

# Council Plans Random Poll On Student Activities Fund

By SAM BARNES

Student Council will examine University opinion on the controversial use of the Student Activities Fund (SAF) in a random mailing to 923 students.

The questionnaire, designed to aid future Council allocations decisions, contains questions on the student's general attitude toward the University, his participation in student organizations, his feelings about the compulsory Student Activities Fund, and his ideas on which organizations should receive priority in funding.

## How Fund Should Be Used

"What we're trying to find out is how students think the Student Activities Fund should be used and whether they even think it should be in existence," Council Vice President Larry Sabato said. "There has never been a poll

seeking out student opinion on the funding process."

The poll, prepared by Asst. Sociology Prof. Charles Longino and Mr. Sabato, will reach seven per cent of the student body. Selection of students was made at random by computer.

## Computer Analysis

Final analysis of the questionnaire will also be done largely by computer, including a cross-tabulation of answers to insure accurate interpretation.

At least a preliminary analysis should be ready by March 1 in time for spring funding hearings, Mr. Sabato said.

Some more specific questions include whether the Gay Student Union should receive funds, whether Cavalier Daily staff members should receive salaries paid from the SAF, and whether Student Council and Student Activities funds should be used to sponsor membership in such organizations as the National Student Lobby and the National Student Association.

"One of the most telling portions of the questionnaire asks the student which ten organizations he thinks are most deserving of funds and which ten are the least deserving," Mr. Sabato explained.

"We also ask the student what single organization he would consider most worthy of funding and which he would consider the least worthy."

"These responses will provide the most basic information to guide us in the spring allocations hearings," he said.

## 'Efforts To Be Responsive'

Mr. Sabato called the poll "an attempt to continue our efforts to be responsive to student opinion."

"We realize there are problems in the allocation of the Student Activities Fund

and we're trying to solve them."

"This poll is one way to get started toward adequate solutions; we hope through its analysis to get a handle on student opinion, and to change accordingly."

Mr. Sabato stressed the necessity of a good response on the part of students in

answering and returning the questionnaire.

"The seven per cent sample should provide an excellent indication of student opinion, but we need the cooperation of all those students chosen to complete the questionnaire to obtain a final analysis in which we can place confidence," he said.