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- Thank you to the Chairs - Assemblymember Gibson, and Medina, Vice Chair Senator Roth, and Members of the Committee for inviting me to today's hearing. We appreciate your dedication to oversight and I am eager to provide you with the student perspective on the matters before you today.
- My name is Jefferson Kuoch-Seng and I am the President of the University of California Student Association, representing all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in the UC system. I am also a fourth year business student at UC Merced, in Senator Cannella's district.
- We, the students that UCSA represents, like you, have concerns over the university's public accountability and transparency, specifically where student fee revenue is actually spent. This year, as the University and students seek a higher level of State reinvestment than in previous years, students want to ensure this money is being spent responsibly and in ways that will help students succeed. As the majority of funding now comes from pockets of students, and not the state, we continue to advocate for increased public accountability and transparency in the system.

- While the original audit notes that some areas have been addressed, and students appreciate steps taken by the University to do so, there is still additional work to be done. The issue addressed in the original audit: variations in reported funding per student, by campus, is also concerning. While that issue was addressed by the President's office, we know now that other problematic campus funding models have surfaced.
- Students are concerned over the discrepancies in funding as campuses retain fee revenue from non-resident tuition. As the University continues to seek higher student fees, non-resident students are ceded a higher value, and recruited heavily, increasingly overseas. With the economic downturn, state funding dropped proportionally. As a counter, the UC continued to enroll students but funded them with non-resident tuition paying students.
- This practice pits two UC values against one another - accessibility and affordability. In order to keep the university affordable, for some Californians, the doors of accessibility to the UC was shut. While students may be admitted into a UC, it is not guaranteed to be the UC of **their** choice. We will continue to advocate for equity in our system, whether it be for matters of institutional and campus funding or to our minority students.

- The new UC Tuition Stability Plan calls for enrollment of 2,000 new nonresidents to help pay resident student growth, at a 1:1 ratio. This fact, not widely advertised by the University, will continue to exacerbate the inequity in peer campus funding. When nonresident student enrollment approaches 25% of total population on some campuses, this far exceeds the goal of the California Master Plan. Further, this approach dismantles the promise of accessibility for California residents to attend **their** public state university.
- While we appreciate the system's goals of increased California resident enrollment, as the economy rebuilds from recession, a reexamination of current practices, methods, and justifications for enrollment targets is necessary and called for by students.
- Students also care greatly about the transparency of our University. With a system that maintains some level of autonomy from legislative oversight, this issue is more urgent than ever. We call for continued dialogue with the Regents and President Napolitano to bring to students to the table. There is much work to be done: the casual note of \$1 billion annually in a "miscellaneous services" accounting code is not transparent.

- Students and Californians deserve a clear roadmap of accounting practices and expenditures, not billions a year parked in miscellaneous and discretionary accounts. While we agree it is not entirely practical, we look forward to the University working with the Legislature on a zero-based budget approach. We support this effort to find genuine efficiencies and articulate a way to implement them.
- As our State Auditor and Legislature continue to examine past practices and identify more efficient and appropriate ways of moving forward, students will continue to do the same, and call on you to be bold, innovative and rigorous. We all share the goal of working for a future where the UC remains the strongest public university system in the United States, while adhering to its core tenets of affordability, accessibility, and quality.
- Thank you to the Committee for holding today's hearing and all of the staff who have contributed to this work. I look forward to continuing these discussions.
- Thank you.