
Resolution in Support of the UCSA Student Advocacy, Governance, and Engagement (SAGE) Proposal

WHEREAS, The University of California Student Association is recognized by the President and Regents of the University of California as the official statewide student association for nearly 240,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students;

WHEREAS, UCSA is presently funded by an unstable model of membership dues that facilitates poor membership, the destabilization of the organization's budget from abrupt withdrawals of member associations, administrative nightmare in the payment of dues, low staff retention, and budget unpredictability and stagnation¹;

WHEREAS, Moving from mandatory dues to a voluntary opt-out system fee of six dollars (two of which would be earmarked for return-to-aid) per academic year adjusted regularly for inflation for the purpose of supporting the operations of the University of California Student Association would address those issues;

WHEREAS, The adoption of SAGE would free up approximately \$500.00 of the University of California, Merced Graduate Student Association operating budget presently being allocated for the payment of membership dues;

WHEREAS, By centralizing the funding point of support for our statewide student association, students actually achieve savings through shared resources and economies realized by the numerous benefits provided by the Student Advocacy, Governance, and Engagement (SAGE) proposal;

WHEREAS, The UC Student Association is the only statewide student association in California that still depends on the volatility of campus membership dues while the California State Student Association collects their Student Involvement and Representation Fee at four dollars² and Student Senate for California Community Colleges collects their Student Representation Fee at one dollar³ from their respective student bodies annually;

WHEREAS, The External Vice President and their Legislative and Organizing Directors directly represent Merced graduate and professional students on the UCSA Board of Directors and play a direct and major role in the implementation of the Student Advocacy, Governance, and Engagement Fee proposal⁴;

WHEREAS, Member associations still retain a strong degree of oversight of UCSA through existing mechanisms such as approval of the UCSA budget and amendments to its Charter as well as a veto of UCSA legislation; and

WHEREAS, All UC students benefit from a statewide student association with enough resources to conduct its mission in furthering the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the University of California, Merced Graduate Student Association adopt a position of strong support for the Student Advocacy, Governance, and Engagement proposal;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the University of California, Merced Graduate Student Association direct its President to submit a copy of this resolution to the Chancellor of the Merced campus and call upon Chancellor Leland to publicly endorse the Student Advocacy, Governance, and Engagement proposal; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the University of California, Merced Graduate Student Association direct its President to submit a copy of this resolution to and urge the Regents of the University of California to support the Student Advocacy, Governance, and Engagement proposal and collaborate with the University of California Student Association in actualizing its full implementation.

¹ <http://ucsa.org/ucsaprod/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/UCSABylaws.pdf>

² http://www.statehorner.com/news/csu-board-of-trustees-approves-new-opt-out-fee/article_c2e9f99a-abbe-11e4-9d12-ab422fb9ea11.html

³ <http://law.onecle.com/california/education/76060.5.html>

⁴ <http://ucsa.org/about/student-board/>