

VETO MEMORANDUM



To: Kirsten Courts, Speaker of the Senate; Student Government Agents

From: Luci Blanco, Student Body President & University Trustee

Date: October 9, 2025

Subject: Veto of Fiscal Bill 57-22 (Funding for Future Theme Park Leaders Association Trip)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am vetoing Fiscal Bill 57-22, which proposed A&SF funding for the Future Theme Park Leaders Association's 2025 California Executive Management Shadow Week trip. After a careful review of our Student Body Statutes and consultation with the Student Government's Attorney General, I have decided to exercise my veto power. While I wholeheartedly value experiential learning and commend the students' initiative, this trip does not meet the requirements for conference funding as defined in Title VIII of our statutes. Title VIII explicitly defines a "conference" as a formal gathering for professional or academic development. The FTPLA Shadow Week trip, however, lacks a host organization or formal schedule, as it is a self-organized tour. Theme park admission tickets are not an eligible expense under our statutes for registration purposes.

Attorney General Opinion 57-13 supports the conclusion that Fiscal Bill 57-22 is inconsistent with the Student Body Statutes. The Attorney General determined that an unstructured shadowing trip cannot be considered a conference for Student Government funding purposes, and that paying for theme park admissions falls outside the scope permitted by statutes. In other words, this bill attempts to allocate student Activity & Service Fee funds for a purpose not permitted by Title VIII. Based on these findings, the Attorney General formally recommended a veto on statutory grounds. After reviewing the matter myself, I concur that approving this funding would violate the established rules we take an oath to uphold.

Additionally, I would like to emphasize that past precedent does not establish a binding or concrete rule for future allocations. Each funding request must stand on its own merits in alignment with the current statutes. Granting an exception now because "it's been done before" would set a dangerous precedent. If we start suspending our statutes and the rules we must abide by, virtually any group excursion could be rebranded as a "conference" to seek funding, which would undermine the integrity of our funding process. We must not open the door to that scenario.

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Finally, we have a responsibility to be discerning of the limited A&SF funds. Approving this fiscal bill would directly reduce the funds available for others to pursue projects and research later in the semester. We have many hardworking students, including unrepresented graduate students who often need to travel to present their research, who may request funding in the coming months. It is crucial that we preserve our resources for those truly educational endeavors, rather than expending them on trips that do not meet the criteria set by our own statutes.

For the reasons outlined above, I am vetoing Fiscal Bill 57-22. I encourage the Student Senate and the CRT Committee to consider clarifying Title VIII so that we can continue to support student opportunities. I remain committed to leading the charge and approving funding that complies with our statutes and advances the academic and professional growth of our students.

Sincerely,

Luci Blanco

Luci Blanco
Student Body President & University Trustee