



## **Associated Student Senate of Fullerton College**

### **Statement on the Increase of AS Optional Fees**

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**Date Passed: 3/28/23**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**

Dear Students of Fullerton College,

After careful consideration, the Associated Students of Fullerton College decided to increase the *AS Benefits Fee* from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per semester, *Student ID Card Fee* from \$3.50 to \$7.00, and its *Replacement Fee* from \$3.50 to \$14.00, which will take effect starting Fall 2023.

#### **AS Benefits Fee**

The main source of revenues for Associated Students comes from the sale of an optional fee, AS Benefits. Since 2017, we—the Associated Students—have maintained the \$12.00 AS Benefits Fee while continuously expanding our services and benefits throughout. For the past six years, the AS Benefits has offered food discounts from the cafeteria, discounts from local dining/entertainment places, free printing during COVID-19, free giveaways from AS-hosted events, and many more. We have only increased the number of benefits throughout the years for the AS Benefits Members who have opted in for the \$12.00 fee per semester.

However, with the high rates of inflation since COVID-19, maintaining the \$12.00 AS Benefits Fee has become more and more difficult for Associated Students. The rising costs of providing our essential services have caused the Associated Students to hardly match stable funding levels to serve our AS Benefits members. In addition, Associated Students pays for salaries and benefits of one classified professional, professional experts, and part-time student hourly employees. Hence, it was necessary to make a small adjustment to the current fee to stabilize the budgeting model and accommodate the growing needs of the student body. By only increasing the AS Benefits Fee by \$3.00 per semester, Associated Students will regain the ability to continue and expand upon our current services. It will allow us to add new benefits, improve existing services, and better fund the students without substantial cutbacks.

We highly encourage all students to be part of the AS Benefits, but at the same time, we acknowledge that the increased fees may discourage some students in financial constraints or difficulties. For those who cannot afford the AS Benefits Fee, the Associated Students works with student support programs such as the [EOPS](#) department that cover the cost for AS Benefits per semester. Furthermore, we are working on adding several new services next semester including free printing and free admission to FC Home Games and Special Events. With the adjusted fees, we are very excited to bring new services and benefits for the following years to come!

### **Student (Campus) ID Card & Replacement Fees**

Ever since the responsibility of the production and distribution of Fullerton College Campus ID cards has been given to [Student Life and Leadership](#) (SLL), they have been overwhelmed by the influx of students' requests for ID cards. This was also exacerbated by students needing to have a physical ID card to utilize the free lunch program that the college started during the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with Sodexo Food Services. Campus ID cards have also been free throughout the period of the pandemic due to funding provided by the CARES Act, which will eventually run out as we enter post-COVID. Additionally, as stated before, the cost of Campus ID cards is outdated and has not been adjusted for inflation in many years. This cost also does not reflect the actual amount needed to print the ID cards, which includes the materials needed, equipment to maintain, and the payroll costs provided by the Associated Students budget.

Therefore, we needed to increase the cost of the physical student ID cards in order to address these issues. The current one-time price of \$3.50 will be raised to \$7.00. The replacement fee (for lost or stolen IDs) will be a larger increase from \$3.50 to \$14.00 to encourage students to keep track of their student ID cards. The services provided to students through ID cards are valuable resources to students. Though this may make the access to those services more difficult for some, we hope that all Hornets will be able to understand why the increase of the price is necessary to make sure that we can continue providing these said valuable resources for many years to come.

Above all, Associated Students strive to represent the student body of Fullerton College as a whole. We strive to improve students' experience by listening to your opinions. We want you, the students, to feel heard and included in improving our services, not excluded or overlooked. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us any time via [AS@fullcoll.edu](mailto:AS@fullcoll.edu) or by visiting the AS Office at Room 222.

Sincerely,

Fullerton College Associated Student Senate