

INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES: A SHORT HISTORY

The history of "Instructionally Related Activities" and the subsequent establishment of the IRA fee in the fall of 1978 is both important and fascinating.

The roots of IRA go back to the 60's. At that time, programs traditionally viewed as "academically related" to the University were primarily funded by the student activity fee (e.g. sports, drama, communication, etc.). By the end of the 60's, program funding at most campuses was changing to community interest and social service programs, as well as entertainment and recreation. In short, with a static Activity Fee (\$20 per year) and growing inflation, programmatic funding on many campuses became strained by the early 70's.

The initial spark for the creation of IRA came in the winter of 1973 on the Chico campus. In January of that year, the A.S. attempted to allocate student funds to the Bach Mai Relief Fund after the hospital in North Vietnam was destroyed by American Planes (under Title 5 the funds could not be allocated). In response, Assemblyman Ray Johnson introduced into state legislation AB 159 which would have made student Activity Fees voluntary. Moreover, Johnson felt that students were not capable of responsibly administering student body funds.

Nevertheless, few people in the system favored voluntary fees and Assemblyman Johnson was persuaded to drop AB 159 and reintroduce another bill (AB 3116). In essence, AB 3116 introduced the concept of IRA into legislation through defining activities traditionally viewed as instructional, such as, intercollegiate athletics, communications, music, dance, art, etc. (A complete definition of IRA is in AB 3116).

The original bill also stipulated that the percentage of IRA programs on each campus that would be taken over by state appropriations would be deducted from the mandatory student Activity Fee. For example, if \$10 out of every \$20 paid in Activity Fees was budgeted for IRA programs, then the Activity Fees would automatically be reduced from \$20 to \$10.

Fortunately, the Student President Association (now C.S.S.A.) was successful in amending AB 3116 so that an automatic reduction of the Activity Fee would not occur without a student body referendum on each campus. In February of 1975, each campus that collected mandatory student body fees conducted what was generally known as the IRA or AB 3116 election. Surprising everyone, the students on every campus voted overwhelmingly to maintain the full Activity Fee, along with new support from the state, so that student and campus programming could be expanded.

Unfortunately, the state's funding commitment decreased from the proposed \$2.9 million in the 75-76 budget to \$450,000 and then to \$485,000 in the 76-77 budget. The struggle between programming and inflation began again.....

In response, the Chancellor's Council of Presidents in 1976 introduced to the SPA a new concept called the IRA fee as a possible resolution to the problems existing with IRA program funding. At that time, the SPA rejected from \$20 to \$40 per year (AB 3757). SPA successfully had the bill passed, but Brown vetoed the bill on grounds that student governments were not representatives of students because of the low voter turnouts on most campuses. Obviously, the only alternative remaining was the IRA fee.

During the summer and fall of 1977, the SPA and the Chancellor's Council of Presidents successfully hammered out an agreement and both endorsed an IRA fee proposal. The SPA endorsement rested on many stipulations which included the adoption of formal procedures, review, and approval of A.S. budgets, guaranteed student parity on the IRA board, and the A.S. would no longer be expected to provide support for IRA on a regular basis.

Finally, the IRA fee proposal went before the Board of Trustees on January 25, 1978 and was adopted. At the same time, the Chancellor issued Executive Order #288 concerning the review and approval of A.S. budgets and E.O. #290 concerning the IRA fee and its rules and regulations.

Alas! the IRA fee.

Final note: In compliance with E.O. #290 the Trustees have completed internal audits concerning IRA procedures and policies on each campus. Moreover, a task force coordinated by the Chancellor is reviewing E.O. #290 and possible improvements.

Sources:

Scott P. Plotkin, Legislative Advocate, SPA
memo: August 4, 1976; "IRA - A Brief History"

Kent Hafemann, A.S. President, CSU, Chico
memo: February 15, 1978; "A Historical Synopsis"

Chancellor Glenn S. Dumke
Executive Order No. 290, Instructionally Related Activities Fee
March 28, 1978

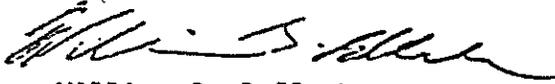
Assembly Bill No. 3116
Introduced by Assemblyman Ray E. Johnson
February 12, 1974



Memorandum

To: IRA Committee Members

Date: January 22, 1986


From: William G. Pollock
A.S. Administrator

Subject: A Brief Historical Analysis

February 19, 1974

Assembly Bill 3116 introduced. Appropriated \$2.6 million State Funds.

January 1, 1975

AB 3116 Becomes Law. The law required each campus to hold a referenda to determine if the A.S. fee should be reduced. Each campus voted to retain the current level. The "Grand Plan" adopted by the Presidents and Chancellor allocated Fullerton \$73,488 in State I.R.A. funds for the Spring, 1975. Jerry Brown, Jr., becomes Governor to begin his first term.

July 1, 1975

The "Grand Plan" goes awry when Governor Brown changes "the system." The State funds are reduced dramatically. The Legislature indicates in budget language that no I.R.A. fees are to be used for athletic programs. Fullerton received I.R.A. funds of \$28,564, a reduction of \$50,000 from the prior year.

1976

Special Task Force examines possibility of developing a special fee for support of I.R.A. programs.

Fall, 1977

I.R.A. fee concept is accepted. A referendum is required for a fee to be established.

February, 1978

Fullerton and most campuses hold widely publicized referenda. All pass.

March 28, 1978

Chancellor issues Executive Order 290 describing procedures for implementation.

Fall, 1978

\$10.00 per year I.R.A. fee is received and budgeted.

Spring, 1983

A referendum to increase the IRA fee from \$5 per semester to \$10 per semester 1983-84; to \$13 per semester 1984-85; and to \$15 per semester 1985-86 failed to achieve the necessary majority vote for passage (818 yes/1088 no).

Spring, 1984

A new referendum was held to increase the IRA fee to \$10 per semester beginning with the Spring 1985 semester. The referendum passed 1015 yes, 889 no (53% vs 47%).

WGP:jlm