

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON CALIFORNIA ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO DEFEND PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, in 1959 the Regents of the University of California (“UC Regents”) and the California State Board of Education unanimously voted to “reaffirm the long established principle that state colleges and the University of California shall be tuition free to all residents of the state,”¹

WHEREAS, in 2009 California higher education funding was cut by \$715.5 million UC-wide,²

WHEREAS, state funding accounted for 24% of UC revenue in 2000 but dropped to 10% of revenue in 2014,³

WHEREAS, state funding per full-time-equivalent UC student has fallen from more than \$23,000 to about \$8,000 in the last forty years,⁴

WHEREAS, in-state and out-of-state tuition has risen significantly since its establishment in 1980 from \$300 for both in-state and out-of-state students⁵ to \$11,502 for in-state students and \$28,014 for out-of-state students (excluding student services fee),⁶

WHEREAS, the cost of attendance for UCLA was \$33,604 for in-state students and \$61,618 for out-of-state students for the 2017-2018 school year,⁷

WHEREAS, more than 52% of UCLA students relied on financial aid for the 2016-2017 school year and 42% of UCLA’s class of 2015-2016 students graduated with debt,⁸

WHEREAS, the UC Regents were scheduled to vote on a tuition increase of 2.5% for in-state tuition, 3.5% for non-resident tuition, and 5% in student service fees in January 2018 due to a lack of state funding,⁹

WHEREAS, the UC Regents decided to delay the tuition vote after thousands of students from across the UC system organized in opposition to a tuition increase,¹⁰

WHEREAS, the UC Regents are now scheduled to vote on the proposal to raise non-resident tuition in March 2018 at UCLA and the proposal to raise resident tuition in May 2018 at UCSF,¹¹

¹ <https://thebottomline.as.ucsb.edu/2017/10/a-brief-history-of-uc-tuition>

² http://www.dof.ca.gov/budget/historical_budget_Publications/2009-10/FullBudgetSummary.pdf

³ <http://dailybruin.com/2016/06/20/less-state-investment-higher-enrollment-contribute-to-uc-tuition-hike/>

⁴ <http://www.ppic.org/publication/higher-education-funding-in-california/>

⁵ http://ucop.edu/operating-budget/files/fees/documents/history_fees.pdf

⁶ <https://goo.gl/YTciFg>

⁷ www.apb.ucla.edu/Portals/90/Documents/Campus%20Stats/UGProfile16-17.pdf

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-uc-tuition-increase-20170120-story.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-uc-regents-tuition-vote-20180124-story.html>

¹¹ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, the UC Student Association (“UCSA”) is now lobbying the state for a \$140M tuition buyout to offset the need for a tuition increase and also advocating to the UC Regents to vote down said proposal,¹²

WHEREAS, state and federal elected officials have a strong role to play in tuition advocacy and have previously issued public statements denouncing state disinvestment in the UC along with efforts to raise tuition,¹³

WHEREAS, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris represent California constituents, including UC students,¹⁴

WHEREAS, Representatives Ami Bera, Ted Lieu, Karen Bass, Jimmy Gomez, Maxine Walters, Judy Chu, Brad Sherman, Ed Royce, Mimi Walters, Adam Schiff, and Anna Eshoo represent districts with thousands of UC and UCLA students, alumni, and employees,¹⁵

Figure 1. UCLA community members represented by congressional representatives				
District	U.S. Representative	Alumni	Students	Employees
33	Ted Lieu	41781	3371	13227
37	Karen Bass	26732	2475	12715
34	Jimmy Gomez	7260	1030	1817
43	Maxine Waters	8229	1012	1817
27	Judy Chu	8229	1012	3426
30	Brad Sherman	15038	1335	1714
39	Ed Royce	8731	1238	637
45	Mimi Walters	11116	1318	455
28	Adam Schiff	15723	1370	3244
18	Anna Eshoo	6941	851	96
7	Ami Bera	1902	381	31

WHEREAS, Assemblymembers Richard Bloom, Al Muratsuchi, Ed Chau, Laura Friedman, Philip Chen, and Evan Low represent districts with thousands of UCLA students, alumni, and employees,¹⁶

¹² www.latimes.com/local/education/la-essential-education-updates-southern-uc-students-lobby-for-more-state-funding-1519151462-htmlstory.html

¹³ <https://bera.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/bera-extremely-disappointed-with-uc-tuition-hike>

¹⁴ <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/CA>

¹⁵ <http://advocacy.ucla.edu/impact/336-2/>

¹⁶ <http://advocacy.ucla.edu/impact/ca-assembly-districts/>

Figure 2. UCLA community members represented by assemblymembers				
District	C.A. Assemblymember	Alumni	Students	Employees
50	Richard Bloom	27841	2068	10748
66	Al Muratsuchi	15043	969	2755
49	Ed Chau	9023	883	955
43	Laura Friedman	10010	876	1611
55	Philip Chen	5831	878	457
28	Evan Low	3761	598	40

WHEREAS, State Senators Benjamin Allen, Holly Mitchell, Steven Bradford, Ricardo Lara, Ed Hernandez, Tony Mendoza, Josh Newman, and John Moorlach represent districts with thousands of UCLA students, alumni, and employees,¹⁷

Figure 3. UCLA community members represented by state senators				
District	C.A. State Senator	Alumni	Students	Employees
26	Benjamin Allen	54578	4562	18937
30	Holly Mitchell	20079	2364	10090
35	Steven Bradford	7011	997	2954
33	Ricardo Lara	4114	762	1067
22	Ed Hernandez	10396	1237	1350
29	Josh Newman	9261	1347	668
37	John Moorlach	14652	1370	602

WHEREAS, Representative Ted Lieu has stressed the importance of accessibility and affordability in higher education, warning that “if we don’t do better in our higher education we’re just not going to compete in the 21st century,”¹⁸

¹⁷ <http://advocacy.ucla.edu/impact/ca-senate-districts/>

¹⁸ <https://goo.gl/B9Q1rC>

WHEREAS, Representative Karen Bass has previously stated that “we must make affordable post-secondary education a top priority for every student in America no matter their family’s economic status,”¹⁹

WHEREAS, Representative Jimmy Gomez has stated that “students should not graduate from school with crushing debt, and that a public college education should be debt free,”²⁰

WHEREAS, Representative Maxine Waters has espoused “the belief that every American, black or white, rich or poor, deserves an equal opportunity to pursue a higher education,”²¹

WHEREAS, Representative Judy Chu has stated that we should not be “creating additional barriers to higher education,”²²

WHEREAS, Representative Brad Sherman has claimed that “helping students and families manage the cost of a higher education has been one of [his] top priorities in Congress,”²³

WHEREAS, Representative Ed Royce has said that “[he shares] the concern of many Southern Californian families over the rising cost of higher education,”²⁴

WHEREAS, Representative Mimi Walters has claimed to “stand behind the American families working hard to provide a quality education for their children,”²⁵

WHEREAS, Representative Adam Schiff has emphasized that “our country’s preeminence in an increasingly competitive worldwide economy relies on keeping the doors to higher education wide open to all students,”²⁶

WHEREAS, Representative Anna Eshoo has stated that “every student deserves the opportunity for an affordable education,”²⁷

WHEREAS, Representative Ami Bera has advocated for tuition freezes in the past in order to provide for “the excellence and accessibility of future students,”²⁸

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Richard Bloom has stressed the need “to increase enrollment, improve access to courses, and make tuition more affordable at both the California State University and University of California systems,”²⁹

¹⁹ <https://goo.gl/d3ooMs>

²⁰ <https://jimmygomezforcongress.com/issues/>

²¹ <https://goo.gl/By2DF5>

²² <https://chu.house.gov/issues/education>

²³ <https://sherman.house.gov/media-center/opinion-editorials/congressman-sherman-prioritizing-education>

²⁴ <https://royce.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=397800>

²⁵ <https://goo.gl/VDt1nA>

²⁶ <https://schiff.house.gov/issues/education>

²⁷ <https://eshoo.house.gov/legislative-priorities/education/higher-education/>

²⁸ <https://goo.gl/ZA7Fq4>

²⁹ <https://a50.asmdc.org/press-release/assemblymember-bloom-responds-passage-2014-15-state-budget-act>

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi has emphasized the importance of higher education as “one of the essential pathways by which students pursue meaningful careers and find quality jobs that pay well,”³⁰

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Laura Friedman has stated that “if we can help students earn the degree they need for a promising career, and do it without piling debt upon them, it doesn’t just benefit that student—it boosts our whole economy,”³¹

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Evan Low has acknowledged the continuing increase of tuition costs and stated that “more funding is needed [for public higher education],”³²

WHEREAS, Senator Ben Allen has stated that “as chair of the Senate Education Committee, [he is] committed to protecting quality public education for all California’s children,”³³

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council (“Council”) hereby calls upon the aforementioned elected representatives to stand by their statements in defense of public higher education by publicly supporting UCSA’s budget advocacy efforts to increase state funding for the University of California,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Council calls upon these elected representatives to adamantly oppose the proposed tuition increase being considered by the UC Regents and to issue public statements condemning such efforts,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Council supports UCSA’s budget advocacy efforts in pursuing a \$140M tuition buyout to offset the need to raise tuition,

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Council adamantly opposes the proposed tuition increase being considered by the UC Regents that would raise fees and costs of attendance for in-state, out-of-state, and international students.

Resolution passed 2/27/18.

³⁰ <https://a66.asmdc.org/press-release/muratsuchi-introduces-ab-461-provide-student-loan-debt-relief>

³¹ <http://www.latimes.com/socal/la-canada-valley-sun/opinion/tn-vsl-me-op-ed-friedman-20170118-story.html>

³² <http://www.lwvsjsc.org/low.html>

³³ <http://sd26.senate.ca.gov/news/2017-02-07-senator-allen-statement-confirmation-secretary-education>