



UC Davis State Government Relations Update March 28, 2013

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Hearings and Bills

In March, the Legislature's policy and budget sub committees held several hearings. Below is a recap of hearings pertinent to higher education and UC Davis.

On Wednesday, March 13, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance held an overview hearing on the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and the Cal Grant program, looking at past actions and impacts. The agenda with relevant background information can be found here:

<http://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/sites/abgt.assembly.ca.gov/files/March%2013-Cal%20Grant%20Agenda.pdf>

On Thursday, March 14, the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee No. 1 on Education held a hearing to discuss the "Governor's 2013-14 Budget Proposals: Higher Education. A listing of subcommittee actions can be found here:

http://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/SUB1/Outcomes03142013Sub1UC_CSU_Hastings.pdf

On Tuesday, March 19, the Assembly Higher Education Committee met. **AB 13 (Chavez)** and **AB 27 (Medina)** were both heard that day and passed out of committee.

- AB 13 exempts veterans discharged or released from active duty within the immediately prior year from paying non-resident tuition at UC and CSU, up to the minimum amount of time necessary for those veterans to become California residents. The University's position on the bill is Concern.

- AB 27 appropriates \$15M from the General Fund to UC for allocation to the School of Medicine at UC Riverside. UCR School of Medicine Founding Dean Richard Olds testified in Support of the bill.
- It is also important to note that while originally scheduled on the Assembly Higher Education Committee agenda, Assembly Member Logue's bills, AB 51 and AB 181, which would limit the cost of a baccalaureate degree, are now two-year bills, and will not be heard in the committee this year. Similarly, the tuition cap bills by Assembly Members Gorrell (AB 67), Olsen (AB 138) and Chavez (AB 159) will now be one committee bill (AB 67) carried forward by the Republicans.

Also on March 19th, the Assembly Health Committee met and heard **AB 58 (Wieckowski)**, **AB 314 (Pan)**, and **ACR 1 (Medina)**. All these bills passed out of the Assembly Health Committee.

- AB 58 would continue the informed consent exemption for medical experimental treatment that benefits patients subject to life-threatening emergencies. UC has a Support position on the bill.
- AB 314 relates to self-funded student health care plans and policies. The University's position on the bill is pending.
- ACR 1 acknowledges the critically important role of the UC Riverside (UCR) School of Medicine in training future generations of physicians to help meet the needs of California's medically underserved and rapidly growing Inland Empire. The University has a Support position on the resolution.

Finally, on Wednesday, March 20, the Senate Education Committee held an informational hearing on "Higher Education Accountability: Statewide Goals and Metrics." UC Provost Amiee Dorr represented UC at the hearing. The agenda, video of the hearing and corresponding powerpoint presentations for this hearing can be found here:

<http://sedn.senate.ca.gov/hearings>

In addition to the aforementioned legislation, UC has also issued a "Support" position letter on **SB 21 (Roth)**. The bill appropriates \$15 million in new state funding from the General Fund to UC for the School of Medicine at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) and is companion legislation to AB 27.

As always, the full list of impact bills that UC Davis is tracking can be found here:

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

Advocacy

On Monday, March 4, the University of California Student Association (UCSA) was in Sacramento for legislative visits as part of their 11th Annual UC Student Lobby Conference. For more information visit their website at http://ucsa.org/section/view/ucsa_conferences.

On Tuesday, March 19, University of California alumni and friends gathered at the state Capitol for the biennial UC Day. Nearly 200 advocates met with legislators, legislative leadership, and staff. Delegates asked legislators to support Governor Brown's proposed 2013-14 budget for UC and shared with them

the economic impact UC has on the state and the scope and magnitude of UC's research. An article on UC Day can be found here:

<http://www.uc4ca.org/advocacy/UCDayAdvocacy-3-19-2013.html>

UC Davis had 13 delegates for UC Day. The UC Davis delegation was split into two teams, which cumulatively met with 12 out of the 14 legislative offices in UC Davis' service area. Four of the meetings were with legislators, while the remaining meetings were with staff. Following the meetings, UC Davis delegates were treated to a VIP tour of the Assembly Floor courtesy of Brian Ebbert, Assistant Chief Clerk/Parliamentarian for the California State Assembly, and fellow UCD alum. See the picture below:



From Left to Right: Floyd Shimomura – UC Davis alum; Rich Engel – Assistant Vice Chancellor, Alumni Relations and UC Davis alum; Annemarie Stone – Student Assistant to the Chancellor; Carly Sandstrom – ASUCD President; Rob Kerner – Plant Sciences IT Manager and UC Davis Staff Assembly Chair; Ethan Evans – Graduate Students Association Chair; Sue Jones – UC Davis alum; Marjorie Dickinson, Assistant Chancellor, Government & Community Relations (GCR); Adrian Lopez, Director of State Government Relations, GCR and UC Davis alum; and Brian Ebbert.

The day culminated with a UC Davis reception hosted by Chancellor Katehi and UCD alum Stephen Meyer ('71) of Downey Brand LLP. Nearly 100 UC Davis alumni, students and friends attended the reception, including Assembly Members Dickinson and Pan. The reception was a great ending to a highly productive day at the capitol. Chancellor Katehi spoke to the attendees and fielded questions. Guests were treated to some culinary delights along with wine produced by local UCD alum winemakers. The winemakers/wineries included Brad and Svetlana Kitson of Kitson Wines, Craig Jones of Route 3 Wines/Yolo Vineyards and Stuart Spoto of Spoto Wines.



Reports

On Friday, March 8, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released a review of the "The California Residents College Accessibility and Affordability Act of 2014," initiative. The initiative "would increase state excise tax on cigarettes by \$1 per pack with portion of revenues to expand financial aid for California residents enrolled at UC and CSU, estimates measure would raise additional annual state tax revenues of \$800 million from cigarette tax and \$45 million from the excise tax increase on other tobacco products." Valid signatures from 504,760 registered voters—5 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2010 general election—must be submitted by July 22 to qualify the measure for the November 2014 ballot. Supporters of the measure include Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and Democratic strategist Jason Kinney. The review is available at <http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2012/120658.pdf>.

Upcoming State Government Relations Events and Key Dates

- April 1st – Legislature Reconvenes from Spring Recess
- April 8th – 9th – ANR Conference
- April 17th – UC Legislative Roundtable
- April 20th – Picnic Day
- April 29th – ICAS Advocacy Day
- May 14th – 16th – UC Regents Advocacy Day
- June 4th – Graduate Research Advocacy Day

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.