



UC Graduate and Professional Council Statement in Support of California Senate budget subcommittee 1 on Education's 2018-2019 Budget Proposal

As representatives of the graduate and professional students at the University of California (UC), we applaud the courage of the California Senate budget subcommittee 1 on Education for choosing to fully fund the UC and provide additional funds to address other pressing problems in higher education. We want to thank Senate budget subcommittee 1 Chair Portantino, Sen. Moorlach, Sen. Jackson for their support and leadership. Similarly, we'd like to acknowledge the support of Senators Allen and Glazer, along with Assemblymembers Medina, Limon, Low, Eggman-Talamantes, Kamlager, Salas, Carillo, and Reyes.

UCGPC supports the Senate budget subcommittee's budget proposal because it chooses quality higher education and better-prepared workers, and includes the critical funding we need for buying out tuition increases, deferred maintenance, mental health, student services, and academic quality improvements. According to Governor Brown, "it is clear just how much of our prosperity depends on the intellectual contributions of our institutions of higher learning." UCGPC agrees that quality higher education is essential to the prosperity of California.

However, we want to state that institutions of higher learning contributed to the state's prosperity because it had the funding to improve the quality of the education it offered. A March 2018 report from California Budget & Policy Center shows that underfunding higher education is impeding the state's economic growth, and the UC has been receiving lower funding per student year after year. UCGPC wants higher education to continue contributing to the prosperity of our great state, so we call on the Full Senate and Assembly to approve the budget proposal of Senate budget subcommittee 1 and continue to fully fund the UC system.

We call on Assemblymembers Phil Ting and Kevin McCarty to show leadership on this issue by coming out in support of fully funding the UC system and its students. UCGPC acknowledges their previous support of the UC and other higher education institutions in the state. Additionally, we applaud Assembly Budget Committee Chair Phil Ting for acknowledging online that your constituents want you to prioritize higher education in the 2018-2019 budget. Going on record to support fully funding the UC will demonstrate to us, your constituents and all Californians, that you're listening to us.

Prince Paa-Kwesi Heto

Legislative Director of the UC Graduate and Professional Council

legislativedirector@ucgpc.org