

LETTER - [Castro's response](http://www.fresnobee.com/letters-to-the-editor/index.html)

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I am disappointed in The Bee's rush to oppose the proposed student fees at Fresno State.

We have just begun an examination of the need for new student success and athletic fees and how they would be used to create or enhance programs and support services to benefit students.

Had the editorial board spoken to me before publishing the editorial, I could have provided background and context. I also would have reminded the editorial board that our research is not yet complete. We are not hiding anything or trying to mislead anyone -- we will share our findings when they are in.

I understand the financial burdens that our students and their families face. I come from a family background that is similar to many of our students. I know increased fees would be difficult. But I am certain that providing services to help students progress in a timely fashion and graduate sooner would be economically better in the long run. A strong and robust athletic program would also enhance the overall quality of the educational experience at Fresno State.

The proposed fees are an investment worthy of our careful consideration.

I welcome dialogue on this or any other matter.

Joseph I. Castro

President

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