

A Resolution Calling for the Rescission of all Proposed Tuition Increases to the University of California

WHEREAS, Janet Napolitano, President of the University of California, has proposed a tuition increase of 5% annually for 5 years¹; and

WHEREAS, this would result in an increase of roughly \$3,370 to tuition; and

WHEREAS, The Organic Act of 1868² established the University of California with the principle of a tuition-free higher education for residents of California, as enshrined in statute; and

WHEREAS, A 1960 study called the Master Plan for Higher Education³ reaffirmed the century-old principle of tuition-free higher education as established prior by the Organic Act, only suggesting that the Regents be authorized to charge ancillary fees such as student housing, feeding, and parking; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, over \$2.9 billion in tuition paid by students surpassed the amount of funding provided by the California Legislature, totaling \$2.4 billion⁴, effectively rendering the University of California a private institution; and

WHEREAS, The plummeting affordability of higher education has forced over forty million students to turn to loans, the collective total of which has surpassed \$1.04 trillion as of November 2013⁵; and

WHEREAS, The Project on Student Debt states that 52% of students graduating with a Bachelor's degree in California in 2012 had student debt, with an average debt of \$20,269⁶; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 calls for an increase of state funding for the University of California by \$142.2 million for the 2014-2015 academic year, representing a 5.0% increase in proposed funding from the State General Fund compared to the 2013-14 fiscal year⁷; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has already agreed to increase funding by an additional 4% for each of the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years as well⁸; and

¹ <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/long-term-stability-plan>

² <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/CalHistory/charter.html>

³ <http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/MasterPlan1960.pdf>

⁴ <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/22/local/la-me-college-pay-20110822/2>

⁵ <http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2013report/fsa-report.pdf>

⁶ <http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub/classof2012.pdf>

⁷ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov13/f6.pdf>

⁸ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov13/f6.pdf>

WHEREAS, President Napolitano is demanding additional 5% increases to the already promised state commitments⁹; and

WHEREAS, the Regents knowingly and irresponsibly wrote the 2014-2015 budget¹⁰ without securing the necessary revenue; and

WHEREAS, the state often requires that the funds they allocate the University of California be used for essential items such as instruction, research, and campus maintenance; and

WHEREAS, after announcing furloughs for employees and lecturers in 2009¹¹, the UC announced 70 new and ongoing construction projects¹²; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of the costs that compose the University of California's budget are tied to these nonessential development plans and, as a result, can not be funded by state money¹³; and

WHEREAS, student tuition is considered a private investment and the Regents can utilize private money at their discretion; and

WHEREAS, the Regents are using student tuition for nonessential construction projects and private investment, at the cost of instruction, research, and campus maintenance; and

WHEREAS, The Regents of the University of California's Private Equity Investments have created profits in excess of \$4.7 billion¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, 5% of these profits equals \$235 million, nearly double what the Regents are demanding from the state; and

WHEREAS, in the face of this funding crisis, UC Chancellors have accepted pay raises of up to 20% to their already six-figure salaries¹⁵; and

WHEREAS, UCSC's own Chancellor Blumenthal accepted a 20% pay raise to \$383,160, despite the significant fiscal struggles faced by our own students and campus; and

⁹ <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/long-term-stability-plan>

¹⁰ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov13/f6attach.pdf>

¹¹ http://berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2009/07/10_furlough.shtml

¹² http://www.cucfa.org/news/2009_oct11.php

¹³ <http://teachthebudgetdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/ttb-fall-2012-public.pdf>

¹⁴ http://ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/updates/pe_irr.pdf

¹⁵ <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-uc-pay-20140919-story.html>

WHEREAS, The continuing high-cost of public higher education in California continues to erect barriers of affordability, thus impeding accessibility to high-quality higher education for low-income and middle class students¹⁶; and

WHEREAS, Less affordability and accessibility to a high-quality higher education, such as the University of California, will result in a less-educated population, thus stifling the progression of social and economic mobility for the population, and inhibiting increased economic performance as a nation¹⁷; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Chair of the University of California Santa Cruz Student Union Assembly will draft an open letter, condemning the UC Board of Regents for holding students hostage in this manner and for proposing additional tuition increases; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that this letter will call on the Regents to, instead, reallocate their billions of private asset profits to offset the costs they have irresponsibly incurred; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that this letter will call on the Regents to stop funding unnecessary, expensive construction projects when there are more pressing concerns surrounding the quality, affordability, and accessibility of our education; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the SUA will also draft a separate letter to UCSC Chancellor George Blumenthal, asking him to take the side of the students he is supposed to serve and publicly denounce any increases to our tuition; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SUA will plan, organize, and execute a campus-wide campaign to protest against these tuition increases and advocate for the rights of students.

¹⁶ <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2013/06/13-facts-higher-education>

¹⁷ <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s1969/text>