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UCSA Commends Assembly Democrats' 2014-2015 Blueprint Budget Plan
New Assembly Blueprint Commits to Investing in Higher Education and the UC

Oakland, CA - The University of California Student Association (UCSA) is enthusiastic about yesterday's announcement regarding the Assembly Democrats' proposed budget for higher education and the University of California (UC). The Blueprint for a Responsible Budget announced by Speaker Pérez and Budget Committee Chair, Assemblywoman Skinner, is a strong starting point in the budget process that reiterates what students have advocated for over the past several years. This reinvestment will help to ensure that the UC system will remain a world leader in quality, affordability and accessibility.

The Blueprint includes an acceleration of reinvestment in the UC with funding restoration. The FY14-15 budget passed by the UC Regents in November, which would not include a tuition increase for students, will be fulfilled in this Assembly budget plan. Additional reinvestments critical to the success of UC students across California include a full restoration of Cal Grant B awards for 1st year students and improved funding for Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards.

UCSA President Kareem Aref speaks to student gratitude for this promising step in higher education investment:

"UCSA thanks Speaker Pérez for his continued support of the UC and his willingness to work with students on issues related to and outside of the budget, and also expresses gratitude toward Assemblymembers Das Williams and Al Muratsuchi for their continued support and advocacy of UC students in this proposal. The Blueprint for the 2014-15 budget makes it clear that students have successfully made their case for being a secure investment in California's future."

UCSA President Aref also expresses that UCSA is optimistic that the Legislature will work with Governor Jerry Brown in making these proposals a reality. "At the last UC Regents meeting Governor Brown expressed his concern that regardless of his efforts the Legislature would not be willing to allocate proper funding to the UC. This budget blueprint now brings assurance that both the Governor and the Legislature support funding higher education, and that students can look forward to strong state support in the future."

UCSA commends this renewed investment in higher education and assures legislators that students are ready to help make the Blueprint for a Responsible Budget a reality for all of California's students.

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About the University of California Student Association

The University of California Student Association is the official voice of over 230,000 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.