



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACTS

Anais LaVoie, UC Student Association Communications Director, 714-316-9412 (c), [commdirector@ucsa.org](mailto:commdirector@ucsa.org)

Kevin Sabo, UC Student Association President, 209-541-5204 (c), [president@ucsa.org](mailto:president@ucsa.org)

**Students Respond to 2016-17 Budget Heard by UC Board of Regents**

SAN FRANCISCO – Kevin Sabo, UC Student Association President and recognized representative for students on all ten campuses, gave the following remarks to the UC Board of Regents regarding the proposed 2016-17 UC budget.

“The theme of this budget is that the UC is interested in bridging renewed partnership with the State. Nothing could be more critical to the operation of a public university than engaging all of its stakeholders - but not just the State. A critical stakeholder in this budget is students. We pay for our dreams through tuition bills; we work in campus facilities; we teach other students; and we depend on the quality of the education we are provided.

There are a few parts of this budget I hope you will consider thoughtfully. First, decreasing time to degree through increased summer coursework absolutely must be matched with institutional financial aid and subsidized student loans as students lack access to federal aid during the summer. Students support three-year degree pathways but insist that no student should be forced or limited into these pathways.

On enrollment growth, students want to see more emphasis in this budget on needed housing and healthcare services. For students sleeping in cars at UC Santa Cruz, taking showers at the gym at UC San Francisco, and living with growing hostility of neighbors who will not accept that students are a part of the UC Riverside community, an enrollment plan without new housing construction is a failure to acknowledge our housing crisis. This crisis is real. We intend to ensure Sacramento and UC hear students loud and clear in the coming session.

Finally, this budget calls for regular increases in tuition annually. If predictable increases are allowed in the future without public review, UC will have crossed a dangerous threshold leaving the Master Plan behind. It will be a degree factory, where students pay market rate for a commodity, and the UC’s reputation for providing a world-class education will be tarnished by the fact that it operates on the backs of students buried in loan debt. Regular inflationary increases are for corporations, not public services. If you approve this plan, remember that every year as fees are raised, you have a responsibility to engage with the public stakeholders of the UC: the State of California, its taxpayers, and the students who have worked hard their entire lives to be accepted into these schools, hoping that they won’t have to say no because the cost is just too much.”

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**Oakland Office**

385 Grand Ave, Suite 302  
Oakland, CA 94610  
[o] 510.834.8272  
[f] 510.834.8286

**Sacramento Office**

1020 12th Street, Suite 232  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[o] 916.442.8280

[www.ucsa.org](http://www.ucsa.org)

UCStudentAssociation

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