

## **A Resolution in Support of Increased Affordability for Students at the University of California**

WHEREAS, following the economic recession in 2008, state funding for the University of California was initially reduced by \$850 million, and subsequently reduced further by \$350 million in 2011 and 2012, as part of Governor Brown's plan to stabilize state finances<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, despite the passage of Proposition 30 in November 2012 to prevent additional cuts, the Governor instituted a plan for tuition increases in the same year, following a structure of 5%/ 5%/ 4%/ 4% increases over the following four years<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, state funds remain \$480 million below the levels which funding was at in 2007 and 2008, without considering inflation or increases in enrollment<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the University of California currently receives the same level of funding as it did in 1999, despite having an additional 83,000 students and having chartered another campus<sup>4</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, in spite of the fact that the actual cost to provide a UC education has *decreased* from \$23,050 to \$18,060 due to increased efficiencies employed by the University, students will, for the first time since the University's inception, be paying more than the state for the cost of their education<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, revenue in the state of California is currently \$1 billion over projections<sup>6</sup>, making this an opportune time to increase funding to the University in order to stabilize its finances so that it may serve future generations of California students; and

WHEREAS, the state of California is currently expected to spend more than \$62,000 on each prison inmate between 2014 and 2015, while it is expected to spend only \$7,090 on each student in the University of California, meaning that the state will fund its incarcerated inmates at nine times the level that it funds UC students<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, through reducing staff, curtailing faculty recruitment, maximizing operational efficiencies, boosting fundraising, and deferring critical maintenance, the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.senate.ucla.edu/committees/lga/documents/LgASlides02-05-2015.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.senate.ucla.edu/committees/lga/documents/LgASlides02-05-2015.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.senate.ucla.edu/committees/lga/documents/LgASlides02-05-2015.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.uc4ca.org/advocacy/Budget%20Advocacy.html>

<sup>5</sup> E.2 Excerpt of pages 55-6 of UC 2015-16 Budget

<sup>6</sup> California State Controller's Office, March 2015

<sup>7</sup> California Budget Project

University has saved more than \$644 million over the course of the past few years, \$426 million of which is tied directly to the aforementioned cost-cutting measures, while the remaining \$238 million is tied to projects which generated revenue<sup>8</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the University of California, when compared to similar public and private institutions of higher education, has lower tuition and fees for undergraduates who are California residents; and

WHEREAS, every nonresident student that the UC enrolls partially subsidizes an additional California resident student<sup>9</sup>, the University has increased nonresident enrollment in order to mitigate the impact of financial cuts; and

WHEREAS, the earning gap continues to widen between California residents who hold Bachelor's degrees and those who do not, while residents who hold those degrees contribute to the state's tax base and are less reliant on state social services<sup>10</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 41% of undergraduates at the University of California are first-generation college students, 30% of undergraduates at the University of California are transfer students from community colleges<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of high school graduates in California, in particular students of color and students from low-income communities, did not previously have equal access to education<sup>12</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 42% of undergraduates at the University of California qualify to receive federal Pell Grants (indicative of a family income below \$50,000), and within five years of graduating, Pell Grant students from the University are projected to earn more than their parents' combined earnings<sup>13</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Perkins Loan Program, a 5% interest loan for low-income students, is also facing cancellation<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the University of California generates more than \$46 billion in economic activity every year, due in large part to the fact that every dollar invested by a California

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.uc4ca.org/advocacy/Budget%20Advocacy.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.uc4ca.org/advocacy/Budget%20Advocacy.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.uc4ca.org/advocacy/Budget%20Advocacy.html>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/uc\\_affordability\\_081514.pdf](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/uc_affordability_081514.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.uc4ca.org/advocacy/Budget%20Advocacy.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov14/l5attach.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.nasfaa.org/Main/orig/2014/open/Seriously,\\_What\\_Is\\_Up\\_with\\_Perkins\\_for\\_2015-16\\_.aspx](http://www.nasfaa.org/Main/orig/2014/open/Seriously,_What_Is_Up_with_Perkins_for_2015-16_.aspx)

taxpayer in the University results in \$10 in gross state product and \$14 in overall economic impact.<sup>15</sup>

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports the investment of an additional \$100 million in the University of California, allocated from the \$165 billion California state budget in order to eliminate the need for an increase in undergraduate tuition in 2015-2016. In addition, this investment will help meet the increasing demand for a UC education by enrolling 5,000 additional California high school and community college transfer students over the next five years. Furthermore, it will support initiatives to increase academic quality, and facilitate the continued production of highly qualified graduates who will supplement California's workforce; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports the perpetuation of the Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Pell Grant Programs as they both apply to the students of the University of California; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports the establishment of a Middle Income Scholarship specific to UCLA and will advocate for middle income affordability continuing to make access to higher education a priority at the council table; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council will take action on behalf of this effort, lobbying both the California State Legislature and the California executive branch, and when possible and appropriate coordinating with President Napolitano and the UC Regents to strengthen the effort and achieve our common goal of state investment in the University of California as well as pressuring President Napolitano and the UC Regents to be held accountable and transparent with their decision making process.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.uc4ca.org/advocacy/Budget%20Advocacy.html>