

A Resolution Calling for the Reduction of Tuition to the University of California



WHEREAS, The Organic Act of 1868^[1] 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 Education^[2] 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, Ronald Reagan, upon being elected Governor in 1966, acted on his campaign promise to “clean up the mess at Berkeley” by imposing the first tuition on the system^[3]; and

WHEREAS, Since the first introduction of tuition at Governor Reagan's directive, the cost of attending the University of California has ballooned to \$12,192 per year as of 2011-2012, an 18% increase from just the academic year prior, nearly double the rate set in 2005^[4], and more than five times the rate of slightly over a decade ago^[5]; 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 billion^[6]; 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 2013^[7]; 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 \$20,269^[8]; 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 year^[9]; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed budget results in increased state funding, while proposed University of California system-wide tuition levels

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for academic year 2014-15 are to remain at the current level of \$12,192 for undergraduates, rather than signifying a tuition decrease^[10]; and

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 students^[11]; 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 nation^[12]; and

WHEREAS, US Senators Chris Murphy and Brian Schatz introduced the College Affordability and Innovation Act, which establishes a commission that would allow students, faculty and education experts to directly set minimum standards for holding colleges and universities accountable for the federal funds they receive, and make college more affordable by incentivizing institutions to use federal funds responsibly in a way that directly addresses the high cost of tuition^[13]; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has introduced a “Plan to Make College More Affordable,” including, “paying for performance; promoting innovation and competition; and ensuring that student debt remains affordable;^[14]” and

WHEREAS, President Obama directed the U.S. Department of Education to develop a ratings system to better inform students and encourage institutions to improve by comparing colleges with similar missions and identifying those that do the most to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as highlighting colleges that are improving their performance^[15]; and

WHEREAS, The US Department of Education wants feedback from the students and other stakeholders on how to best promote college affordability and value while ensuring access and success for disadvantaged students is encouraged^[15]; and

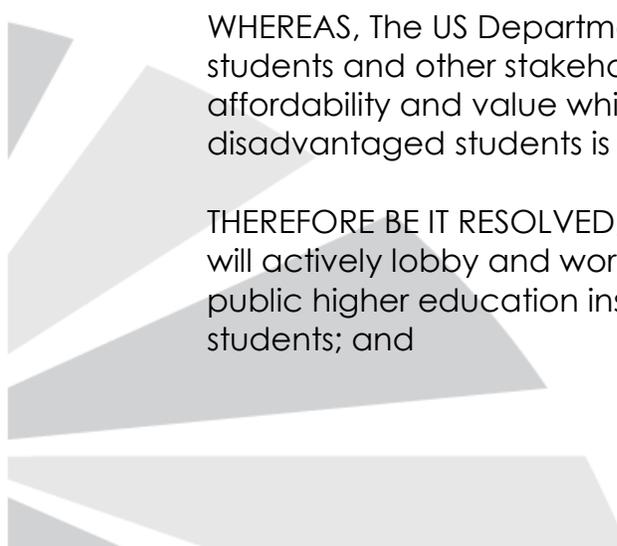
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UCSA supports the UC Regent's budget and will actively lobby and work to reclaim the University of California as a truly public higher education institution in which the state pays more than the students; and

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FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the University of California Student Association demand that the University of California Board of Regents and the University of California Office of the President allocate the Governor's proposed funding increases to the University of California for the purposes of system-wide undergraduate and graduate tuition reduction; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the UCSA shall actively lobby the University of California Board Of Regents and University of California Office of the President to carry out the policies above; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, UCSA endorses the College Affordability and Innovation Act; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, the UCSA board members shall write letters to Senators Feinstein and Boxer and their individual Congressman expressing the resolution's sentiments, and actively lobby the aforementioned elected representatives; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that UCSA shall conduct a system wide survey to gather student input about President Obama's "Plan to Make College More Affordable" and the university rating system and relay the feedback to the US Department of Education at collegefeedback@ed.gov through the UCSA Website; and

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- [1] <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/CalHistory/charter.html>
 - [2] <http://www.ucop.edu/acadinit/mastplan/MasterPlan1960.pdf>
 - [3] http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2004/06/08_reagan.shtml
 - [4] <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/UC-tuition-hits-12-192-a-9-6-percent-increase-2354523.php#photo-1875326>
 - [5] http://budget.ucop.edu/fees/documents/history_fees.pdf
 - [6] <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/22/local/la-me-college-pay-20110822/2>
 - [7] <http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/2013report/fsa-report.pdf>
 - [8] <http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub/classof2012.pdf>
 - [9] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov13/f6.pdf>
 - [10] <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2011reports/11-02.pdf>
 - [11] <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2013/06/13-facts-higher-education>
 - [12] <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s1969/text>
 - [13] <http://www.whitehouse.gov/share/make-college-affordable>
 - [14] <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/09/department-launches-college-affordability-and-value-outreach-initiative-today-starting-with-student-advocates/>
 - [15] <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/09/department-launches-college-affordability-and-value-outreach-initiative-today-starting-with-student-advocates/>

