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## UCSA President's Statement on UC President Janet Napolitano's Resignation

LOS ANGELES, CA – In response to President Janet Napolitano's announcement that she will be resigning effective August 1, 2020, UC Student Association President Varsha Sarveshwar released the following statement:

"Leading the world's finest public university system — a system with ten campuses and hundreds of thousands of students, faculty, and staff — is no small responsibility. But it's a responsibility that President Napolitano carried with perseverance and resoluteness.

Under President Napolitano's leadership, enrollment of California undergraduates increased by nearly twenty-thousand, even as in-state tuition generally remained flat. The university expanded and strengthened transfer pathways, adopted historic initiatives to support first-generation students, and created the systemwide Title IX office. And the university took a stand against the federal government's science denialism by adopting precedent-setting carbon neutrality goals and fossil fuel divestment.

But the past six years have been a tumultuous time for the university community. Student activists drew attention to a variety of issues, including sexual harassment and violence, housing and food insecurity, and the daily struggles of Black, brown, and undocumented students to feel welcome and respected on their campuses. Labor unions, too, made their voices heard regarding underpayment, mistreatment, and contracting. And while the worst of the recession years are behind us, the state continues to underfund our classes and student services.

We are hopeful that the next President of the University of California will partner with students and other stakeholders to meet these challenges. President Napolitano was the first president to regularly meet with students — and in that spirit, we encourage the Regents' Special Committee to work with us in the coming months to select a bold, visionary President who will join us to fight for the best that public higher education can be."

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**About the UC Student Association:** The University of California Student Association is the official voice of 280,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from all ten UC campuses. It is our mission to advocate on behalf of current and future students for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California system.



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