



MEMORANDUM

TO: ASI Board of Directors

DATE: February 8, 2017

FROM: Jana Colombini
ASI President

COPIES: M. Maloney
L. Lee

Chase Dean
Board Member

Rita Elfarissi
Board Member

SUBJECT: Endorsement #17-02: Endorsement of California State Student Association's (CSSA) *Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the CSU System and in Opposition of a Potential Tuition Increase*

Purpose of the proposed Endorsement: The purpose of this endorsement is to show support of the California State Student Association (CSSA)'s *Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the CSU System and in Opposition of a Potential Tuition Increase*.

Background: CSSA's *Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the CSU System and in Opposition of a Potential Tuition Increase* is in response to the potential tuition adjustment that is being presented to the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees (BOT). This tuition adjustment would increase tuition due to the potential of not receiving full funding from the State of California. The CSU is meant to provide higher education opportunities and access to low-income and middle-class residents of California in obtaining well-paying jobs after earning a baccalaureate degree. The potential tuition adjustment does not align with the intent of the CSU system. In addition, Cal Poly students would be financially impacted from this tuition adjustment.

Requested Action: We therefore request that the ASI Board of Directors endorse CSSA's *Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the CSU System and in Opposition of a Potential Tuition Increase*. If approved, please forward this endorsement to the Honorable Governor Jerry Brown, State Senator Bill Monning, State Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham, the California State University Board of Trustees, Chancellor Timothy White, President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and Vice President for Student Affairs Keith Humphrey.

Attachment

[*CSSA's Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the CSU System and in Opposition of a Potential Tuition Increase*]



December 09, 2016

Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the CSU System and in Opposition of a Potential Tuition Increase

WHEREAS, the California State Student Association (CSSA) is the single recognized voice of the 470,000 students in the California State University (CSU); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of CSSA is to represent all students of the CSU system and advocate for them on issues of higher education pertaining to access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the CSU system is to prepare significant numbers of educated, responsible people, to contribute to California's schools, economy, culture, and success; and

WHEREAS, the CSU provides higher educational opportunity and access to low-income and middle-class residents of California in obtaining well-paying jobs after earning a baccalaureate degree; and

WHEREAS, the CSU provides access to a college degree and increases opportunities for social mobility for diverse student body, many of which are members of California's growing underserved communities, students aged 25 and older, and first-generation college students; and

WHEREAS, when adjusted for inflation and in 2016 dollars, CSU tuition has increased from \$3,112¹ in 2007/2008 to \$5,472 in 2016/2017, an increase of 75.8%; and

WHEREAS, shown in the CSU impact report, every dollar invested in the CSU returns five dollars and forty-three cents back into the California economy; and

WHEREAS, the CSU Office of the Chancellor released to CSSA a Possible 2017/2018 Tuition Proposal on September 29, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the CSU proposed 2017/2018 budget would require an investment of \$346 million in new revenue to fund its major priority areas being: the Graduation Initiative 2025, Enrollment Growth, Academic Facilities & Campus Infrastructure, Employee Compensation, & Mandatory Costs; and

WHEREAS, the CSU anticipates that Governor Brown will allocate \$157.2 million in new funding to the CSU in his January budget proposal, leaving a \$168.8 million gap between the Governor's proposal and the entire 2017/2018 proposed support budget; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated new funding allocation of \$157.2 million will effectively cover 2017/2018 Mandatory Costs and Current Employee Compensation Contracts, totaling \$165.1 million; and

¹ <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpid1610.pdf>



WHEREAS, we believe in the value of the Graduation Initiative 2025, enrollment growth, and other priorities, but only if the state allocates sufficient funds to cover them; and

WHEREAS, in its continued disinvestment from public higher education and the recent historical underfunding of the CSU, the State of California is failing to fulfill its responsibility as laid out in the California Master Plan for Higher Education, which mandates an accessible, affordable, and quality post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, CSSA's 2016/2017 Policy Agenda states that CSSA should "facilitate campus education and outreach surrounding the CSU proposed Sustainable Financial Model and advocate against the tuition increases in the CSU; and

WHEREAS, while financial aid may help to mitigate some of the effects of a tuition increase for some, many other students who receive financial aid in the form of loans will incur more debt as a result of a tuition increase; and

WHEREAS, increased tuition and fees deter low-income students from enrolling in higher education², significantly decrease the racial/ethnic diversity of college student bodies³, and disproportionately "price out" students of color⁴, and

WHEREAS, national student loan debt currently surpasses \$1.4 trillion, 49% of CSU students graduate with student loan debt, in an average of \$14, 388 per student, and a tuition increase of \$270 annually over four years would result in \$1,560 in increased debt, and a tuition increase of \$270 over six years would result in \$2,280 in increased debt; and

WHEREAS, the CSU identifies student success as improving graduation rates, reducing the number of students that drop out of college early, making college more affordable to Californians, and helping more prospective students understand what it takes to earn their degree; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Timothy P. White has stated that if the state fully funds the CSU for the 2017/2018 academic year, there will not be a tuition increase; and

WHEREAS, the State fully funded the past CSU Support Budget two years ago without the threat of a tuition increase through the collaborative advocacy efforts of CSU students, staff, faculty, and administrators, therefore, be it

² Michael Mitchell and Michael Leachman, *Years of Cuts Threaten to Put College Out of Reach for More Students*, (Washington DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2015), 17.

³ Drew Allen and Gregory Wolniak, *Exploring the Effects of Tuition Increases on Racial/Ethnic Diversity at Public Colleges and Universities*, (Chicago, IL: 2015 AERA Annual Meeting), 30.

⁴ *The State of Higher Education in California: Blacks*, (The Campaign for College Opportunity, 2015), 16.



RESOLVED, that CSSA is opposed to a state budget that does not provide stable and sufficient funding to the CSU; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA is opposed to all tuition increases and any proposal that places more of a burden of cost on students; and, be it further

RESOLVED, we call on the CSU Board of Trustees and Office of the Chancellor to not approve a tuition increase by any means, even if it means only paying for mandatory costs and foregoing additional funding to all additional initiatives and programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, we call on the CSU Board of Trustees and Office of the Chancellor to participate in vigorous advocacy efforts at the state and federal level to secure full permanent, and stable funding for the CSU; and, be it further

RESOLVED, we call on the Academic Senate of the CSU and each respective campus, and the California Faculty Association, to stand with students by publicly opposing the proposed tuition hikes, participate in robust advocacy efforts at the state and federal level to secure full stable, and permanent funding for the CSU, and support student-led efforts to stop the tuition increase; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA will actively work to generate long-term solutions and public support for investing in public higher education, by working with the CSU, each campus ASI, the California Faculty Association, Students for Quality Education, the California Student Union, the Office of the Chancellor, the CSU Board of Trustees, alumni of the CSU system, and other external stakeholders; and will lead and support student activism and organizing efforts against the potential tuition increase; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that CSSA urges the Governor, the Assembly, and the Senate to reinvest in the CSU and seek ways to fully fund public higher education in order to protect the future of California by preserving access, quality, and affordability of the CSU; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to, the Office of the Governor of California, the California State Legislature, the CSU Board of Trustees, Chancellor Timothy P. White, the CSU Statewide Academic Senate, statewide student associations, and campus Associated Students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lopez", is written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

David M. Lopez, President 2016-17