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CONTACTS:

Kareem Aref, UCSA President, ucsapresident@ucsa.org

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

UCSA Continues to Advocate for Increased State Funding

California's 2014-15 Budget Plan Leaves Students Eager for Additional Assistance

Oakland, CA - On Thursday, January 9, Governor Jerry Brown announced his proposed 2014-15 Budget. The budget, totaling \$106.8 billion in spending, is a significant change of direction from the past decade of budget cuts and spending freezes. The University of California Student Association (UCSA) applauds Governor Brown for his commitment to instilling fiscal responsibility in California, but believes that increased funding to higher education would be a smart investment in California's future.

The Governor's budget calls for the continuation of a four-year installment plan that will "provide steady and predicable state funding increases through 2016-17." This plan includes an agreement that all three public university systems hold tuition at 2011-2012 levels. In November, the Regents of the University of California passed a budget that included a 10% funding increase from the State—the amount that they propose would freeze tuition for the 2014-15 school year. However, Governor Brown's proposed budget only includes a 4.2% increase of \$142.2 million.

UCSA agrees with the UC Regents that as the State is in a position to elevate funding, it should begin compensating for the high increases in UC tuition and fees enacted over the last several years. Acknowledging the need for further state investment, UCSA President Kareem Aref explains that "stronger support for California's public universities is a long-term investment in the future success of California," and that UCSA will continue to advocate for a greater commitment from the State to UC students.

After years of devastating tuition increases and budget cuts to the UC, students are eager for reinvestment that will help the UC to maintain accessibility, affordability and quality. UCSA is dedicated to ensuring that all student voices are heard regarding California's budget process.

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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.