



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

*Adrian Lopez*  
*Director, State Government Relations*

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### 2-Year Bills

***No Longer Active (these are bills that were introduced in 2013, the first year of the 2-year legislative session, that the authors decided not to pursue)***

**AB 138 (Olsen)** would have required the Regents of the University of California and the Trustees of the California State University to determine the amounts of undergraduate tuition and mandatory systemwide fees for California residents for each incoming first-year class in their respective segments. The tuition and mandatory systemwide fees set for California residents in each incoming first-year class could not have been increased until that incoming first-year class had completed at least four academic years. The University had a Concern position on the bill.

**AB 181 (Logue)** would have established a pilot program that would allow a high school student to earn a baccalaureate degree from a participating UC campus within three years of graduation from high school, at a cost to the student not to exceed \$20,000. As amended, the bill would have only applied to degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – collectively known as the “STEM” fields. The University had an Oppose position on the bill.

Finally, **AB 475 (Brown)** would have required California institutions of higher education to guarantee athletic scholarships for five academic years and provide a \$3,600 student-athlete participation stipend as part of each full athletic scholarship awarded by these institutions and would ban any restrictions on transfers to other schools by student athletes. The University had an Oppose position on the bill.

***Active (these are bills that were introduced in 2013, the first year of the 2-year legislative session and which needed to pass out of the “house of origin” in January in order to continue in the process.***

On Tuesday, January 14, **AB 330 (Chau)** passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. The bill requires postsecondary educational institutions to provide average student loan debt information concerning its graduates, as defined, to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). It authorizes UC and CSU to comply with this requirement by including student loan debt information, as defined, in their annual financial aid reports and providing a copy of the report to CSAC. The University has no formal position on the bill but is working with the author’s office on clarifying amendments.

On Thursday, January 30, **SCA 5 (Hernandez)** was adopted by the Senate and is headed to the Assembly. The bill proposes a constitutional amendment be placed before the voters that deletes provisions implemented through the enactment of Proposition 209 that prohibit the State from granting preferential treatment to individuals or groups on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin, in the operation of public education. The University has a Watch position on the bill.

#### **Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate Formed**

On Wednesday, January 8, Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez, D-Los Angeles, announced that Assembly Member Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, will be the chair of the newly created Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate. The newly formed select committee will investigate issues pertaining to student welfare on college campuses. More specifically, the Select Committee on Campus Climate will evaluate system-wide and campus policies and practices for responding to student harassment and hate crimes and determine what needs to be done to improve campus climate for California students. The date of the first subcommittee meeting is to be announced.

Other members of the Select Committee are Assembly Member Tom Ammiano, D-San Francisco, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, D-Santa Monica, Assembly Member Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, Assembly Member Nora Campos, D-San Jose, Assembly Member Susan Eggman, D-Stockton, Assembly Member Paul Fong, D-Cupertino, Assembly Member Isadore Hall, D-Compton, Assembly Member Brian Maienschein, R-San Diego, Assembly Member Kristin Olsen, R-Modesto, Assembly Member Jim Patterson, R-Fresno, Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva, D-Fullerton, Assembly Member Phil Ting, D-San Francisco, Assembly Member Scott Wilk, R-Santa Clarita, and Assembly Member Das Williams, D-Santa Barbara.

#### **Governor Brown Releases 2014-15 Budget**

On Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, Governor Jerry Brown released his 2014-15 budget. The Governor’s budget proposes an additional \$142.2 million for UC, a 5% increase from last fiscal year. The increase is contingent on another year of a tuition freeze. The Governor’s proposal also creates a \$50 million “innovation grant” program to develop ways to get more students to graduate faster. The budget summary and the entire budget can be viewed at <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>. The entire budget proposal is also laid out in the budget bills, **AB 1457 (Skinner)** and **SB 851 (Leno)**. The bills incorporate

the Governor's proposed spending plan for 2014-15 and are the starting point for legislative discussions on the budget. The budget bills are identical, with UC's budget items designated with 6440 and start on page 440. The specific text for the bills can be found here;

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/asm/ab\\_1451-1500/ab\\_1457\\_bill\\_20140109\\_introduced.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/asm/ab_1451-1500/ab_1457_bill_20140109_introduced.pdf)  
[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb\\_0851-0900/sb\\_851\\_bill\\_20140109\\_introduced.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb_0851-0900/sb_851_bill_20140109_introduced.pdf)

### **New Legislative Leadership Announced**

California Senate President Pro Tem Darrel Steinberg, D-Sacramento announced on January 14<sup>th</sup> that the next leader of the State Senate will be Senator Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles. Senator Steinberg intends to remain the leader of the State Senate until his term ends in November. A formal vote on de Leon's leadership position will be taken after the budget is complete in June.

Similarly, on January 22<sup>nd</sup> Assembly Speaker John A. Perez, D-Los Angeles, announced that the Assembly Democratic Caucus supports Assembly Member Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, as the next Speaker. Speaker Perez is termed out in 2014. A formal vote will come in the spring. The timeline for Assemblywoman Atkins taking over has not been set. Ms. Atkins selection marks two milestones: (1) she will be the first openly gay woman to lead either chamber of the California Legislature, and (2) she will be first lawmaker from San Diego to lead the Assembly.

### **State of the State Address**

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> Governor Jerry Brown delivered his annual State of the State Address, highlighting California's economic recovery and expressing his commitment to establish a solid rainy day fund. Topics discussed also included water conservation, the state's water plan, climate change, funding for state schools and prison reform. The full address can be viewed here:

[http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=7&clip\\_id=1758](http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=1758)

### **Assembly Select Committee on Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Holds Hearing at King Hall**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> the Assembly Select Committee on Sustainable and Organic Agriculture held a hearing entitled "Agritourism in California: Opportunities and Challenges of Becoming a Destination" at the University of California, Davis, School of Law's Kalmanovitz Appellate Courtroom.

Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, who represents the UC Davis campus, chairs this select committee. In addition, Assemblyman Brian Dahle, a farmer and seed producer from Lassen County and Assemblywoman Susan Eggman, from Stockton, participated in the hearing.

Agritourism is a growing industry in California, and includes destinations as vast as Apple Hill or as small as a roadside stand or a corn maze on a family farm. Many farmers consider agritourism a way to increase their farm's visibility and supplement their income.

This informational hearing featured testimony from leaders of the University of California Small Farm Program; Michelle Stephens, the Solano/Yolo Farmbudsman; and farmers who have added agritourism elements to their farms. Panelists discussed the obstacles encountered in establishing agritourism

destinations and explored opportunities for state and local governments to assist farmers considering an agritourism operation.

You can watch the full hearing by clicking on the link below;

<http://mediasite.ucdavis.edu/Mediasite6/Play/35f8a4748cbe498bba54c34bfd2408561d>

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

- February 21: Is the last day for bills to be introduced.
- March 10: Bay Area Council's Annual Sacramento Day
- March 12: UC Grad Research Day
- March 12: Sac Metro Chamber's State Legislative Summit
- April 29: Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day (JHEAD)

#### **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.