

A Resolution Opposing Over-Enrollment at the University of California

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WHEREAS, the California State Legislature mandated on November 19, 2015 that all 10 campuses in the University of California develop plans to accommodate a total of 10,000 new undergraduates over the following three years¹;

WHEREAS, this increase in enrollment was mandated by the California State Legislature to increase access to the University of California (hereafter “UC”) for California students without providing the necessary financial support for increased enrollment;

WHEREAS, the UC faces significant budgetary constraints due to the large increase in enrolled students, thus lowering the quality of education offered by the UC;²;

WHEREAS, as a result of the aforementioned mandates from California State Legislature, the University of California increased student enrollment from 198,866 undergraduates in the 2015-2016 academic year to 216,747 students in the 2017-2018 academic year, a total increase of 17,881 students³;

WHEREAS, the enrollment of additional students has increased the demand on both academic and instructional workers, such as graduate students, lecturers, clerical staff and service workers;

WHEREAS, the issue of over-enrollment transpired at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), in particular, during the summer of 2017 when the UCI Office of Admissions revoked approximately 499 acceptances and imposed significant negative press on the UC and undue stress for the campus community⁴;

WHEREAS, in addition to the staffing and labor shortages that negatively impact students and their experience at the UC, the University notably lacks sufficient

¹ <http://universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-dramatically-boost-california-student-enrollment>

² <http://dailybruin.com/2015/02/18/after-delay-uc-releases-report-breaking-down-per-student-expenditures/>

³ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/fall-enrollment-glance>

⁴ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f8EEmfTlzy_Jhm6TjCcSmTSFrQL4IfW3oDOZhIQZz7Q/edit

resources to support students, including but not limited to housing, food, transportation, psychological support services and classroom spaces;

WHEREAS, in particular, due to the increased demand for housing by the increased number of enrolled students and the insufficient resources the University has to provide students with housing, the University has decreased the housing guarantees for incoming students;

WHEREAS, many UC campuses are consistently ranked as the most expensive college towns in the country, off-campus housing is an exorbitantly expensive option;

WHEREAS, the long-term residents of the neighborhoods surrounding many (if not every) UC campuses are concerned about their respective UC campus' significant increase in enrollment, especially due to the fact that a growth in student population leads to increased traffic in the surrounding area and higher rent prices that affect both students and long-term residents of the area, and the University of California Student Association (hereafter "UCSA") echoes these concerns;

WHEREAS, the University has been placing students in spaces not suitable for living, including dormitory lounges, and increasing the number of students who live in residential spaces. For example, many rooms that were made for a single resident now hold more than one student and the campus has seen an increase in rooms that hold more than three students. Through these actions, the University is subjecting many students to overcrowded living situations, often resulting in circumstances that jeopardizes students' mental health, or even violate fire codes;

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2017, the UC Regents affirmed the goals of the 2015 Budget Framework Agreement between Governor Jerry Brown and UC President Napolitano. Under this agreement, each of the UC campuses, with the exception of UC Merced, "will increase the proportion of undergraduates entering as community college transfers, so that by the 2017-18 academic year—assuming the presence of a sufficiently qualified transfer applicant pool—one-third of all incoming California resident undergraduates will enter as transfers, system-wide and at every campus except Merced."⁵

WHEREAS, although UCSA is in favor of promoting the accessibility of the University of California to all, the current circumstances at each respective UC campus should compel the University of California from accepting additional students.

⁵ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may17/a2.pdf>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the University of California Student Association demands the California Governor, State Legislature, UC Regents, UC Office of the President, and respective campus administrators to work in good faith to stop any mandates that requires UC campuses to admit additional students and consider implementing temporary enrollment rollbacks until campus resources are sufficient to support existing students and any additional students;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of California Student Association demands that the aforementioned officials work individually and collaboratively to adopt a sustainable enrollment model coupled with financial support for any additional enrollment growth at the UC campuses to adequately provide necessary resources for students and their respective success. More specifically, the University of California should not admit any additional students to any campus until that respective campus is able to provide sufficient infrastructure and other necessary resources to the students currently enrolled;