



## UC Davis State Government Relations Update August 31, 2014

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*In this Update:*

- *Bills of Interest on the Governor's Desk (Page 1)*
- *Department of Finance Visit (Page 2)*
- *Water Conservation Through Drought-Tolerant Landscaping (Pages 2-3)*
- *Upcoming State Government Relations Events and Key Dates (Page 3)*
- *Questions or Need Assistance? (Page 3)*

### **Bills of Interest on the Governor's Desk**

August 31, 2014 was the last day for the legislature to pass bills and send them to the Governor. The Governor has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto bills. Below are some bills of interest to the University which made it to the Governor's desk by the August deadline:

**AB 609 (Nestande)** – Would enact the California Taxpayer Access to Publicly Funded Research Act. AB 609 would also establish public access publication requirements for UC faculty and other researchers who receive research grants funded by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

**AB 1476 (Skinner)** – This bill would amend the Budget Act of 2014 by providing \$50,000,000 in additional funds to the University for deferred maintenance and other one-time purposes. If the state economy continues to recover and General Fund revenues exceed projections, the bill also specifies that funding provided would become ongoing beginning in the 2015-16 fiscal year for the purpose of increasing enrollment of California students and improving student services.

**AB 2099 (Frazier)** – Would require the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE) to certify that the institution maintains a three-year cohort default rate of less than 15.5% and a graduation rate of greater than 30%. The University has a Support position on the bill.

**AB 2160 (Ting)** – This bill would require that all public high schools electronically submit grade point averages (GPAs) to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) for all high school seniors.

**AB 2350 (Bonilla)** – Seeks to increase the number of women in graduate-level academic programs by raising the awareness of prohibition against pregnancy discrimination and by seeking to protect the

rights, under federal Title IX standards, of pregnant graduate students. Specifically, the bill prohibits pregnancy discrimination at postsecondary educational institutions and requires colleges and universities to implement policies to prevent a graduate student who is pregnant or has recently given birth from being unfairly penalized for choosing to take a leave of absence from her graduate studies.

**AB 2726 (Daly)** – Sponsored by UC, this bill would reduce administrative costs associated with the sale or other disposition of University-owned property.

**SB 502 (Block)** – SB 502, which is sponsored by UC, would authorize the University to employ informal competitive bidding for projects with values up to \$640,000, facilitating project delivery and ultimately saving both time and taxpayer costs.

**SB 967 (De Leon)** – Would require colleges and universities in California to adopt certain policies and implement programs addressing sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The University has a Support position on the bill

**SB 1210 (Lara)** – This bill, sponsored by UC, would establish a campus-based California DREAM Loan Program to serve UC and CSU students who qualify for a nonresident tuition exemption under AB 540 but who lack access to federal student loans.

For other bills of interest to UC and UC Davis, please go to the following link, or contact Adrian Lopez ([adnlopez@ucdavis.edu](mailto:adnlopez@ucdavis.edu));

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

### **Department of Finance Visit**

On August 12<sup>th</sup> representatives from the Department of Finance visited the UC Davis campus to gather more information on the operations and needs of the campus. Specifically, DOF representatives were given presentations on the UC Davis budget, deferred maintenance, energy usage/savings and financial aid. There was also a walking and driving tour of the campus. The visit was helpful in providing DOF with specific, concrete local examples of the policy/budget issues being discussed at the state level.

### **Water Conservation Through Drought-Tolerant Landscaping**

On August 14<sup>th</sup> Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), along with landscaping and water use experts and their supporters, gathered on the steps of the State Capitol for a press conference lauding the passage of Assembly Bill 2104 (Gonzalez) from the Senate Floor. AB 2104 would allow homeowners in HOAs to reduce water usage through responsible landscaping without fear of fines. Assemblywoman Gonzalez stated that residential water conservation is one of the many steps Californians should take in the face of the current drought conditions throughout California.

Ellen Zagory, along with Dr. Loren Oki from the UC Davis California Center for Urban Horticulture, spoke as part of a press conference on the steps of the capitol in support of drought-tolerant landscapes. They

showcased the Arboretum All-Stars, the program, and discussed research supporting the low-water use of a variety of plants.

Currently, about one fourth of all homeowners in California are members of HOA's and could be fined for installing plants like Arboretum All-Stars even though they drastically reduce the consumption of water. AB 2104 is on the Governor's desk. If the Governor signs the bill into law, then it would take effect on January 1, 2015.

You can see photos of the press conference by clicking on this link; [AB 2104 Press Conference](#).

#### **Upcoming State Government Relations Events and Key Dates**

- **August 31** – Last day for each house to pass bills. Final Recess begins upon adjournment.
- **September 17 & 18** – UC Regents meeting at UCSF Mission Bay.
- **September 30** – Is the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills.
- **October 23 & 24** – SGR/GRD Face to Face Meeting LBNL.
- **November 4** – General Election
- **November 30** – The Legislature adjourns sine die at midnight.
- **December 1** – The Legislature reconvenes from Final Recess for the 2015-2016 Organizational Session.

#### **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](mailto:adnlopez@ucdavis.edu) or by phone at (530) 752-9795.