July 26, 2006

The Honorable Jack Scott  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, California  95814

Re: AB 2951 (Goldberg)  
Position of Academic Senate CSU: OPPOSE

Dear Senator Scott:

On behalf of the Academic Senate California State University I wish to register our opposition to Assembly Bill 2951 (Goldberg), legislation that seeks to change the current law regarding the imposition of capital facilities fees on public agencies such as CSU and other educational institutions.

It is our view that the bill will divert much needed state funds to non-educational needs, thus hampering the already difficult task of the state, given its limited fiscal resources, to fund higher education adequately.

Specifically, this bill would allow increased facilities charges to our campuses even though they may not provide actual service diverting over $4 million of CSU funds annually away from educational needs. This is equivalent to funding more than 5,570 students, 480 new tenure-track faculty or 3,840 courses over the next ten years. A priority of the state should be to fund education and this bill moves us in the opposite direction.

We believe that the CSU and its campuses already contribute their fair share of the costs for electricity and water for the communities in which they reside. Like other ratepayers, the CSU and each of its campuses pay the commodity cost of utilities services. Further, they also pay for the capital facilities necessary to connect to the utilities that actually serve them. Passage of this bill would not only impose additional costs to our system, it is also our understanding that the bill will allow utilities to summarily charge us without justification or appeal.
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For the reasons stated above, the Academic Senate CSU respectfully requests your NO vote on AB 2951. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you again for your consideration of our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Marshelle Thobaben, Chair  
Academic Senate CSU

MT:ap

cc: Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg  
Members, Senate Education Committee  
Kathleen Chavira, Principal Consultant, Senate Education Committee  
Nancy Anton, Consultant, Principal Senate Education Committee  
Roger Mackensen, Principal Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Karen Zamarippa, Assistant Vice Chancellor

CSU Campuses  
Bakersfield  
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Chico  
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