

ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Item 12

AS-2656-04/FGA

May 6-7, 2004

Supporting ACR 193 (Liu and Scott): High-quality higher education

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) support the emphasis on access, high quality, and equity among the general policy goals proposed in ACR 193; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU applaud the statement in ACR 193: “The California State Legislature declares that a top priority in future state policy and budgets is the provision of opportunities for high-quality education”; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge Senator Scott and Assembly Member Liu to emphasize the importance of high quality by amending the third resolve clause, subsection (c) as follows:

The State of California, and its taxpayers, shall provide adequate and appropriate public investment in higher education to accomplish the policy goal of high-quality teaching and programs of excellence on the campuses of California’s public community colleges and universities and to ensure that all California high school graduates can attend a public college or university to secure the benefits of a college education.

; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate forward this resolution to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees and to Senator Scott and Assembly Member Liu.

*RATIONALE: The Academic Senate Chair Robert Cherny advised the Assembly of Higher Education Committee in fall 2003 of the Academic Senate’s deep concern with the erosion of quality in the CSU since the early 1990s. Many key indicators of quality were seriously eroded at that time, and most have not yet recovered. We are now experiencing a new round of budget-cutting, estimated at nearly 22% over three years (2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05), even though we have not yet recovered from the cuts of a decade ago.*

*This joint resolution by the chairs of legislative policy committees in both Houses of the California legislature declares "that a top priority in future state policy and budgets would be the provision of opportunities for high-quality higher education consistent with the Master Plan for Higher Education in California." The resolution sets forth the dimensions of the enrollment growth expected between 2005 and 2015, the short and long term deficit in revenues compared with current and projected expenditures and the resulting expectation to serve increasing numbers of students without a comparable increase in state funding, and the critical role of higher education in the economic growth and prosperity of the state. The resolution further recommitts to the provision of opportunities consistent with the Master Plan including "all feasible steps" to provide access, the resources to support student success, and "ensure the most efficient use of limited state resources."*

**APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY – May 6-7, 2004**

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution****No. 193**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Liu**  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Scott)

March 11, 2004

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 193—Relative to higher education.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 193, as introduced, Liu. Higher education.

This measure would declare that a top priority in future state policy and budgets would be the provision of opportunities for high-quality higher education consistent with the Master Plan for Higher Education in California. The measure would declare that the Legislature is committed to access to higher education for all qualified Californians, to high-quality teaching and programs of excellence on the campuses of California's public community colleges and universities, to educational equity through a diverse and representative student body and faculty, and to cost-effectiveness in institutional operations in serving students. The measure would also specify ways through which to achieve the provision of adequate opportunities for students to attend public higher education in California.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Higher education has long served as the key
- 2 engine for California's economic prosperity and quality of life;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, Californians have long embraced the concept that
- 5 higher education is both a public good and a private good, and the



1 state has established the best public higher education system in the  
2 world; and

3 WHEREAS, California's public community colleges and  
4 universities provide economic and social benefits that far  
5 outweigh the costs to the taxpayers; and

6 WHEREAS, California's colleges and universities are an  
7 essential resource for providing all Californians with the  
8 educational services they need to become economically  
9 self-sufficient and productive members of our society, which  
10 results in a higher quality of life for all; and

11 WHEREAS, Between 2005 and 2015, the number of  
12 college-age young people will increase much faster in California  
13 than in any other state, and therefore California's existing colleges  
14 and universities will need to accommodate 20 to 30 percent more  
15 students in fall 2015 than were enrolled in fall 2003; and

16 WHEREAS, California now has the opportunity to provide a  
17 college education over the next decade to 1,800,000 Californians  
18 who will otherwise not have a chance to benefit from higher  
19 education; and

20 WHEREAS, California's state budget has both a short-term and  
21 a long-term deficit in revenues compared with current and  
22 projected expenditures, and our public colleges and universities  
23 are therefore expected to serve an increasing number of students  
24 without a comparable increase in state funding; and

25 WHEREAS, Economic prosperity and the availability of good  
26 jobs require continued scientific innovation and a growth in  
27 economic productivity made possible by advanced knowledge and  
28 skills; and

29 WHEREAS, The completion of vocational programs, associate  
30 degrees, baccalaureates, and more advanced higher education  
31 degrees is essential for individuals and families to achieve  
32 economic security; and

33 WHEREAS, The demographic composition of California is  
34 changing rapidly, and the overall rate of college participation will  
35 fall unless California achieves an increased rate of college  
36 participation for groups previously underrepresented in our  
37 colleges and universities; and

38 WHEREAS, The opportunity to enroll in college is the prime  
39 factor motivating students to perform well in high school and to  
40 complete a rigorous academic curriculum; and



1 WHEREAS, A cornerstone of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher  
2 Education in California, adopted under the leadership of the late  
3 Clark Kerr, was the promise that the “state would assure all  
4 qualified students access to a quality higher education”; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of California has been unable to expand  
6 opportunities for higher education in recent years to the extent  
7 required by a growing number of high school graduates, thus  
8 retreating from the promise of the 1960 Master Plan; and

9 WHEREAS, The proportion of the state budget that is devoted  
10 to higher education has been cut dramatically in the past 20 years;  
11 now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
13 *thereof concurring*, That the California State Legislature declares  
14 that a top priority in future state policy and budgets is the provision  
15 of opportunities for high-quality higher education consistent with  
16 the Master Plan for Higher Education in California, including all  
17 feasible steps to accomplish all of the following:

- 18 (a) Preparation of students to undertake collegiate level study.
- 19 (b) Encouragement of students to attend college.
- 20 (c) Provision of financial assistance to ensure affordability for  
21 all college students.

22 (d) Provision of the instructional and physical capacity to  
23 provide higher education for all eligible and motivated students  
24 leaving high school; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the California State Legislature is committed to  
26 each of the four general policy goals expressed below:

- 27 (a) Access to higher education for all qualified Californians.
- 28 (b) High-quality teaching and programs of excellence on the  
29 campuses of California’s public community colleges and  
30 universities.
- 31 (c) Educational equity through a diverse and representative  
32 student body and faculty.

33 (d) Cost-effectiveness in institutional operations in serving  
34 students; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the provision of adequate opportunities for  
36 students to attend public higher education in California shall be  
37 achieved in the following three ways:

- 38 (a) Governing boards of the three segments of public higher  
39 education shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the most



1 efficient use of limited state resources to accomplish all of the  
2 following:  
3 (1) Enrollment of eligible students.  
4 (2) Acceleration of student progress to a degree.  
5 (3) Responsiveness to the highest state priorities.  
6 (b) The Legislature and the Governor shall collaboratively  
7 develop and implement a long-term student fee policy to provide  
8 gradual, moderate, and predictable fee increases that alleviate the  
9 'boom and bust' cycles of the past, with the availability of  
10 adequate need-based financial aid to ensure that higher education  
11 is affordable for all students.  
12 (c) The State of California, and its taxpayers, shall provide  
13 adequate and appropriate public investment in higher education to  
14 ensure that all California high school graduates can attend a public  
15 college or university to secure the benefits of a college education;  
16 and be it further  
17 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy  
18 of this resolution to each member of the Regents of the University  
19 of California, the Trustees of the California State University, and  
20 the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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