



BOD 2024-2025

Resolution on CSU Budget Cuts and Student Support at Cal State LA

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed 2025-26 State Budget includes a \$375 million (7.95%) ongoing reduction in funding to the California State University (CSU) system¹. CSU leaders warn this nearly 8% cut would be "*catastrophic*," equivalent to eliminating 20% of the CSU's full-time faculty and leaving no new funds for student support, mental health, basic needs, employee pay, or infrastructure.² Such a reduction would severely impair the CSU's ability to serve its 460,000+ students and fulfill its mission to provide accessible, quality education in California; and

WHEREAS, even before this proposed cut, the CSU has been grappling with structural deficits and rising costs. The system experienced budget gaps of \$138 million in 2023-24 and \$218 million in 2024-25, and it now projects a \$400-800 million shortfall for the upcoming year.³ These challenges stem from factors such as inflation, increased operational costs, and unfunded mandates (e.g., necessary salary increases for faculty and staff),⁴ creating a strained fiscal environment across all 23 campuses; and

WHEREAS, at California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA) specifically, the university is managing a \$32.4 million deficit in the current 2024-25 academic year, caused by state funding cuts, unfunded compensation increases, declining enrollment, and inflation.⁵ An additional 10% budget reduction (about \$19.7-\$24.6 million) is anticipated for 2025-26 if state cuts proceed as planned.⁶ Combined, these losses exceed 20% of Cal State LA's operating budget, an unsustainable reduction that necessitates significant cost-saving numbers; and

WHEREAS, the Cal State LA administration has already implemented campus-wide austerity measures to address this fiscal crisis. This includes an immediate hiring freeze on most new positions⁷ to preserve existing jobs, deferral or cancellation of non-essential capital projects and expenditures (e.g., new equipment, hospitality, travel),⁸ and a directive for all divisions to reduce spending by 10%.⁹ These difficulty steps are aimed at maintaining financial stability while protecting the core academic mission; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, the impact of budget cuts is already being felt by students and faculty at Cal State LA. The university saw a 7.8% drop in enrollment in Fall 2023, which was accompanied by the reduction of over 10% of class sections offered.¹⁰ As a result, 82 fewer lecturers are teaching at Cal State LA this year compared to last year.¹¹ Fewer course sections and instructors mean students have fewer classes available, making it harder to get the courses they need for timely graduation; and

WHEREAS, Cal State LA has reduced its workforce by over 100 employees (through a combination of attrition and layoffs) in the past year.¹² Faculty note that the campus has "*already cut down to the bone*," with remaining staff and instructors forced to "*pick up the slack*" for unfilled positions.¹³ This heightened workload on faculty and staff threatens to diminish the quality of education and student services, as essential duties are spread thin; and

WHEREAS, University officials caution that deeper cuts may lead to larger class sizes and academic program suspensions. In campus communications, Cal State LA's Interim Provost Amy Bippus warned that continued shortfalls could require increasing class sizes, suspending or freezing low-enrollment programs (e.g., graduate programs with a low amount of students), and possibly eliminating entire majors or academic programs.¹⁴ Such measures, while tentative, would significantly reduce students' academic opportunities



and could force students in affected programs to delay or alter their graduation plans; and

WHEREAS, students and faculty across the CSU have voiced serious concerns about the impact of these budget cuts on educational quality. At a March 2025 protest at Cal State LA, professors expressed fear for layoffs and for the erosion of programs such as Ethnic Studies, Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies, and Latin American Studies. Students also spoke out, with one student saying, *"we can't.... have better security [for our future] if you're cutting our budget and we can't take the classes we have to take."*¹⁵ Student organizers from Students for Quality Education (SQE) have argued that faculty and course cuts *"will only make students less safe... will stall graduation times, and prevent people from receiving the education that they deserve."*¹⁶ These testimonies all highlight the anxiety and frustration among the campus community, who feel that their hard-won progress toward student success and graduation may be reversed; and

WHEREAS, the Cal State LA administration and CSU system leaders have acknowledged these concerns and affirmed their commitment to students during this fiscal crisis. Interim Chief Financial Officer Claudio Lindow stated that while *"there are difficult decisions ahead as we continue to navigate financial challenges,"* the University's *"commitment to student success, academic excellence, and a thriving campus community remains unwavering"*¹⁷ Campus leadership has pledged to prioritize transparency and shared governance in budget decisions, engaging groups like the Academic Senate and Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) in a collaborative budget advisory process.¹⁸ Likewise, CSU Chancellor Mildred García has said that if these cuts are approved, the CSU's mission would be in *"jeopardy,"* and she joined 61 state legislators in urging the Legislature to reject the proposed reductions as a threat to the *"public good"* provided by higher education¹⁹; and

WHEREAS, Cal State LA's 2024-2025 budget applies a 12.4% across-the-board reduction to all divisions, including student-serving areas such as Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, with no context given about how budget decisions were prioritized and whether adequate consideration was given to the distinct roles different divisions play in supporting student success;

WHEREAS, Cal State LA's 2025-26 financial transparency update notes that many elements of the operational budget will not be finalized until the start of the academic year. The limited availability of timely, detailed information makes it challenging for students to engage in the budget process and contribute meaningfully to shared governance;

WHEREAS, the 2025-26 budget reflects a flat 10% reduction across all divisions, including Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. While this approach may be intended to ensure fairness across the institution, it can have unequal consequences given the critical role these divisions play in providing instruction, mental health services, and other forms of direct student support;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

RESOLVED, that the ASI of Cal State LA stands in solidarity with the students, faculty, and staff of our campus amid these budget cuts. ASI affirms that student success and well-being must remain the top priority in all decisions. We acknowledge that some budget reductions are unavoidable given the circumstances; however, we urge that any necessary cuts be implemented in a manner that minimizes impact on students' education, essential student services, and timely graduation. The student body should not bear a



disproportionate burden of this financial crisis, and protecting the academic mission and support systems of the university is of paramount importance;

RESOLVED, that ASI will take concrete action to support and inform students during the budget crisis. This includes organizing and hosting open forums and town halls in conjunction with university administration, where students can hear updates from university officials about budget changes and freely voice their questions and concerns;

RESOLVED, that ASI will actively foster open communication and partnership between students and the University administration throughout the budget remediation process. ASI representatives shall fully engage in any budget advisory committees or shared governance meetings (including the newly proposed budget advisory group involving ASI, as mentioned by President Eanes). ASI will bring student priorities and ideas to those discussions, advocating for solutions that put students first. Likewise, ASI will regularly report back to the student body on the outcomes of these meetings and any important decisions. In practice, this means ASI will publish meeting summaries or hold briefings so that students know what measures are being considered or implemented and why. By serving as a liaison in this way, ASI commits to ensuring transparency and accountability between the administration and the students it serves;

RESOLVED, that ASI will monitor the implementation of this resolution's commitments and provide updates on our progress to the student body. We will include a standing agenda item in ASI meetings to discuss budget-related advocacy and receive reports from any forums or committees regarding the budget situation. By holding ourselves accountable, we aim to ensure that the promises made herein (for transparency, advocacy, and student support) are actively pursued, not just declared. ASI invites all interested students to join these efforts, whether by attending public forums, sharing personal experiences to inform our reports, or volunteering in advocacy campaigns. The unity and engagement of students are our greatest strengths in facing challenges, and ASI will channel that collective energy towards safeguarding our education;

RESOLVED, finally, that copies of this resolution shall be distributed to Cal State LA's President Berenecea Johnson Eanes, the Cal State LA Cabinet and Budget and Planning Committee, the CSU Chancellor's Office, the California State Student Association, the Academic Senate, and the office of Governor Gavin Newsom. In doing so, we communicate our stance and commitments broadly, making it clear to university and state leaders alike that Cal State LA's student body is engaged, concerned, and united in responding to the budget crisis. We urge all recipients to work with us in good faith to find equitable solutions that uphold the student-centered values of the CSU.