



UC Davis State Government Relations Update June 28, 2013

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CCEP Briefing

On June 3rd the UC Davis California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP) team briefed legislators and their staffs on CCEP's latest policy brief entitled *Changing Political Tides: Demographics and the Impact of the Rising California Latino Vote*. The briefing was held in the state capitol and was hosted by Assemblyman Luis Alejo (A King Hall Alum), the California Latino Legislative Caucus and was organized by UC Davis' Government and Community Relations team .

The following questions were addressed at the briefing:

1. How did the Latino vote change in California over the last decade?
2. What impact have Latinos had on political party representation in California?
3. How might the state's future demographic changes affect the Latino share of California's electorate and, thus the state's general electorate, as a whole?

The entire brief can be found here:

<http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ourwork/publications/ccep/ucdavis-ccep-brief-6-impact-of-ca-latino-vote>

Graduate Research Advocacy Day

On June 4th a large delegation of UC graduate students visited Sacramento to meet with lawmakers and their staffs for Graduate Research Advocacy Day. The message they delivered was to think of UC and its 26,000 graduate students as a valuable partner and resource. UC graduate students often are at the leading edge of research in their fields. The meetings gave California lawmakers a chance to see first-hand how important graduate research is to issues vital to the state.

Those attending the graduate research day ranged from a history student investigating obscure legal restrictions on marriage and immigration to an engineering student developing a faster, more efficient microprocessor. Their common purpose was presenting work that can inform better policies, create stronger and more resource-efficient societies and lead to innovations that will power the economy and save lives.

UC Davis graduate students who attended the advocacy day were;

1. David Villarreal – David is a Ph.D. student in Linguistics who studies foreign translations. His premise is that understanding the accents of international speakers can make us fluent in worldwide forms of English; and
2. Gabriel Rodriguez – Gabriel is a Ph.D. student in chemistry who teaches bacteria new tricks. Gabriel has engineered E. coli to produce a precursor to rubber using genes from soil and cheese bacteria. Mr. Rodriguez has two patents from his work.

Dean Gibeling joined the students on their legislative visits with Assemblyman Dickinson and the offices of Senator Evans, Assemblyman Logue, Senator Gaines, Assemblyman Frazier and Senator Steinberg.



Chancellor Katehi Visits the State Capitol for Legislative Meetings

On Thursday, June 13, UC Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi was in Sacramento for legislative visits. She met with Assembly Member Jose Medina, D-Riverside, Assembly Member Brian Dahle, R-Bieber, Assembly Member Roger Dickinson, D-Sacramento, Assembly Member Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, and Assembly Member Wes Chesbro, D-Arcata.

Topics discussed at these meetings included; A UC Davis campus update; the 2013-14 State Budget Proposal; UC Davis Scholarship Initiatives and Financial Aid; 2020 Vision/Fall 2012 Enrollment and Fall 2013 Applications; On-line Education; Proposition 39 and Energy Efficiency; and the World Food Center.

State Budget Update

On June 27th, Governor Jerry Brown signed the 2013-14 California budget, which includes a 5 percent funding increase to UC's base budget, making it possible for the University to avoid a tuition hike in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Here are some of the highlights:

- The state's UC allocation totals \$2.8 billion, representing a \$142 million increase over last year's base operating budget.
- Of that \$142 million, \$10 million will be dedicated to online technology, \$15 million to the UC Riverside School of Medicine and a small portion to construction of a new classroom and academic office building at UC Merced.
- UC now has the authority to refinance existing debt that the state previously issued on the University's behalf; \$67.2 million of the overall savings will fund the employer share of the UC Retirement Plan. There is also potential for additional savings to address other essential University programs.

Action on defining the metrics for the performance measures the Governor and the Legislature proposed for the state budget, such as increasing graduation rates and shortening the time it takes to earn a degree, will likely be carried in SB 195 (Liu) and discussed in the policy committees over the final weeks of the 2013 legislative session. UC will be focusing on assuring that the benchmarks and metrics are the right ones and that any incentive system is positive rather than punitive.

State Legislation

On June 25th UC Davis Librarian MacKenzie Smith testified in support of AB 609 (Nestande), which would enact the California Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act. More specifically, the bill would establish public access publication requirements for UC faculty and other researchers who receive state agency-funded research grants. Thank you Mackenzie for your testimony and leadership on AB 609!

In addition, UC continues to work on SB 520 (Steinberg), relating to on-line education. UC State Government Relations (SGR) remains very concerned about the current provisions related to the role of private providers of on-line education and will work closely with UC faculty leadership and the author to determine whether there is a solution to that issue.

For status updates on other bills of interest to UC and UC Davis, please go to the following link, or contact Adrian Lopez (adnlopez@ucdavis.edu)

<http://www.ucop.edu/state/legislation/search.php?results=1&q=&t=all&s=&p=5&l=5>

Upcoming State Government Relations Events and Key Dates

- July 3rd – Assembly Summer Recess Begins Upon Adjournment
- July 12th – Senate Summer Recess Begins Upon Adjournment
- July 10 – 12th – Public Higher Education Legislative Advocacy Professionals (PHELAP) Conference
- July 15th – Assemblywoman Yamada to visit the Oakville Experimental Winery

Questions or Need Assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the aforementioned items or would like assistance in connecting with state legislators and/or their staff, please do not hesitate to contact Adrian Lopez, Director, State Government Relations. He can be reached at adnlopez@ucdavis.edu or by phone at (530) 752-9795.