

Dear President Morales,

I am writing to you today as a student of CSUSB. I bring to you a [petition signed by nearly 560+ CSUSB students](#) in opposition to the recently proposed IRA fee hike.

I am sending this as a final, direct appeal to your conscience, your fiduciary responsibility, and your impending legacy as the leader of this institution.

It is my belief that, should the IRA fee hike come to pass as it is in its current form, CSUSB will break its promise to its many students and fall out of line with its peer campuses in the CSU system.

Over the last three weeks, the behavior of the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) has silently progressed in a manner I can only call shameful. I am afraid that as the semester is coming to an end, our chance for recourse is drawing thin.

Put simply:

- **I do not believe** this fee hike will improve services or be worth the cost it will incur on the many hard-working students of this university.
- **I do not believe** the Division of Student Affairs has acted in good faith or truly considered the burden of this fee hike.
- **I do not believe** students have been given a fair and legitimate chance to be informed about or form opinions on this fee hike.

As the spring semester comes to a close and students disperse for the summer, our ability to formally organize and advocate for our financial well-being has been heavily restricted. Despite the pressures of finals, students have organized to investigate the context of this fee hike and the "Alternative Consultation" process led by the DSA. What we uncovered has deeply shaken the student body's trust in campus administration.

We ask you to review the following realities before making your final decision on this fee:

1. There is No Student Support or Awareness

Students were only given a little more than two-weeks to give input on the fee hike. This is in contrast to [IRA fee hikes being conducted at other campuses](#).

During the brief two-week consultation window, our coalition spent hours canvassing the campus. We spoke directly with hundreds of students. Not a single student we spoke to was in favor of this fee increase. **Furthermore, the vast majority were completely unaware that a \$300 fee hike was even being proposed**, proving that DSA's "information campaign" failed to achieve meaningful informed consent. To date, over 560 students have signed a formal petition explicitly opposing this fee and demanding a referendum.

2. The Suppression of Oversight

When the Campus Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC) [voted 7-3 against supporting this Alternative Consultation](#), the administration's response was not to listen, but to cancel future CFAC meetings. Further advocacy for students via resolutions passed in [faculty government](#) and the [systemwide CSSA](#) have also seemingly been ignored.

We have now learned that CFAC will not even be permitted to prepare the final consultation report. Instead, DSA (the very division championing the fee hike) will be writing the report themselves. This is a severe conflict of interest that subverts standard CSU fee oversight protocols.

3. The Unspoken \$5 Million Deficit

The administration has publicly framed this hike as a necessary step to support student experiences and inflation. However, the student body is now aware of the 2024 CSU Chancellor's Audit ([Report 23-34](#)) which exposed severe financial mismanagement within the Athletics Department, including a failure to maintain accurate budgets since 2018 that resulted in a [\\$5.1 million deficit](#).

Because 68% of the IRA fee is mandated to go to Athletics, this \$300 hike will generate approximately \$6.4 million annually for the department.

While the fee hike was promised by DSA to be a fund that would increase academic programs, events, and athletics, the lack of disclosure of this debt is a red flag that stands in the face of these promises. The enduring lack of vocal transparency by DSA in the last three weeks to disclose the 150% rise in fees, the 68% skew of the fee distribution to Athletics, or the Athletics debt have failed to dispel concerns that this is nothing more than a quiet, multi-million dollar bailout funded by students to cover departmental negligence with no consequences for those responsible.

Our Final Recourse

Throughout this process, our representation has been stripped away. Our right to a democratic referendum was bypassed for a survey. The oversight committees designed to protect us were silenced. And the student government, despite knowing the depth of this issue, has largely stood by the sidelines.

As a student, I am left feeling entirely helpless against this bureaucracy. We have done everything in our limited power to raise the alarm. Now, our only chance of restitution lies in the hands of those who hold the final authority.

President Morales, you have the power to reject this proposal. We are asking you to exercise your goodwill, protect the financial security of the 19,000 students who rely on this institution, and demand that the Athletics deficit be solved without passing the burden onto the students. DSA may argue that this survey was representative of students. That this survey allowed for more "precise input" than a student referendum.

But it is only natural that much of the student body is not vocal. **Just as only 10% of students historically vote in ASI elections ([2025](#), [2026](#)), the reality of our campus is that most students are simply too stretched thin to stay informed about administrative maneuvers. A student survey is not a “more representative” alternative to a referendum.** The Division of Student Affairs has preyed on the exhaustion and indifference of students to rig this survey in its favor. By hiding this hike behind the obscurity of a vague two-week survey rather than holding a transparent public election with a proper participation window, they are exploiting the silence of the majority to manufacture consent.

I am asking you to take a stand for the thousands of us who cannot always be in the room to defend ourselves. For those of us making the long daily commute from faraway places, balancing demanding computer science coursework with jobs and family responsibilities, we rely on the fundamental trust that this institution's leadership is protecting our best interests.

Please do not let that trust be broken.

If you have the time, I urge you to look through the [remainder of our arguments](#) in opposition to this fee hike as proposed.

Thank you for your time and your leadership.