



## UC Davis State Government Relations Update April 30, 2014

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### **Update on Bills of Interest**

**AB 2431 (Dababneh)** passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The bill would require UC and other higher education institutions in California to offer up dogs or cats used in animal research to an animal adoption or animal rescue organization prior to euthanization. SGR Legislative Director Jason Murphy and UCD Director of Teaching and Researching Animal Care Services Victor Lukas testified that the University is opposed to the bill.

On Thursday, April 24, **SB 1017 (Evans)** passed out of the Senate Education Committee with amendments. The bill would establish an oil and gas severance tax to fund UC, CSU, CCC, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Health and Human Services Agency for specified purposes. The bill also would establish the California Higher Education Endowment Corporation with an oversight governing board. The University has a Support if amended position on the bill.

On Tuesday, April 22, **AB 1834 (Williams)** passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. The bill seeks to amend the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA) to create collective bargaining rights for new classes of working students, including UC graduate student researchers (GSRs).

Also on Tuesday, April 22, **AB 2235 (Buchanan)** passed out of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. The bill would enact the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2014 to authorize an unspecified amount of state general obligation bonds to provide aid to school districts, county superintendents of schools, county boards of education, charter schools, CCC, CSU, UC and the Hastings College of the Law to construct and modernize education facilities. Later in the week the bill was assigned to the Assembly Appropriations suspense file.

For 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>

### **Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day**

President Janet Napolitano joined California State University Chancellor Tim White, California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice Harris, and over 125 delegates in Sacramento on 04/29/14 for meetings with state legislators as part of “Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day.” Delegates presented a new vision to State policymakers on how the UC, CSU and California Community Colleges are working together to advance student success, ensure access, promote civic engagement, energize workforce development, foster cutting-edge research & innovation, and achieve greater productivity in our service to students and the state. Delegates asked for renewed state investment in our colleges and universities that will allow each system to increase student access and success, improve the quality of instruction, and support operations so that the three segments and its graduates can lead California’s resurgence as an economic powerhouse and a beacon of social mobility throughout the country and the world.

UC Davis delegates included John Meyer, Vice Chancellor of Administrative & Resource Management, Adela de la Torre, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Marj Dickinson, Assistant Chancellor, Government and Community Relations, and Adrian Lopez, Director of State Government Relations. UC Davis was paired with delegates from the following academic institutions; Sonoma State; Sacramento State; Napa Valley College; Lake Tahoe Community College District; Santa Rosa Junior College; Sierra College; Yuba Community College District; Solano Community College District; and the Los Rios Community College District. UC Davis delegates had legislative visits with Senators Gaines and Evans along with Assembly Members Dickinson, Pan, Cooley, Yamada, Chesbro and Levine in addition to meetings with staff in 3 other legislative offices.

UC Davis Government and Community Relations partnered with Sac State, Los Rios Community College District, Sierra College, Yuba Community College District, Napa Valley College, Lake Tahoe Community College District and Solano Community College District to produce the following regional “leave behinds” illustrating economic impact and program collaborations;

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### **Honda Smart Home Tours for Elected Officials**

On March 25<sup>th</sup> a formal ceremony and open house was held to officially open the environmentally friendly Honda Smart Home US at UC Davis West Village. With the home’s energy efficient design and a Honda-developed energy management system, the house will use less than half of the electricity than a

similarly sized new home in the Davis area, for heating, cooling and lighting. More information on the home can be found here:

<http://www.hondasmarthome.com/>

In addition to the formal ceremony and open house, policymakers from Sacramento were invited to take a closer look at the Honda Smart Home through individualized tours at the end of March and in early April. Those participating in the tour included staff of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, the Office of Assemblywoman Yamada, Senator Wolk, staff from the Air Resources Board and consultants from the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. UC Davis Government and Community Relations coordinated with Honda and the Energy Efficiency Center to make these tours possible.

### **UC Drought Summit**

On April 25<sup>th</sup> hundreds of university scientists and state water experts gathered at the State Capitol for the UC Drought Summit, organized by the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences with assistance from UC Davis Government and Community Relations.

The daylong summit featured speakers from across the UC system – including eight campuses, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Office of the President and Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources – along with experts from other agencies, organizations and universities. The panelists put California’s current drought into perspective; discussed the challenges and opportunities it has created for agriculture, cities, the environment and government; and addressed the consequences for the economy, endangered species and state policy.

For more details, see:

[https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/files/Program\\_UC\\_Drought\\_Summit\\_Program\\_FINAL.pdf](https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/files/Program_UC_Drought_Summit_Program_FINAL.pdf)

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

- May 2: Last day for policy committees to meet and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in the house of origin.
- May 9: Last day for policy committees to meet and report to the floor nonfiscal bills introduced in their house.
- May 13: Student Leadership Forum
- May 13-15: Regents’-UCSA Advocacy Days
- May 23: Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report to the floor bills introduced in their house.
- May 30: Last day to pass bills out of house of origin.

### **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.