or international students and are not eligible for state/federal aid.

How many band members receive aid? Or how are they supported?

Athletics sponsors 2 Graduate Assistants for Band.

29% (39) of Band members are either on scholarship or are paid as student workers through the School of Music.

How many other students are participating or supporting athletics that aren't athletes (i.e. the trainers, digital media team, etc.) do they get paid or are they on scholarship?

Between our Sports Programs, Athletics Administration, and Student-Athlete Support areas, there are 173 total SJSU Students (non-athletes, both grad and undergrad) who work in some capacity in the Athletics Department. Of the 173, 110 are either paid and/or getting class credit (internships) for their work, 63 are volunteers.

What is the data on how many faculty are in CFA and the number of academic programs in athletics?

Intercollegiate Athletics has 38 credit-bearing courses in the course catalog, Kinesiology has an additional 75 physical education courses that are tied to sports. The total of sport-based courses is 113.

Athletics Budget Town Hall

On February 5, 2026, Intercollegiate Athletics and Administration and Finance hosted a public town hall to provide transparency for the campus community into the athletics budget, historical context and strategies moving forward. The presentation deck is linked below for review.

[View the Athletics Budget Town Hall Presentation](#)

Athletics Town Hall Padlet Q&A

Can a specific breakdown of the budget be provided to the students on what shall be done with the funding obtained through the IRA?

IRA funds allocated to athletics typically support:

- Student-athlete academic support services

- Coaching and instruction directly tied to athletic participation
- Equipment and facilities used for training and competition
- Compliance with NCAA, conference and Title IX requirements
- Opportunities for students to participate in and attend intercollegiate competitions

Per Education Code 89230, intercollegiate athletics is specifically listed as an IRA activity. Costs that are necessary for a basic competitive program including equipment, supplies and schedule travel, not provided by the state. IRA funds cannot be used for athletics grants or scholarships.

Why doesn't SJSU consider cutting sports or dropping down to FCS instead of passing expenses along to students again?

There are a few key reasons San José State doesn't seriously pursue cutting major sports or dropping to FCS:

1. Conference membership and revenue structure: SJSU is a member of the Mountain West conference (FBS). Dropping to FCS would mean leaving that conference, losing FBS television revenue, College Football Playoff distributions, and bowl payouts. Even if those revenues don't fully cover costs, they offset expenses in ways FCS membership likely would not. Additionally, should that decision result in SJSU having to leave the Mountain West Conference, SJSU would be subject to a \$20M exit penalty.
2. Long-term institutional strategy: University leadership views FBS athletics as part of the school's brand visibility, enrollment strategy, and alumni/donor engagement. Football, in particular, drives national exposure that supports fundraising and student recruitment.
3. Title IX compliance: Federal Title IX rules require gender equity in athletic opportunities. If a men's sport is cut, schools may also have to adjust women's programs, which could put the institution at risk which could also cause an additional financial burden.
4. Contractual/financial obligations: Facilities, coaching contracts, student scholarship commitments, conference agreements, and debt obligations would not be eliminated or reduced by moving to the FCS. Moreover, the operational costs of travel, equipment, apparel, game expenses would not be materially different in a different classification but the earned revenue opportunities would be dramatically reduced.
5. Athletics is an important gateway to keeping alumni and donors engaged. SJSU has strong support from donors, alumni, and local stakeholders who not only support Athletics, but who also support many other areas within the University including academic programs and student scholarships. .
6. Many public universities are grappling with how to balance athletic ambitions with affordability. At SJSU, the decision in 2014 to not continue with the originally approved SSETF fee schedule cost the University \$87M since then, including \$9M this year alone. Other California State University campuses with Division 1 sports have recently increased their IRA fees or are considering fee increases currently (Fresno State and San Diego State). Other Mountain West schools are also considering student fee increases.

Why can't the decision be delayed and a student fee referendum be drawn up instead with a bridge funding plan to ensure that key student organizations, services, and groups will not run out of funding (i.e. a one-time allocation for Spartan Daily, marching band, intramural sports, and the

BayPass)? Can we construct an item-by-item student fee referendum during that time to secure mandatory fee revenue?

The University's general fund operating budget was reduced by approximately \$8 million this fiscal year due to State budget reductions. As such, the campus does not have any bridge funding to support the initiatives being proposed to be supported by the new IRA fee.

Following the completion of alternative consultation activities and in accordance with the CSU Fee Policy, CFAC shall consider the proposal for the establishment of a new IRA fee (Category II fee), and shall then make a recommendation to the campus president based upon feedback and data collected during the alternative consultation effort.

In accordance with the CSU Fee Policy, the campus president is responsible for assuring that appropriate and meaningful consultation occurs prior to adjusting any campus-based fee. The campus president with approval from the CSU chancellor determined that a referendum would not allow for the best measure of student opinion.

A fee referendum can be structured to include specific line item funding allocations to be funded within the proposed fee amount. The process to plan for a student fee referendum could take approximately four to six months deferring support for many important student services and programs such as BayPass.

Why is there a lack of transparency from the athletic department regarding what money is actually spent on?

There is no lack of transparency. A detailed presentation of all revenues and expenses for the Department of Athletics was shared at the Athletics Budget Town Hall held on February 5th [insert link] and there has been detailed consultation with the Budget Advisory Council (BAC) and the Athletics Board for the past several years.

Given the lackluster performance of SJSU's sports teams, why do they deserve more money?

In the last three years, SJSU's overall competitive success has been among the best in the Mountain West Conference. SJSU's student athletes have consistently earned top academic honors from the conference as well. Additionally, funding decisions for collegiate athletics aren't based solely on win-loss records. SJSU Athletics is an academic program with 38 credit-bearing courses in the course catalogue and 82% of Athletics coaches are Unit-3 (California Faculty Association) faculty. Like many other programs, the cost to support Athletics has risen over the last few years and SJSU is working to ensure that we can maintain the quality and sustainability of Athletics, in the same way we would for other programs.

Why not charge students who actually go to games a small amount for tickets instead of making the entire student body pay for more coaching salaries?

Student fees are not used to pay coaching salaries. Charging students attending games would not provide the revenue necessary to close the budget gap in Athletics. Reductions to student fees made in 2014 have cost the University \$87M since then, including \$9M this year alone. Without those reductions Athletics would not have had budget deficits.

The tangible benefits that SJSU students receive from Athletics goes far beyond access to competitions, it builds the University's reputation among alumni, donors to other programs, and among regional employers who hire SJSU students.

Additionally, athletic programs rely on predictable, recurring revenue streams. If funding depended only on which students attended athletic events, the revenue would be unpredictable and would fluctuate heavily based on team performance, weather, and opponents, making budgeting unstable and unpredictable.

Requiring students to purchase tickets could actually reduce student attendance. Lower student attendance weakens home-field advantage, reduces school spirit, and makes the program less attractive to recruits, donors, alumni, and sponsors.

Athletic events contribute to student life, alumni engagement, national exposure, and campus identity — even for students who may never attend a game.
