

RESOLUTION AGAINST PROPOSED CUTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Presented and passed unanimously by Council on Feb. 22, 2011.

WHEREAS, higher education is under attack at the state and national level through budget cuts and decreases in financial aid; and

WHEREAS, the Republican leadership of the United States House of Representatives proposes to cut the maximum Pell Grant award by \$845, bringing it down to \$4,705 for the remainder of 2011¹; and

WHEREAS, the House leadership is disproportionately targeting its cuts towards minority-serving institutions and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant that benefits low-income undergraduates; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's own budget proposal seeks to cut summer Pell Grants and subsidies for the interest rates of graduate student loans²; and

WHEREAS, California's new Governor Jerry Brown has proposed a \$500 million cut to the University of California³; and

WHEREAS, University of California student fees have increased from \$3,429 in 2000 to \$10,302 in 2010⁴; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in the history of California, students at the University of California will contribute more money to their public higher education than the state; and

WHEREAS, further budget cuts will adversely affect student services, academic programs, quality of instruction, and the autonomy of all departments, and could result in higher fee increases if tax cuts are not extended in June; and

WHEREAS, past cuts have reduced the quality of instruction available at the University of California, Los Angeles 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, the leaders of California's public institutions of higher education including President Yudof suggested that they will not take an active stance against the budget cuts⁵; and

¹ usstudents.org

² http://money.cnn.com/2011/02/13/news/economy/obama_budget_pell_grants/index.htm

³ <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/pdf/BudgetSummary/FullBudgetSummary.pdf>

⁴ http://www.ucop.edu/budget/fees/documents/history_fees.pdf

⁵ <http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalertlatest/2011/02/higher-education-leaders-not-f.html#ixzz1DKb2fTin>

WHEREAS, this lack of involvement and spirit by the administrative leaders of the university sends a message of conformism and apathy to all students; and

WHEREAS, voters aged 18-24 are the largest eligible non-voting bloc in the nation⁶; and

WHEREAS, faculty support would reinvigorate students in the struggle for affordable, accessible, and high-quality public higher education.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council opposes all proposals to decrease funding to higher education and financial aid at any level of government.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that UCLA students renew their support for long-term revenue proposals and not just cuts as a solution to the budget crisis faced by the state of California.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that UCLA students will actively oppose further fee increases as a solution to the budget cuts being proposed.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly urge all professors to devote a portion of the first day of their lectures in spring quarter to teaching about the California budget crisis and the University of California budget crisis.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges students to vote in upcoming local elections as it concerns the California education budget, as well as other fees and cuts that affect students.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council will urge students to engage in the budget process through in-district lobby visits, voting in local, state and national elections, letters to their elected representatives, and by attending events such as the Can You Hear Us Now? Concert and Rally taking place in front of the Governor's downtown Los Angeles office in April.

⁶ <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p20-557.pdf>