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UCSA Supports Need for Sexual Assault Prevention on UC Campuses
*Systemwide Student Association Stands in Solidarity with UC Santa Barbara
Against Recent Accounts of Sexual Assault*

Oakland, CA – In late February, a second gang rape of a UC student within two months occurred in Isla Vista near the UC Santa Barbara campus. This frequency in similar devastating events highlights the need for increased sexual assault prevention resources on UC campuses. Sexual assault policy reform continues to be an issue of importance both at the campus and state levels for UC students.

Sexual assault and campus violence in general is and always will be of concern to students, as safety and the resources necessary for students to feel comfortable in their communities lie at the heart of student education and success. UCSA supports and stands in solidarity with all campus associations who are doing critical work to improve the safety and health of its students, and the efforts in increasing availability and education of sexual assault resources on campus.

“These recent events within the past two months at UCSB highlight an essential need that has always existed to improve resources for prevention and treatment of sexual assault, and for the education on the availability of these resources, in our student communities,” says UCSA President Kareem Aref in regard to the recent accounts of sexual assault at UC Santa Barbara. “Now is the time to gain critical progress in making our student communities more safe for all students.”

The UCSA Board of Directors discussed the recent events at UCSB and the issue of sexual assault across campuses during its March Board of Directors meeting, and has committed to keeping an ongoing conversation on this topic at future meetings. UCSA will also be supporting upcoming California legislation pertaining to student safety for all of the State’s higher education, and will be advocating for these bills during its 2014 Student Lobby Conference (SLC), which will take place April 5-7 in Sacramento, CA.

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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.