TGIF: The Green Initiative Fund

A Functional Overview for UC Berkeley, Spring 2007
Based on the Referendum Contract language and the Bylaws of TGIF

http://www.votetgif.com
A fund with a mission

If passed by the students of UC Berkeley during the ASUC election April 11-13th, 2007, The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) will provide financial support to sustainability-oriented — green — initiatives at Cal.

Mission statement:
The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) provides funding for projects that reduce the UC Berkeley’s negative impact on the environment and make UC Berkeley more sustainable. TGIF will allocate funds to projects that increase the amount of renewable energy used on campus, increase energy efficiency, and reduce the amount of waste created by UC Berkeley. Portions of the fund will support education initiatives, student aid (via return to aid), and internships. TGIF is supported by student fees and administered through a student-majority governance board.
1. TGIF referendum passes  
   (And is approved by the Chancellor and UCOP)

2. Student fee of $5 per semester collected  
   Will increase by $0.50 during its 4th and 7th years to compensate for inflation  
   Will end after 10 years  
   Approximately $200,000 raised annually  
   Sustainability funding at UC Berkeley tripled  
   (Based on an average budget of less than $100,000 per year for the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS))
3. The Grant Making Committee is formed

Committee has 7 voting members:

4 students, 1 each appointed by the:
   Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee of the Graduate Assembly (GA)
   Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) Environmental Sustainability Director
   Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS)
   TGIF Grant-Making Committee, after the other three Student members have been selected

1 faculty, appointed by the:
   Academic Senate

2 staff, 1 each from:
   Administration, selected by the Vice Chancellor for Administration
   Facilities Services, selected by the Vice Chancellor of Facilities Services

And 3 non-voting members
   The campus Environmental Sustainability Professional (will be hired Fall 2007)
   A member of the Committee on Student Fees
   An ASUC representative
Getting Started (3)

4. The Grant Coordinator is hired by the Committee
   1/2 time staff within the ASUC-Auxiliary
   Exists to meet the needs of the Committee
   Will:
   
   Monitor the progress of projects that have received funding, via annual reports
   submitted by grant recipients
   Prepare an annual report of the previous year’s budget and funded projects
   Act as a liaison between TGIF and UC Berkeley
   Maintain the archives of the Grant Making Committee, including
   Meeting minutes
   All TGIF monetary transactions
   Reports on all current and past projects
   TGIF annual reports made to the:
   ASUC Senate
   Graduate Assembly
   Director of the ASUC-Auxiliary
   Committee member appointing bodies
TGIF Administration

7 voting members of Grant Making Committee appointed each year
   2 consecutive term limit, after 1 year off, can serve again
3 non-voting members provide oversight
Grant Coordinator hired by Committee as an assistant
1. Projects proposed to Committee
   Can be proposed by UC Berkeley Faculty, Students and/or Staff
   (Outside entities cannot propose projects)

2. Committee funds projects that
   Measurably reduce UC Berkeley’s impact on the environment
   Have publicity, education and outreach components
   Received all necessary written approval by appropriate campus officials
   Are not already mandated by law or UC policy
   (TGIF projects go above and beyond current legal or policy requirements)
   Demonstrate the greatest environmental impact reduction for the least cost
   May repay the Fund
   Encourage student participation

Each year, 20% of dispersed funds must go to projects involving students
Project reporting

1. Projects write annual (if multi-year) or final reports including
   Records for all spent funds
   Measured outcomes such as
   - Energy savings
   - Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions
   - Water savings

2. Grant Coordinator reviews project reports
   All spending must be within the approved project scope
   (Any funds spent outside the scope must be returned to TGIF)

3. Coordinator generates annual reports from project reports
   TGIF annual reports submitted to the:
   - ASUC Senate
   - Graduate Assembly
   - Director of the ASUC-Auxiliary
   - Committee member appointing bodies

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Project flow

1. Submission

2. Review

3. Funding

4. Annual Reporting

Grant Making Committee, 7 Voting Members (4 students)

Invited experts

Non-voting Oversight Members, 3

Grant Coordinator

Campus entity

ASUC Senate
Graduate Assembly
ASUC-Auxiliary Director
Committee appointing bodies

5. Annual Reporting

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Additional considerations

Likely sources for project ideas

2005 Campus Sustainability Assessment [http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/assessment.html]
2005 Sustainable Water Plan for UC Berkeley [http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/water_plan/]
2007 Cal Climate Action Partnership (CalCAP) [http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/calcap.html]
  Greenhouse gas inventory and project descriptions

Loans vs. Grants

Committee may require projects that generate revenue to repay TGIF

Many projects identified by the above documents will save Cal large amounts of money. They are not currently being pursued due to high capital investment costs.

Laws and policies affecting Cal


http://www.votetgif.com
Conclusion

The goal of TGIF is to make UC Berkeley a more environmentally sustainable campus. With the wide-spread publicity received by global warming, it is common knowledge that people are living on this Earth in an unsustainable manner.

Despite the hard work already taking place at Cal, the campus is presently not sustainable.

A lack of funding for sustainability oriented — or green — initiatives on campus is major factor contributing to this unsustainability.

In TGIF, students at Berkeley have a positive way to move the campus toward sustainability, and very successful funds similar to TGIF have already been created at over 20 other campuses around the county, including two here within the UC system.

At this time, TGIF is the best opportunity that we students have to improve the environmental sustainability of our cherished and revered campus.
April 11th-13th

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