

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the IRA fee?

IRA is an abbreviation for Instructionally Related Activities. It is a student fee designed to provide for out-of-class experiences for students participating in an academic program, discipline, or department where those experiences are integrally related to one of its instructional courses. Such activities are deemed essential for providing a quality educational program and constitute a vital and/or enhanced instructional experience for students.

It was established by the CSU in 1978 to support activities considered instructionally related:

- intercollegiate athletics;
- radio, television and film projects;
- music and dance;
- drama and musical productions;
- art exhibits;
- forensics;
- publications including periodic newspapers and other laboratory experience basic to journalism and literary training, and
- other activities associated with other instructional areas which are consistent with purposes included in the above. From the outset, Model United Nations and agricultural judging were included in this category.

Also in 1978 and since, IRA precludes use for:

- athletic grants-in-aid
- “matters which are tuitional” (*sic*)
- faculty compensation
- purchase or rental of films
- at CSUN, faculty travel

### Who pays the IRA fee?

Matriculated CSUN students pay \$15 per student per semester (including summer). In addition, the CSUN Associated students contribute approximately \$750,000 each year in support of IRA activities.

### Who can request funding and when can they request it?

Unlike other student fees, only faculty can request IRA funding. Applications for the subsequent academic year typically are available in late February and must be submitted at an announced date in March. During the course of the subsequent year, faculty can request funding for activities that had not been anticipated during the annual process and can ask for amendments to their annual allocation.

### Who decides how the funds are allocated?

A handful of allocations are determined by policy-driven formulae (administrative fees, copyrights and intercollegiate athletics). The allocation of the rest of the fee is managed by the IRA Advisory Board which comprises four students, two faculty and two administrators. They consider requests and make recommendations to the campus president (or her or his designee) who makes the final decision.

### What gets funded?

The IRA policies and annual budget can be found at <https://www.csun.edu/as/finance/about-instructionally-related-activities-ira-funding>