
Statement of Opposition to the CSU Multi-Year Tuition Increase Proposal

The Associated Students of San Francisco State University stand in opposition to the California State University Multi-Year Tuition Increase Proposal, drafted by the Office of the Chancellor.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25, 2023 — Authored by Iese Esera, Chief of Staff & Chair. Approved 07.21.23

On July 9th, 2023, the California State Student Association (CSSA), the official voice of all CSU students, unanimously voted to oppose the Multi-Year Tuition Increase Plan, which is being proposed by the Chancellor's office to the CSU Board of Trustees. The CSU Board of Trustees will take an official vote on this Tuition Increase Proposal during the September 12-13 meeting in Long Beach, CA at the Office of the Chancellor. If this proposal is passed by the CSU Board of Trustees, this tuition increase would go into effect at the start of the Fall 2024 semester, where the **CSU Board of Trustees will then increase student tuition by 6% every year, outlined with no end date in sight.**

This proposal comes at a time when the students of SF State are already dealing with extremely low quality on-campus housing, high cost of living in one of the most expensive cities in the United States, failing infrastructure of academic classrooms, as well as the struggle of basic needs not being met on and off our campus. Students are also in the midst of grappling to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, on top of enrolling as full-time students and working 2-3 jobs to survive - **all to ensure that they can receive their degree and break generational cycles for themselves and their families.** Students deserve not only to have their voices heard, but to be a part of the larger conversation surrounding the financial stability of the CSU, especially when a tuition hike would disproportionately affect first generation students, students who are disabled, international students as well as BIPOC communities - not only here at SF State but also throughout the CSU System.

As students, we are constantly told the stories about the Transformative Education and Nature of the CSU - but a large part of the academic and universal success of the CSU is in fact the historically low tuition that is offered, though already unaffordable for many students.

As the largest public university system in the United States, the CSU must lead by example and put students and our needs first - not just through stories, but through action. This is why a tuition increase would hinder the fight for equity and access in higher education, and would ultimately set current and future generations of students on a path of financial and academic hardship.

Lieutenant Governor and member of the CSU Board of Trustees, Eleni Kounalakis, stated the following at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting on July 11th, **“To propose and vote on this item [Tuition Increase Proposal] is an abdication of the duty of the trustees”** The Associated Students of SF State, would like to echo this sentiment, as a vote on this Multi-Year Tuition Proposal with no predicted end date outlined, is a direct disservice to students and a violation to the role that the Trustees are duty-bound to serve and fulfill.

Though the lack of transparency from the CSU Chancellor’s Office surrounding this proposed tuition increase is unfortunately expected and not particularly surprising, the Associated Students of San Francisco State University remain committed to upholding the well-being and financial prosperity of all students. We demand that the CSU Executive leadership re-evaluate their take on the importance of students as well as our unique and collective perspective. Furthermore, we find that this proposed tuition increase is a **direct assault on student’s livelihoods that will prove to be harmful to our social mobility and academic progress.**

We, the Associated Students of San Francisco State University, plead to the California State University Board of Trustees, to keep students at the forefront of your mission, and to **vote NO** on this insulting and detrimental Multi-Year Tuition Increase Proposal.

In Solidarity with all CSU students,

Associated Students Board of Directors,
San Francisco State University