

Resolution in Support of Proposition 13 Reform

WHEREAS, California's Legislature has, for more than a decade, been unable to adequately fund those things that once made our state great, including public education, necessary social services, public safety, and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, California's fiscal crisis, created in large part by our inequitable tax structure, has led to dramatically decreased funding for higher education and thus repeated fee increases that have damaged the accessibility, affordability and quality of the UC system; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of attendance at UCLA has increased nearly 200% in the last six years from \$6,802 in 2006 to \$13,218 in 2012, pricing UCLA out of reach for many middle and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, budget cuts have reduced the quality of instruction available at UCLA by enlarging class sizes, decreasing classes offered, causing the layoff of lecturers, and relying increasingly on graduate teaching assistants to provide instruction and guidance previously under the jurisdiction of professors; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 13, passed in 1978, has been a primary cause of both California's structural revenue problem and the inadequate funding of education in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 13 capped property tax rates at 1975 levels for both residential and commercial property and triggers reassessment of property only with a change in ownership; and

WHEREAS, because Proposition 13 allows commercial property owners to avoid paying their fair share in taxes, the resulting budget deficit causes the State Legislature to continue to underfund education; and

WHEREAS, regularly reassessing non-residential commercial property would, according to an analysis of data provided by the California Board of Equalization, generate at least \$6 billion in additional revenue for California; and

WHEREAS, additional revenue to the State of California would result in restored funding to education within the State of California and would improve the accessibility, affordability and quality of the UC system; and

WHEREAS, the University of California Student Association (UCSA) is committed to advocating for Proposition 13 reform as their long-term campaign for college affordability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports commercial property tax reform that will require non-residential commercial properties to be reassessed regularly while maintaining residential property owners' protections under Prop 13; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council will communicate this position to University and elected public officials; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council will support efforts to educate students on campus about Proposition 13 reform and continue seeking alternate sources of revenue to Fund the UC.