

THE NEW UNIVERSITY'S: SUPPORT STUDENT JOURNALISM STUDENT FEE REFERENDUM

Do you approve the creation of a \$2.00 per undergraduate student per quarter fee (\$6.00 annually) effective fall quarter 2025 and with annual inflationary increases starting in fall quarter 2026 to support the expansion of New University's resources and bi-weekly print?

The New University (New U) is the student-run official newspaper at UCI. Founded in 1968, the New U has sought to provide coverage of UCI and local news to the UCI community. The paper formerly published its print issue once-a-week during the regular academic year; however, it has transitioned to being a fully digital publication since Fall 2018. Within the New U, a team of 100+ student journalists reports, edits, and publishes weekly articles for 10 sections: News, Features, Opinion, Sports, Arts & Entertainment, Graphics, Social Media, Copy, Photo, and Video.

Since 2024, the New U has committed itself to keeping up with the journalism industry and keeping content up-to-date with the surrounding community. From the reintroduction to our Features section to an all-encompassing rebrand to audio storytelling, the New U has actively provided UCI students and staff with consistent and various weekly content.

The introduction of the bi-weekly printed newspaper will allow UCI students to have a piece of UCI history, acting as a memento that can be tangibly held. Additionally, the proposed bi-weekly newspaper maintains the fundamental legacy of a newspaper — a return to an era of UCI student journalists who utilize print to inform students of the breaking stories of the month. A reasonable amount of sustainability would be upheld since a bi-weekly newspaper would be offset by the appeal from new readers: a distinctive printed campus newspaper, which has been absent since 2018 at UCI. Furthermore, revenue from the student fee will offer valuable resources in preserving the New U student journalism at UCI.

We hope the undergraduate student body will invest in the New U's operating costs and bi-weekly print. Currently, all members of the New U staff devote 10+ hours a week to their duties. The student fees raised from this referendum will be used to support the life of student journalism and the articles, podcasts, photos, and videos created. A student fee raised by undergraduate students is an investment in student journalism and a staff dedicated to supporting its readers. Investing in a well-equipped printed publication and a dedicated newspaper team fosters a sense of community on campus; the New U is dedicated to ethical and meaningful involvement with the audience it serves.

If the referendum does not pass, the following would have to be considered until more permanent funds can be established: a pause in re-introducing bi-weekly print issues, insufficient resources for student journalism, and a lack of news coverage serving the larger UCI community.

- The fee will be assessed to all undergraduate students.
- The fee will be assessed during the fall, winter, and spring quarters, starting fall 2025.
- An audit of the use of these fees will be provided by a professional staff designee of the New University via Student Government Student Media upon request.
- The proposed fee level is intended to fund student services as described in this referendum; however, in the event there is a year-end balance, the balance will be carried forward to the next year to be used on expenses within the scope of this fee as determined by the majority student advisory board for this fee, the student editorial board under the New University and

Student Media advisor(s), which the managing group will be comprised of at least a student majority.

- In accordance with University of California policy requiring a minimum return-to-aid of 25% for new or increased campus-based fees, a portion of this fee will be provided for aid. This fee will have 33% of the fee returned to financial aid to help offset the cost of this fee for undergraduate students who are eligible for financial aid.
- Starting fall 2026, the fee will increase annually based on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI will be taken from the California Department of Finance's calendar year annual average of all urban consumers' CPI-U. CPI-U is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.
- The New University is responsible for providing an annual report to the Chancellor on its programming and operations to ensure the proper and effective use of the fees collected. In addition, this report will be presented to the ASUCI Senate. Upon request, this report shall be available.
- The student editorial board under New University along with the Student Media advisor(s) shall oversee the operating budget, reserves, equipment, and administration of the fee-funded activities, and will be responsible for writing and distributing an annual report on the activities funded by this fee initiative.
- This fee will sunset (expire) on its 30th year (2054-55) unless the undergraduate student body reaffirms this fee. This fee can be reaffirmed as early as the 26th year (2050-51); otherwise, if there is no vote to reaffirm this fee by the end of its 30th year (2054-55), the fee will terminate.
- In order to pass, this referendum will require a 10% eligible total registered undergraduate student body voter turnout rate during the ASUCI 2025 Spring Elections ("voting pool"), of which 60% of those students who voted "yes" or "no" on this referendum must have voted "yes." If the referendum passes with a voting pool of 10% or more, but less than 20%, this fee will need to be reaffirmed by the end of its third year (2027-28) with a voting pool of 20%. This fee can be reaffirmed as early as the first year (2025-26); otherwise, if there is no vote to reaffirm this fee by the end of its third year (2027-28), the fee will terminate. If this fee passes with a voting pool of 20% or more during the ASUCI 2025 Spring Elections, a reaffirmation vote by the end of its third year (2027-2028) will not be required and the fee will sunset (expire) on its 30th year (2054-55) unless the undergraduate student body reaffirms this fee as early as the 26th year (2050-51).

_____ Yes, I support a new per quarter fee, as described in this referendum, starting at \$2.00 per undergraduate student for the New University's: Support Student Journalism Student Fee Referendum.

_____ No, I do not support a new per quarter fee, as described in this referendum, starting at \$2.00 per undergraduate student for the New University's: Support Student Journalism Student Fee Referendum.

_____ Abstain (I do not wish to vote on this item but register my presence for purposes of establishing the voting pool)