



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

May 18, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Support ASUC's Gubernatorial Higher Education Pledge Campaign

RECOMMENDATION

Endorse ASUC's Bill 182 "Support of the Higher Education Pledge Campaign."

BACKGROUND

The ASUC recently passed Bill No. 182, the "Support of the Higher Education Pledge Campaign." In the last year, funding for higher education has been seriously slashed, despite hikes in tuition and raised student fees. Students across California have voiced their concerns by organizing, demonstrating, and by lobbying UC regents, state legislators, and the governor.

The ASUC passed a bill supporting the Gubernatorial Higher Education Pledge campaign. This is a petition campaign in support of having Gubernatorial candidates taking a pledge (see below). This student initiated campaign will be presented in 2010 to California candidates for governor.

The pledge is the following: "I believe that funding higher education in California is a vital investment in the future of our state. I will be working to increase state funding and lower student fees in order to improve the quality and affordability of California's three public higher education systems."

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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A Bill in Support of the Higher Education Pledge Campaign

Author: Dani Haber, Senator Ariel Boone

Co-Sponsors: Dani Haber, Senator Ariel Boone, Senator Noah Stern

WHEREAS, the ASUC Senate is the official voice of UC Berkeley students to the Regents, the Legislature, and the Governor; and strongly committed to advocating on behalf of issues of access, affordability, quality, and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the protests at UC Berkeley and statewide in response to the egregious budget cuts and fee increases demonstrate student dissatisfaction with the current funding of public higher education by the State of California; and,

WHEREAS, as of Spring 2009 the California State Legislature had cut the University of California's budget by \$813 million; and,

WHEREAS, the UC's budget for 2009-2010 is a 20% reduction from the budget adopted last fall, and

WHEREAS, state support for the UC alone has declined by over 52% in the last three years, and continues to decline, and

WHEREAS, students had to fight to preserve the Cal Grant this summer in the face of Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to eliminate it, and decentralize the California Student Aid Commission, and

WHEREAS, 92% of the California state budget is restricted with higher education not falling into this pool, and

WHEREAS, all legislative actions affecting higher education are signed into law by the Governor of California,

WHEREAS, the ASUC Senate recognizes the need for a Governor who will stand in solidarity with students in support of our public higher education systems, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ASUC Senate supports and endorses the Higher Education Pledge campaign.