



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DANIEL M. DOOLEY
Senior Vice President – External Relations

Office of State Governmental Relations
1130 K Street, Suite 340
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 445-9924
Steve Juarez, Associate Vice President and Director

June 23, 2014

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

RE: SB 1196 (Liu), as Amended, May 7, 2014
Scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on June 24, 2014
Position: CONCERN

Dear Assembly Member Williams:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), I would like to share our concerns regarding SB 1196 (Liu), which would require UC, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges to each develop and annually report on five year plans to meet attainment goals to be developed by the Governor, as well as take into account the existing three state goals for higher education placed into statute last year by SB 195 (Liu), and the segment-specific performance measures that were enacted last year by AB 94, a budget trailer bill.

UC fully supports the establishment of goals for higher education and measuring our progress in meeting those goals. In fact, UC supported SB 195 (Liu, 2013), which placed in statute three state goals for higher education, and we continue to be supportive of the development of a statewide accountability framework that includes statewide performance targets. However, SB 1196 establishes a third set of significant reporting requirements for higher education that are expensive and time-consuming to produce. These reporting requirements include:

1. AB 94 (Budget Act of 2013) requires an extensive Performance Outcome Measures report each year and a separate report detailing the University's cost of instruction. We submitted our first report on Performance Outcomes this past spring and are hard at work on the cost of instruction report. This latter report is an extremely complicated issue demanding large amounts of staff time.
2. SB 852 (Budget Act of 2014) requires UC to develop a three-year sustainability plan that must project resources, expenditures, enrollment and goals for each of the AB 94 performance measures.

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3. SB 1196 would require UC to report on five year plans to meet attainment goals to be developed by the Governor, as well as take into account the existing three state goals for higher education placed into statute last year by SB 195 (Liu), and the segment-specific performance measures that were enacted last year by AB 94.

We would be happy to work together to determine appropriate reporting requirements and to simplify and streamline the many different efforts currently being undertaken in the effort to meet the state's higher education needs. However, we strongly believe this effort should be supported in the budget process as well, since state funding plays a huge role in factors such as time-to-degree, access and affordability.

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

Sincerely,



Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Senator Liu
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez