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March 22, 2012

The Honorable Marty Block
Chair, Assembly Committee on Higher Education
State Capitol, Room 3091
Sacramento, California 95814

***Re: AB 1955 (Block), as introduced on February 23, 2012
Set for hearing in the Assembly Higher Education Committee March 27, 2012
Position: Support in Concept***

Dear Assembly Member Block:

I am pleased to inform you that the University of California (UC) supports, in concept, AB 1955, legislation that seeks to promote peaceful campus demonstrations by requesting the University to designate an individual at each campus to serve as a liaison between campus law enforcement agencies and students exercising rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the California Constitution.

As President of the University of California, I believe strongly that universities are special places for the peaceful exchange of different viewpoints and ideas. I have said many times that free speech is in the DNA of this university, and it is a value that we must protect with vigilance. As a result, I believe it is critical that our campuses provide an environment for robust but peaceful discourse.

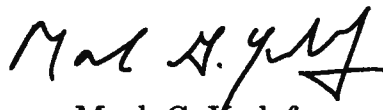
I share your concern about how to promote peaceful campus demonstrations, including how to best facilitate communication and coordination with student protestors. That is why I asked UC General Counsel Charles Robinson and UC Berkeley School of Law Dean Christopher Edley, Jr. to undertake a systemwide review of policies governing demonstrations and protests on our campuses. I look forward to sharing with you the recommendations developed by General Counsel Robinson and Dean Edley when their report is released for public comment in early April. Once we are able to review the recommendations of this and other reports, we hope to amend our position to one of full support.

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I commend you for your commitment to ensuring the rights of students to engage in peaceful protest on our university campuses, and I look forward to working with you as the bill moves forward. Should you have questions about the University's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Legislative Director Jason Murphy at (916) 445-5584.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark G. Yudof". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark G. Yudof
President

cc: Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Provost Lawrence Pitts
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Daniel M. Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez