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March 26, 2014

The Honorable Das Williams
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1977 (Hernández), as Amended on March 24, 2014
Scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Higher Education Committee
on April 1, 2014

Dear Assemblymember Williams:

I am writing to inform you that the University of California (UC) has no position on AB 1977 at this time, since it lies outside of budget priorities established by the Regents in November 2013. However, we appreciate Assembly Member Hernández's efforts to focus attention on the need for robust support of our Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) programs, specifically the SAPEP programs cited in AB 1977 - the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP), the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, and the Puente program. AB 1977 would appropriate $82,243,000 from the General Fund to the Regents of the University of California for allocation, without regard to fiscal year, to SAPEP.

The vision of SAPEP, as articulated in its mission statement, is to strengthen California's educational system in ways that will promote a vibrant economy by building a highly skilled and creative workforce. The goal of SAPEP is to work with K-12, the business sector, community organizations and other institutions of higher education to raise student achievement levels generally and to close achievement gaps between groups of students throughout the K-20 pipeline. SAPEP aims to prepare a higher proportion of California's young people—including those who are first-generation, socioeconomically disadvantaged and English-language learners—for postsecondary education, graduate and professional school opportunities and/or success in the workplace. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continued success of these programs and are pleased to provide technical support as needed.

As always, the University appreciates your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Hernández
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
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