

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2013



CONTACTS:

Kareem Aref, UCSA President, ucsapresident@ucsa.org

Bridget Botelho, UCSA Communications Director, 510.834.8272, commdirector@ucsa.org

UC Students Acknowledge President Napolitano's Start of Term with Mixed Reactions
New UC Leadership Motivates Both Hope and Concern

Oakland, CA - As Napolitano begins her term as University of California president, the appointment of former Secretary of Homeland Security continues to garner mixed reactions from the students whom she will serve. Many students await Napolitano's start of term with interest in what she will bring to the position. Meanwhile, others are rightfully concerned that her past professional history may influence how she will lead as UC President.

Recent skepticism was sparked by Napolitano's history as a staunch supporter of national security, specifically around deportation and lack of support for undocumented citizens. UCSA President Kareem Aref spoke to this in his recent speech at the September UC Regents meeting, stating that "students have expressed concerns in her work with Homeland Security and as Governor of Arizona."

The UC Student Association stands in solidarity with students who are concerned with the new leadership, while also recognizing the laudable efforts of UC President Napolitano during her first week in office. The organization appreciates her initial letter to the UC community, affirming her commitment to "serve as the strongest advocate possible for the University of California." UCSA also commends Napolitano for prioritizing meetings with students on her second day in office, and looks forward to seeing her continue these meetings throughout her tenure. UCSA awaits the chance to discuss with her its items of concern, as well as opportunities for collaboration.

It is important that the voices of students be acknowledged, taking into consideration the varying stances around her leadership. UCSA President Aref also spoke to UCSA's hope for a positive relationship with UC President Napolitano and confirms that "students are looking forward to working with President Napolitano and seeing how she works with students to build a better UC."

UCSA hopes that the new course for the UC system set by Napolitano will be one that considers viewpoints of all students, and welcomes collaboration from UCSA and the student associations at each UC campus.

###

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.