

Based on safety concerns and recent student actions and sentiments, the Che Café facility lease will not be renewed by the University and the facility will close on July 13. The safety of the patrons who visit the Che Café facility is our number one concern.

The student-led University Centers Advisory Board (UCAB) voted on May 23 to remove continued funding for operations and maintenance of Che Café facility. The Graduate Student Association (GSA) voted on June 2 to decertify the Che Café Collective of its co-operative status, after determining the Che Café Collective does not meet the requirements of a student-sanctioned co-operative and is not acting in the best interest of UC San Diego students. Certification from the GSA is a requirement for extensions of the Che Café facility lease. Furthermore, in a May 15th opinion piece, the Editorial Board of The Guardian student newspaper wrote: “Ultimately, the safety of UCSD students and affiliates should always come first, regardless of the establishment’s rich history. Because of these potential hazards, closing down the building is not only a sensible decision but a necessary one.”

The Che Café facility lacks built-in fire protection features, such as fire sprinklers and an alarm system, which is the responsibility of the tenant according to the facility lease. The ISES Corporation, a third-party consulting service which identifies the need to renew and alter facilities, was retained to assess the condition of many campus facilities. ISES recommended total renovation of the Che Café facility to bring it up to current codes and standards. ISES estimated the facility would require \$722,000 in renovations and alterations or \$1.4 million to replace the facility.

The Che Café facility is primarily operated by student fees through the University Centers. Recent budget deficits and the failure of a referendum to raise the University Centers student fee have resulted in program reductions, staff layoffs and reprioritization of student funding. According to a 2012 UCAB survey completed by 1,800 students, 78 percent of students conveyed that maintaining the Che Café facility is a low or very low priority when compared to other student-funded programs. As a result, UCAB advised removing funding of the Che Café facility in the FY 14-15 budget. In addition, the Che Café Collective has been operating in violation of its Master Space Agreement and has accumulated \$3,976 in unpaid rent and utilities.

The University is committed to working with the UC San Diego students involved in the Che Café Collective to search for alternative event, venue and administrative spaces managed by University Centers, so the student organization can continue to offer cultural and artistic performances. We are committed to supporting UC San Diego’s student organizations and providing a broad range of cultural events and activities on our campus.