UC Student Association Calls for Resignation or Termination of UC Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi

SACRAMENTO, CA - The UC Student Association voted on Friday to formally call for Linda Katehi to resign or be terminated from her position as the Chancellor of UC Davis. President Kevin Sabo commented after the vote:

“The pepper spray incident shaped student protest and campus response for the last five years. After the incident, Chancellor Katehi abdicated responsibility, but still felt it was necessary to initiate an impossible hunt to save her reputation.

This is not a lapse of judgment, but a pattern of Katehi’s blatant disregard of her responsibility as a UC leader. Katehi is collecting a $425K salary, ample compensation given the fact that students on her campus desperately need resources like affordable housing, crisis food intervention, mental health support, and financial aid.

Students regularly request leaders in Sacramento to provide much-needed revenue to the UC. We hold our administration to a high standard that it spends that money responsibly. Public relations professionals at UC Davis today insist that this money was not paid for by tuition revenue or public funds. I have to ask: where did that money come from? Is there a donor out there who chose to fund PR stunts over scholarships? Was it worth it, now that the image they tried so hard to delete is etched deeply into the memories of students and legislative leaders who consider these actions egregious and corruptive?”

Recent documents published by the Sacramento Bee revealed troubling decisions made by the leadership of UC Davis, including Chancellor Linda Katehi. After the 2011 pepper spraying of students peacefully demonstrating as part of the Occupy movement, Chancellor Katehi contracted with outside consultants in an attempt to rid the internet of negative content around the incident.

UCSA Board members also voiced anger that, during student protests about Katehi’s leadership, safe spaces for student protesters like signage for gender-inclusive restrooms were removed by Katehi’s staff.

Representatives of the UC Student Association met in Sacramento for its monthly Board of Directors meeting. The meeting kicked off the annual Student Lobby Conference when 350 UC students convene to lobby for bills affecting students’ interests.

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About the University of California Student Association
The University of California Student Association is the official voice of over 240,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from all ten UC campuses. It is our mission to advocate on behalf of current and future students for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the UC system.