



Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors of California State University, Los Angeles, Associated Students, Incorporated

**A RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN'S PROPOSED
2013-14 BUDGET**

Authored by Matthew M. Gonzales, Legislative Affairs Representative-at-Large

WHEREAS, the Associated Students, Incorporated (A.S.I.) is the single recognized voice for nearly 20,000 students at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA); and

WHEREAS, A.S.I. recognizes public education as a right and not a privilege and that the promise of free or affordable public education in the California Master Plan for Higher Education is one of the greatest democratic achievements in California's history; and

WHEREAS, the CSU has recently faced substantial budget cuts from the State, including a reduction of \$750 million in 2011-2012 alone¹; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the State budget cuts, the CSU has also faced a series of tuition and fee increases since 2001, raising the cost of undergraduate attendance from \$1,428 in 2001 to an estimated \$5,970 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 invested in the CSU yields a \$5.43 return back to the California economy, sustains almost 150,000 jobs, and provides an educated workforce to key economic areas such as agriculture, medicine, criminal justice, and education²; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of California supported Governor Brown's Tax Initiative, Proposition 30, with 54% of the vote in order to balance the budget and preserve public education funding, and

WHEREAS, students, A.S.I., and all California State Student Association (CSSA) member organizations took an active role in the 2012 Presidential and Statewide Election, registering more than 31,000 new voters and organizing Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Budget forecasts balanced budgets in the future with a General Fund surplus while reducing State debt; and

WHEREAS, the California budget includes an additional increase in funding of \$125 million dollars for the CSU in 2013-2014, proposed increases for future years, and an

¹ CSU Budget Office: <http://www.calstate.edu/budget/student-fees/fee-rates/>

² CSU Economic Impact Report: <http://www.calstate.edu/impact/docs/CSUImpactsReport.pdf>



increase of \$61 million to the Cal Grant Program; let it be

RESOLVED, that the A.S.I. commends Governor Brown for keeping his promise to students, the CSU, and the people of California upon passage of Proposition 30; be it also

RESOLVED, that the A.S.I. acknowledges the 2013-14 budget as a positive first step in restoring public higher education in California; be it additionally

RESOLVED, that although A.S.I. supports the steps taken in the Governor's budget, in order to maintain the high quality of a CSU education and address the State's urgent higher education enrollment needs, we request the following changes: **1) Access:** Provide an additional \$155.8 Million for Enrollment Demand, **2) Unit Cap:** Reject the proposed unit cap, and **3) Debt Service and Retirement Costs:** Reject the proposed plan to fold capital improvement project debt service and future retirement benefits into the CSU budget, be it further

RESOLVED, that the A.S.I. and all members will take an active role in advocating for higher education, its benefits to the State of California and the issues affecting each campus to State and local representatives and the general public; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to, CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, the CSU Campus Presidents, CSU Associated Students, the United States Student Association, the California State Student Association, the California Faculty Association, University of California Student Association, California Teachers Association, Governor Jerry Brown, the CSULA University Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Sacramento Bee, the Office of Assembly Speaker John Pérez, Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, Assembly Minority Leader Connie Conway, and Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff.