

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2919-09/FGA (Rev)
November 5-6, 2009

**Call for Adequate and Sustainable Funding in Support of
Public Higher Education**

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) decry the continuing failure of the State of California to provide adequate and sustainable funding in support of the California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University (CSU), and the University of California (UC); and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU commend the Governor of California on his efforts to restore in 2010-11 the funds that were deleted from the 2009-10 CSU budget; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU ask the citizens of California and their elected leaders to reconsider the consequences of undermining the State's long-standing social contract with the people of the state seeking public higher education; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU ask the citizens of California and their elected leaders to recognize the long-term consequences to the state's fiscal well-being of limiting access to the public higher education that drives the state's economy; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU reaffirm its commitment to the important principles of affordability, access and quality contained in the Master Plan for Higher Education in California; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU urge the California Legislature to ratify legislation necessary to guarantee adequate and sustainable funding to restore the social contract between the State and its citizens relative to public higher education, thereby moving the state to its once-premier stature in the world economy; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the ASCSU forward this resolution to the Governor of California, legislative leaders in the State Assembly and Senate, Democratic and Republican State Parties, California Constitutional convention conveners, and media throughout the State as well as the CSU Chancellor, the CSU Board of Trustees, the CSU campus Presidents, and the CSU Campus Senates.

RATIONALE: This resolution builds upon earlier resolutions by the Academic Senate CSU (e.g. AS-2906-09/FGA) and Campus Academic Senates (e.g. RS04-227/SFSU) which have well articulated the need for adequate funding in support of public higher education. This resolution calls for both adequate and sustainable (reliable) funding in support of public higher education. Adequate and sustainable (reliable) funding will allow the CSU to enact the California Education Code and commit to the important principles contained in the Master Plan for Higher Education. The respective roles of government and individual

citizens in any state are defined by a social contract that explicitly or implicitly specifies the expectations and responsibilities of each.

For nearly fifty years the state of California has included in its social contract promises defined in the Master Plan for Higher Education (1960). As a result of the access to public higher education assured by the Master Plan for Higher Education, the California State University (CSU) has provided the state with hundreds of thousands of well-educated and well-trained professionals who have contributed their expertise to California, thereby enhancing the state's role in the world economy and generating hundreds of millions of dollars in increased tax revenue for the State.

The State of California is currently experiencing a budget crisis so great that the survival of its social contract with its citizens is in jeopardy. As a result of this crisis, California has been unable to maintain its commitment to providing opportunity for California's diverse population to attain a moderately priced and high quality university education. In 2003-2004, because of reduced funding, the California State University was unable to enroll 5,000 qualified students, and in 2004-2005 further budget reductions resulted in denial of access to the CSU of an additional 20,000 students.

In 2009, the CSU was forced to declare unprecedented systemwide impaction. The economic and social future of California will be jeopardized for many decades by the inadequacy of funding for the state's institutions of public higher education for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 and their resulting inability to educate the multitude of students whose expertise has built California's role in the world economy. Proposed funding levels are so limited and sustainable funding sources are so close to nonexistent that they threaten to diminish the quality of teaching and learning in the CSU, further eroding the economic and social well-being of the state.

Consequently, for the public record, the Academic Senate CSU calls upon the California Legislature and the Governor to enact both adequate and sustainable funding to restore the social contract between the State and its citizens, thereby moving the state to its once-premier stature in the world economy

Approved unanimously – January 21-22, 2010