Talking Points on UC COVID-19 Priorities in the 4th Supplemental

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact University of California operations in all areas. UC is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic on multiple fronts. Our health care system is working to save lives; and our research enterprise is seeking cures and a vaccine. We are working hard to minimize the impact of the economic downturn on our workforce, and our campuses are providing remote instruction for students and preparing for a safe repopulation.

- UC is grateful to Congress for the emergency spending bills it has passed so far to confront COVID-19. UC students and the UC system – 10 campuses and five academic health centers – have benefited from more than $600 million in federal fund.

- UC has experienced more than $1.77 billion in expenditures and loss revenue through June 30, 2020. And because California’s economy has taken a big hit, the UC system could see additional – and substantial – losses.
  - Our campuses have experienced more than $791.2 million in costs and our Academic Health Centers have costs exceeding $975 million.

- To ensure that UC can continue to prepare the next generation of leaders, treat all of the patients affected by COVID-19 who need care, and continue to perform ground breaking research including trying to find a vaccine for the virus, we will need a level of support that only the federal government can provide.

- To that end, UC appreciates that the House of Representatives has approved the HEROES Act – a $3 trillion package that would help continue to confront the pandemic, as a starting point for negotiations on the next emergency spending bill.

- UC has provided Congress our education and research related priorities and health priorities for consideration in the 4th supplemental appropriations package. As the House and Senate work on a final package, we respectfully want to call your attention to the specific issues outlined below:

  - **Strong support for a States** -- UC is the third largest employer in California, with 227,000 faculty, researchers and staff -- whose salaries rely heavily on federal and state funding. Both the state and federal government are critical partners in ensuring that UC remains affordable and accessible. It is imperative that the federal government financially assist states across the nation so that they can continue to recover from the pandemic, provide basic services to residents and to prevent downstream cuts to public higher education and other critical state government supported services. The California state budget specifically includes provisions that require federal
funds to ensure that UC and other public entities and agencies are not cut. Federal investments in our states is greatly needed.

- **Additional $47 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).** This additional funding to HEERF would ensure relief is distributed in a manner that allows for maximum flexibility in use of funds while maintaining reasonable and effective transparency/accountability measures for institutions. We urge Congress to maintain the formula using full time enrollment as established in the CARES Act rather than the newly proposed formula that uses headcount as included in the HEROES Act. This change would lead to a significant shift in resources away from UC campuses and students.

- **UC supports $26 billion in emergency supplemental funding to mitigate the impact of COVID-19-related disruption on federally-funded research.** As authorized in the bipartisan Research Investment to Spark the Economy or RISE Act, UC strongly supports inclusion of $26 billion in funding for all science agencies to provide researchers financial support to complete their original awards that were suspended or significantly delayed due to the pandemic.

- **Access to Low-Cost Capital.** Access to affordable capital is a necessary lifeline for institutions, and the communities they serve, if they are to return to normal operations.

- **Paid Sick and Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.** Legislation should provide governmental entities, including public universities, with the ability to receive payroll tax credits for certain sick leave and family leave benefits as were made available to other types of employers under H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. UC supports the inclusion of Section 20225.