



*Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors of California State University, Los Angeles, Associated Students, Inc.*

## **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OIL EXTRACTION FEE INITIATIVE**

Authored by Johann Almeida, Legislative Affairs Representative-at-Large

**WHEREAS,** the Associated Students, Incorporated (A.S.I.) is the single recognized voice for over 18,000 students at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA); and

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

**WHEREAS,** the California legislature has approved, and the Governor has signed, \$500 million in cuts to the CSU system; and

**WHEREAS,** the amount of cuts could more than double as an approval by the State Legislature of a June 2011 ballot initiative for tax extensions is in jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS,** the budget cuts represent a threat to students' right to a public education, particularly middle class students who face increased fees without the benefit of financial aid; and

**WHEREAS,** education is the foundation of a strong economy. When California's Educational System was essentially tuition free, California's economy grew to the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the world and supported a large, vibrant middle class; and

**WHEREAS,** A.S.I. endorsed previous protests and days of action, including the March 4, 2011 rally at the California State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS,** A.S.I. is obligated to keep an ear to the interests of students and the movements students lead and engage in; and

**WHEREAS,** A.S.I. members have been fiercely lobbying for the security of higher education funding; and

**WHEREAS,** students have already shown their support through the annual protests in Sacramento; let it be

**RESOLVED,** that A.S.I. endorses the Oil Extraction Fee to Rescue Higher Education Initiative; and let it also be

**RESOLVED**, that A.S.I. pledges to take action to participate in the campaign for the initiative, including the collection of signatures; and let it further be

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to CSULA President James M. Rosser, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed; the CSU Board of Trustees, the California State Student Association, the CSULA University Times, Cypress College Professor Peter Mathews, California Governor Jerry Brown, and members of the California State Legislature to inform them of the A.S.I. commitment to supporting this initiative.