

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 1, 2014



CONTACTS:

Sean Connelly, UCSA Legislative Director, 916.442.8280, [legdirector@ucsa.org](mailto:legdirector@ucsa.org)

**UCSA Optimistic About New Regent Appointments**

*New Appointments Bring Fresh Perspective, Diversity, and Experience in Higher Education*

Oakland, CA - On Monday, November 18, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. announced two new appointments to the University of California Board of Regents. The University of California Student Association (UCSA) is eager to engage with the new Regents and collaborate on issues important to students.

UCSA welcomes Assembly Speaker Emeritus John A. Pérez and Long Beach City College President Eloy Ortiz Oakley to the UC Board of Regents. For the first time in recent memory, Governor Brown has listened to the demands of students and taken steps to follow the California Constitution by appointing Regents that represent the people of California. While there is still more work to do, these two appointments mark a step in a positive direction.

As a member of the California State Assembly, Speaker Emeritus Pérez championed the rights of students and the affordability of higher education in California. With a mind focused on policy and a track record of listening to and working with students, Regent Pérez is a well-known figure to UC students. The Middle Class Scholarship program, a bill authored by the former Speaker, has begun to help thousands of students better afford an ever increasing tuition at a UC campus. UCSA looks forward to working with Regent Pérez on his continued support of students and forward thinking approach to the University of California.

Regent Ortiz Oakley also brings necessary higher education experience to the UC Board of Regents with his nationally recognized policy expertise. While students look forward to his fresh perspective on the Board, as partners with the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC), UCSA raises concerns over President Ortiz Oakley's support of Assembly Bill 955 from 2013. This bill, opposed by SSCCC, creates an exploratory two-tiered education system at California's Community Colleges, which if proposed as an idea to the UC Regents, would be swiftly and strongly rejected by UCSA and students who do not believe in a "pay to play" system. UCSA invites Regent Ortiz Oakley to discuss future ideas for the UC with students at any time, and looks forward to a positive working relationship.

UCSA looks forward to the diversity, experience in higher education, and fresh perspective that it hopes Regents Pérez and Oakley will bring to the UC Board of Regents. UCSA also continues to urge Governor Brown to consult with students regarding future Regents appointments per the California Constitution, which the Governor has routinely opted to ignore. Students are ready and willing to provide recommendations on who they'd like to see on the Board of Regents, and will prove to be an asset in assisting him to identify suitable candidates for appointment.

UCSA President, Jefferson Kuoch-Seng extended the following invitation, "I invite both Regent Pérez and Regent Ortiz Oakley to sit down with UC student leadership and discuss their vision for the future of the University."

###

**About the University of California Student Association**

The University of California Student Association is the official voice of over 240,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from the eleven 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.

1020 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 232  
ATTN: Sean Connelly, Legislative Director  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(P) 916.442.8280 (F) 916.442.8288

