

May 24, 2011

**MICHAEL R. GOTTFREDSON  
EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST**

RE: Student Priorities for Student Services in the Current Budget Climate

As Chair of the UC Irvine Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC), I am writing to you to convey the committee's and UC Irvine students' concerns and priorities for student services at UC Irvine within the context of this difficult budget climate.

The SFAC, in its advisory capacity and purview for providing direct funding recommendations on the Student Services Fee funds to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, would like to share with you the student perspective and deep concern regarding the \$500 million cut to University of California funding included in Governor Brown's state budget plan and its impact on student services and the quality of the student educational experience at UC Irvine. Furthermore, we realize if Governor Brown's tax and fee extension proposal fails to pass in the upcoming elections, there is a strong likelihood that student services will be cut even further in order to compensate for the additional cuts in state funds to the University.

In light of the currently proposed budget cuts and potential additional cuts to University of California state funds, the SFAC believes that the UC Irvine administration will, in good faith, work to protect all student services currently available to its students. However, if the administration is unable to protect all student services, the SFAC recommends that priority is given to student services activities that include hiring and training student employees as well as interns, help students to seek employment/internship opportunities and career development, offer counseling and mental health services and programming, and provide student academic support services. The SFAC would identify the following three departments, in no particular order, as the highest priorities for UC Irvine students, and recommend these units be exempted from further budget cuts:

1. **The Career Center:** for providing services, programming and resources to assist students as they transition into their professional career paths or continue onto graduate and professional schools; this is especially crucial in the current economic climate.
2. **The Counseling Center:** for the counseling and mental health services provided to students, the enhancement of students' well-being and the ability to provide immediate help to students in need when situations arise.
3. **The Learning and Academic Resource Center:** for providing student services and programming to promote students academic success, which is essential in protecting the academic mission of the university.

The Student Fee Advisory Committee believes that Governor Brown's proposed cuts would make it difficult for the University of California to maintain its dedication to excellence, access and affordability by diminishing the availability of necessary support services to students. The

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Committee is confident that administration would work closely and transparently with the SFAC. We look forward to any opportunity to contribute solutions as we work together to overcome the budget challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Aaron Tso  
Chair, UC Irvine SFAC

Cc: Vice Chancellor Meredith Michaels  
Assistant Vice Chancellor Rich Lynch  
SFAC representatives