

## ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Resolution Opposing Potential CSU 17-18 Tuition Increase

Authored by

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**WHEREAS**, the State of California, in its continued divestment from fulfilling its responsibility of funding Public Higher Education, and failure in abiding by the California Master Plan for Higher Education<sup>1</sup>, which mandates an accessible, affordable, and quality post-secondary education is, effectively, causing the California State University (CSU) 2017-2018 operating budget to be underfunded; and

**WHEREAS**, the CSU proposed 2017-2018 budget would require an investment of \$346 million in new revenue to fund its major priority areas being; the Graduation Initiative 2025, Enrollment Growth, Academic Facilities & Campus Infrastructure, Employee Compensation, and Mandatory Costs; and

**WHEREAS**, it is expected that Governor Jerry Brown will allocate \$157.2 million in additional funding to the CSU in the January California State budget proposal, leaving the CSU short \$168.8 million for its proposed 17-18 budget; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the potential budget deficit, the CSU has proposed a tuition increase<sup>2</sup> of no more than; \$270 per year for resident undergraduate students, \$312 per year for resident credential students, \$438 per year for resident graduate students, \$720-1048 per doctoral students, and \$396 per semester unit/\$264 per quarter unit for non-resident students, to take effect in 2017-18; and

**WHEREAS**, the tuition increases proposed for 2017-2018 would generate approximately \$77 million of the \$168.8 million deficit, meaning if additional state funding is not allocated, and the CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) approve the increases in the proposed 17/18 budget, various cuts to services would also likely take effect; and

**WHEREAS**, CSU tuition and fees have risen excessively in recent years and decades, having more than doubled in the last decade, and tripled in the last fifteen years; and

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/uchistory/archives\\_exhibits/masterplan](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/uchistory/archives_exhibits/masterplan)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www2.calstate.edu/Documents/Possible-17-18-Tuition-Proposal.pdf>

**WHEREAS**, according to CSU impact reports, every dollar invested in the CSU, returns more than five dollars and forty three cents (\$5.43) to the California Economy, meaning the state would have to increase its investment in higher education at least three times before it would fail to return its original investment; and

**WHEREAS**, allocating money to post-secondary education is an investment to California's future because 1 in every 10 employees in California is a graduate from the CSU; and

**WHEREAS**, many CSU students, particularly San Francisco State University (SFSU) students, are financially disadvantaged and cannot afford an increase in tuition due to a variety of factors, including, but not limited to: the high cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area (e.g. median rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$3590 per month or greater<sup>3</sup>), and severe food and housing insecurity<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, while financial aid may help to mitigate some of the effects of a tuition increase for some, many other students who receive financial aid in the form of loans will incur more debt as a result of a tuition increase; and

**WHEREAS**, national student loan debt currently surpasses \$1.4 trillion<sup>5</sup>, with the federal debt over \$19 trillion, student loan debt measures approximately 13.5% of the overall national debt, more than national credit card or auto loan debt; and

**WHEREAS**, a decrease in public investment has led to tuition increases across the nation - California State investment has moved from covering 80% in mid 1990's to 50% of CSU cost in 2016-2017, with the remaining costs having been paid for by tuition and fees; and

**WHEREAS**, California has the world's sixth largest gross domestic product (GDP), and recovered from the last recession with an increase in state tax revenues (recovery totaling \$33.2 billion from lowest point to today); and

**WHEREAS**, the State did not fund a total of \$425 million of recurring funding requested by the CSU since the recovery began, and the CSU is only now, as of 2016-17, funded at pre-recession levels of 2007-08—despite serving 20,000 additional students; and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.zumper.com/blog/2016/06/mapping-san-francisco-rent-prices-this-summer-june-2016/>

<sup>4</sup> [www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/documents/ServingDisplacedandFoodInsecureStudentsintheCSUJanuary20163.8.16.pdf](http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/documents/ServingDisplacedandFoodInsecureStudentsintheCSUJanuary20163.8.16.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/every-second-americans-get-buried-under-another-3055-in-student-loan-debt-2015-06-10>

**WHEREAS**, the State of California has consistently and repeatedly placed unfunded mandates on the CSU system, such as improving graduation, enrollment, and retention rates which has led to the CSU Student Success and Graduation Initiative (GI 2025); and

**WHEREAS**, the one-time funding of \$35 million for the GI 2025 provided by the State is insufficient for a program estimated at \$75 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of proper funding to the CSU System means students will take longer to graduate because less classes will be offered, less faculty will be hired, and less support programs and services will be provided, therefore, contradicting the efforts of the GI 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, students of the CSU supported faculty in securing their 5% salary increase in the Fall of 2016.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that this body, the Associated Students, Incorporated of San Francisco State University (ASI), opposes the proposal for a tuition increase, because tuition has already increased 283% since 2002, and ASI stands firmly believing that education should be free; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, ASI calls on the State Legislature of California and Governor Jerry Brown, to fully fund the CSU in the 2017-2018 and future academic years and create a permanent stable funding source for public higher education; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, ASI calls on the CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Chancellor's Office (CO) to not approve a tuition increase by any means, even if it means only paying for mandatory costs, and foregoing additional funding to additional initiatives and programs such as the Graduation Initiative 2025, because adding any additional financial burden to students by raising tuition is not a just and fair solution to a lack of State funding, and we call on the CSU BOT and CO to participate in vigorous advocacy efforts at the state and federal level to secure full, permanent, and stable funding for the CSU; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, if the state does not fully fund the CSU and the CSU BOT approve a tuition increase and cuts to services are necessitated, we demand that students and faculty have decision-making power over what areas of the budget get reduced; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, we strongly urge the CSU BOT to reduce the salary of the CSU Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor's, Campus Presidents, other executives, and MPP high level administrators, or have each said administrator pledge to take a salary reduction to help mitigate the burden off of students if a tuition increase does go through; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that ASI will form a coalition with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader Bay Area and California community, and will support student activism and organizing efforts against the potential tuition increase; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, we call on the Academic Senate of the CSU and of each respective campus, and the California Faculty Association, to stand with students by publicly opposing the proposed tuition hikes, participate in robust advocacy efforts at the state and federal level to secure full, stable, and permanent funding for the CSU, and support student-led efforts to stop the tuition increase; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that ASI will distribute copies of this resolution widely, including, but not limited to, SFSU Students, Governor Jerry Brown, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, All California State Legislators, SFSU President Leslie E. Wong, CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White, the CSU Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate of the CSU and SFSU, the California Faculty Association, the California State Student Association, and the SFSU Golden Gate Xpress.