

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 15, 2017 **CONTACTS:** Judith Gutierrez, president@ucsa.org, President Anais Lieu, 510-834-8272, operations@ucsa.org, Staff

## UC Students Will "Grade The Regents" With New Annual Report Cards

San Francisco, CA – The University of California Student Association announced a new project Wednesday that will communicate and track student priorities to the University of California Board of Regents. The project is being called Regent Report Cards (available at www.ucsa.org/regents). It is a partnership with the office of the current **UC Student Regent Paul Monge**, who is the only student trustee on the University's top governing body.

**Monge**, a UC Berkeley law student, said about the grades: "This is a good government tool to ensure our university leaders are doing their due diligence as stewards of our university. Ideally, this tool will help Regents do their jobs better."

Regents will receive two grades based on their accessibility and voting record. They will be graded on how often they attend meetings and visit campuses, and whether or not they interact with students. They will also be informed of student priorities before they vote on them, so they have the opportunity to consider the student perspective in their decisions. The goal is to generate more public oversight of the decisions Regents make, often in rooms with few members of the public. In addition to an annual grade, UCSA will publish progress reports after each Regents meeting, so both the public and the Regents can see how students think they are doing.

"Most Regents are out of touch with students," said **UC Student Association President Judith Gutierrez**, a student at UC Santa Cruz. "Many are millionaires who never visit our campuses and rarely talk to us about what it is like to go to the UC. This comes through in their failure to enact policies we need and their insistence on regular tuition hikes."

In April 2017, the California State Auditor released an audit questioning UC finances and priorities, especially state funding and tuition dollars. **Gutierrez** said about the audit: "This is the time to pressure Regents, because students and the State agree that there needs to be a change.

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**About the UC Student Association:** The University of California Student Association is the official voice of a quarter million 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 University of California system.