



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Student Union Assembly 2nd floor, c/o Soar

January 20th, 2015

To: The Regents of the University of California

Subject: The Rescission of all Proposed Tuition Increases to the University of California

The Student Union Assembly of the University of California, Santa Cruz, calls for the rescission of all tuition increases as proposed by UC President Janet Napolitano and approved the Board of Regents. As the world's premier public university system, the University of California should be committed to providing a high quality education that empowers students, makes them better people, prepares life after college, and is, most importantly, affordable.

The University of California was established with the intention of providing a tuition-free education to all qualified California residents, as evidenced in the Organic Act of 1968 and the Master Plan for Higher Education of 1960.¹ However, in the four decades since the adoption of Proposition 13 and the establishment of tuition, the University of California has failed to deliver on this promise.

In 2011, UC students collectively paid approximately \$2.9 billion in tuition, while the California State Legislature contributed only \$2.4 billion.² In 2012, over half of California bachelor's degree graduates had student debt,³ and as of 2013, the total student loan debt in the United States surpasses \$1 trillion.⁴

While President Napolitano and Regents claim the proposed tuition increase of 5% per year for the next five years is necessary in light of the State of California's current levels of contribution to the UC system,⁵ Governor Jerry Brown has proposed a budget for fiscal 2014–2015 that provides an additional 5% in state funding, and has promised additional 4% increases in the following two fiscal years.⁶

¹ State of California, *A Master Plan for Higher Education in California 1960-1975*, 1960, Sacramento: California State Department of Education. <http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/MasterPlan1960.pdf>

² Gordon, Larry, "A first: UC fees exceed state funding," *Los Angeles Times*, August 22, 2011, Collections, Finances. <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/22/local/la-me-college-pay-20110822>

³ The Institute for College Access & Success, The Project on Student Debt, *Student Debt and the Class of 2012*, December 2013. <http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub/classof2012.pdf>

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, *Annual Report 2013*, December 11, 2013. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2013report/fsa-report.pdf>

⁵ UC Office of the President, "UC Regents to consider new long-term stability plan for tuition and financial aid," *University of California*. November 6, 2014. <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/long-term-stability-plan>

⁶ State of California, University of California, Office of the President, *Action Item F6 to Members of the Committee on Finance For the Meeting of November 13, 2014*. <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov13/f6.pdf>



Student Union Assembly (SUA), Office of the Chair

1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Student Union Assembly 2nd floor, c/o Soar

Meanwhile, the Regents dedicate large portions of the University of California budget to nonessential development plans, making private investments with profits of over \$4.7 billion⁷ that do not benefit students, and providing pay raises of up to 20% for six UC Chancellors who already make six-figure salaries.²

Overall, the actions of President Napolitano and the Board of Regents have decreased the quality, affordability, and accessibility of the University of California, and by extension higher education in the state of California. The Student Union Assembly of the University of California hereby condemns President Napolitano and the Board of Regents, and calls for an immediate, unequivocal, and permanent rescission of all proposed tuition increases and a renewed commitment to serving the students of the University of California and the people of the state of California.

Sincerely,
Justin Lardinois
Chair, Student Union Assembly
University of California, Santa Cruz

⁷ State of California, The Regents of the University of California, *Private Equity Investments as of June 30, 2014*. http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/files/updates/pe_irr.pdf