



RECLAIM

California's Master Plan for Higher Education

QUALITY • AFFORDABLE • ACCESSIBLE



March 5, 2015

Dear Governor Brown:

CC: Toni Atkins, *Speaker, California State Assembly* • Kevin de León, *Pro Tem, California State Senate* • Brice Harris, *Chancellor, CCC* • Janet Napolitano, *President, UC* • Timothy White, *Chancellor, CSU*

The escalating crisis in higher education requires a reaffirmation of the State of California's commitment to The Master Plan for Higher Education. As key stakeholders representing well over 4 million students, staff and faculty throughout the State's three higher education systems – the California Community Colleges, California State University and the University of California – we urge you to restore adequate state funding to higher education.

As a result of deep budget cuts in recent years, the Master Plan for Higher Education is in jeopardy. Tuition and administrative costs are skyrocketing while enrollment of in-state students is not keeping pace with the needs of our economy. Our institutions of higher learning should, once again, be an engine of economic growth and good jobs in our communities. We will need at least 1 million more graduates by 2025 to remain economically competitive, according to the Public Policy Institute of California.

Now is the time to implement a vision that can address the systemic problems plaguing California's ailing public colleges and universities. This includes increased state investment, as well as making institutional reforms that promote greater access, affordability, instructional quality, and internal accountability. Broadly, this consists of:

1. Increasing enrollment to meet the needs of Californians
2. No tuition increases that exacerbate the student debt crisis, which includes reining in executive compensation
3. Fair pay and benefits for the hundreds of thousands of workers who make the institutions work
4. Smaller class sizes and greater instructional support, which includes abandoning the idea that online education is the panacea to state disinvestment
5. Ceasing the outsourcing of vital services

We support the following guidelines for the 2015-16 budget cycle above the augmentations to our institutions' base budgets:

For the California Community Colleges, we thank you, Governor, for the support you have shown thus far for student services, and the much needed additional \$125 million in base funding. We still advocate that funding should be directed to specific components of student success. These include the conversion of part-time faculty positions to full-time, compensation for part-time faculty office hours, the provision of health benefits for part-time faculty, and equal pay for equal work for part-time faculty, otherwise known as "parity." We also support the system request for \$25 million for professional development of faculty, staff, and administrators.

For California State University, we thank you, Governor, for the \$25 million in one-time funds for deferred maintenance. We still need \$100 million in additional funding to support the enrollment of 10,000 more in-state residents that will provide greater access to the CSU system, to hire more faculty for added classes, and more instructional support staff to serve those students.

For University of California, no tuition increases. In addition we need, \$150 million to support undergraduate enrollment targets of 5,000 in-state residents; more student aid to defray the real cost of attending a UC; smaller class sizes; and resources to recruit and retain quality faculty and staff.

This increased \$150 million in funding should be tied to reasonable accountability measures consistent with UC's mission and values, such as limits on executive compensation; an end to lobbying and funding that opposes Research Assistant collective bargaining rights; no outsourcing of vital services that can be done at a lower cost in-house; and curbing poverty rates in California for sub-contracted workers, mostly immigrants and people of color.

Finally, we request that the discussions between the "Committee of Two" around pre-funding of retiree health benefits reflect the commitment that the State, the University, and UC employees will bear that responsibility, not employees alone.

As the 2015-16 budget cycle continues, we look forward to working closely with you so that we can once again prioritize higher education within the State of California.

Sincerely,

- *AFSCME 3299 - Kathryn Lybarger, President*
- *AFSCME UAPD – Stuart Bussey, President*
- *CCCI – Richard Hansen, President*
- *CFA – Lillian Taiz, President*
- *CPFA – John Martin, Chair*
- *CSUEU – Pat Gantt, President*
- *CUCFA – Joe Kiskis, VP for External Relations*
- *Teamsters 2010 – Jason Rabinowitz, Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Officer*
- *SSCCC – Omar Paz, President*
- *UAW 2865 – Mar Velez, President*
- *UAW 4123 – Richard Anderson, President*
- *UAW 5810 – Neal Sweeney, President*
- *UC-AFT – Robert Samuels, President*
- *UCSA – Jefferson Kuoch-Seng, President*
- *UPTE-CWA 9119 – Jelger Kalmijn, President*