



OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8502
TELEPHONE: (530) 752-2231

March 22, 2013

ROBERT L. POWELL, CHAIR

University of California
Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: UC Undergraduate Financial Aid Strategies and Policies

The proposal was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and Faculty Executive Committees within the schools and colleges for comment. Detailed responses were received from the Committees Admissions and Enrollment, and Planning and Budget, as well as the Faculty Executive Committee from the College of Letters and Science.

Generally, a majority support Option A. Option A reduces the net cost for middle-income students without disproportionately increasing the net cost for low-income students. In addition, Figure 1 indicates that the projected difference for a family with an income of \$50,000 is almost \$2,000 less under Option A than Option B, while Figure 2 projects the difference for a family with an income of \$100,000 to be less than \$100. The projected \$2,000 difference represents a significant greater percentage of income for the family earning \$50,000 a year.

One area of caution with Option A is that increasing the tuition burden of higher-income students, including international and national students, could make UC less attractive or financially inaccessible to them.

In addition, a majority do not support Option C, largely because it is unpredictable. We are highly supportive of an undergraduate financial aid plan with a higher degree of predictability, especially in funding sources.

A minority support Option B over Option A. By making UC somewhat less accessible, Option B could end up causing a reduction in percentages of enrolled students in the lower income range, which would reduce the need to use tuition revenue for financial aid.

A separate minority feels there is no basis for supporting any of the options presented because we are currently in a period where tuition increases are frozen. This minority expressed support for stronger financial aid to avoid restricting access to UC to the affluent, and urges reminding the State of California of their responsibility to ensure access to the UC for all qualified California students.

We are supportive of the following, independent of which option is implemented:

- Attempts to define manageable debt,
- Adopting the College Board's "Institutional Methodology" or a UC-specific methodology for obtaining more accurate information of family resources,
- A system-wide fundraising effort to augment the amount of available financial support for students on all campuses,
- The goal of increasing UC grant aid available to students with family incomes above \$80,000.

Generally, we support efforts to make UC more affordable to students from all income levels. Most importantly, many feel that any options that assume annual increases in tuition will not be viable in the current and future political climate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruno Nachtergaele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Mathematics