



UCSA Resolution - Support the Creation of a New Master Plan for Higher Education for the State of California

Whereas: The 1960 Master Plan was a visionary document, leading the globe in higher education policy. It provided three major tenants: Access, Affordability, and Quality; and,¹

Whereas: It has been 53 years since the inception of the Master Plan, there has not been a significant effort to partake in grand planning for the next 15 years. While there have been updates to the Master Plan, the current state of higher education in California puts us at a nexus to reaffirm our vision for higher education, and education in general, within our state in the long term; and.

Whereas: The original survey committee for the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education consisted of a wide swath of higher education staff, faculty, and representatives from the California Legislature.¹ However, it was not fully representative of all stakeholders, namely students. At the time, the UC President (Clark Kerr) had a major role in planning for the Master Plan; and,

Whereas: The CA Little Hoover Commission has published a report on October 14, 2013 encouraging the Governor and Legislature to initiate a process to draft a new Master Plan.² However, the Little Hoover Commission contains some points that are not ideal for students such as its position on how online education should be implemented; and,

Whereas: The Master Plan for Higher Education was successful in defining the roles of each segment of higher education, it has not been adhered to fully by the State of California - namely its promise of tuition-free education for all those qualified.¹ Further, on the issue of access, higher education in California is at a capacity in its ability to educate students with a deficit in available seats of 2.3 million by 2025. Finally, in light of the recent destructive budget cuts across the state, quality at the UC has suffered particularly because of its inability to offer competitive salaries for excellent professors; and,

Whereas: There is a strong movement by students, faculty, and staff to have a greater commitment to diversity within higher education in California, particularly within the University of California. There is a current and historic lack of diversity as evident by in fall 2012, the total enrollment, graduate and undergraduate, for African American males at UCLA was 848 students. The Master Plan allotted to UC the top 12.5% of students, but that has also been a contributing factor to the lack of diversity and in a new plan must be defined more specifically; and,

¹ <http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/MasterPlan1960.pdf>

² <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/218/Report%20218.pdf>

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Whereas: Technology has evolved so dramatically since 1960, the framers then had no ability to chart the course of higher education with current technology in mind. Any future planning should include the use of technology, but in a manner that is meticulously designed; and,

Whereas: Since 1960 the demographics in the State of California have dramatically shifted³. A new Master Plan must be able to account for these changing demographics to best serve the state, especially as a social mobilizer; and,

Whereas: K-12 education is critical in the success of higher education. Access and diversity at the UC specifically are significantly impacted due to the State of California's failure to adequately support and fund k-12 in under resourced communities across the state, which consist primarily of people of color. This failure by the state contributes to the lack of diversity at the UC. Further, for a premier higher education system to function with the best and brightest students, those students must be properly prepared and educated sufficiently at the k-12 level. Currently there is a burden on higher education, particularly in Community Colleges, to provide remedial education for the short falls of k-12⁴; and,

Whereas: In 1960, the original intention was a greater focus of students entering higher education at the Community College level and later transferring to a university in order to maximize resources and provide access. However, societal expectations have shifted to a greater emphasis on directly entering a 4 year university.¹ A new Master Plan must recognize the role of each segment and alter/expand them accordingly; and,

Whereas: There has been a long term sustained disinvestment by the state of higher education, beginning with Governor Ronald Reagan and the first imposition of an educational fee to 2011 when for the first time in history students paid more for their education than the State of California. It is this disinvestment that has driven the lack of commitment to the Master Plan.

Therefore let it be resolved: That the University of California Student Association is in support of the creation of a survey committee made up of students, faculty, administration, staff from all facets of the California public higher education system (UC, CSU, CC, private), in addition to California taxpayers, alumni, legislators, representatives from the Governor's office, K-12 education and affected unions.

Let further be resolved: that the goal of the survey committee will be to collect pertinent information of the higher education system with the purpose of using

³ <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/99/notes/v6n5.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/10/21/california-community-colleges-cautious-experiment-accelerated-remediation>

¹ <http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/MasterPlan1960.pdf>

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gathered information to draft a new, updated, and/or re-envisioned California Master Plan for Higher Education to provide for a quality, accessible, and affordable education for the next 15 years.



Let it further be resolved: That we demand UC President Janet Napolitano prioritizes this initiative to ensure the long-term health and commitment to public higher education.

Let it be finally resolved: The University of California Student Association will draft a letter to Regent Varner, Governor Jerry Brown, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee Das Williams, and the California Legislature calling action to initiate the survey committee to renew the Master Plan for Higher Education by February 2014.

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