



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NELSON PEACOCK

Senior Vice President – Government Relations

Office of State Governmental Relations

1130 K Street, Suite 340

Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 445-9924

Kieran Flaherty, Interim Director

April 12, 2017

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

RE: AB 1674 (Grayson, McCarty, and Baker), as introduced on February 17, 2017
Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on April 18, 2017
Position: OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Chair Medina:

The University of California (UC) must respectfully oppose AB 1674 unless it is amended. The bill would require, as a condition for UC to receive state funding, that the University establish a policy regarding the admission of nonresident undergraduate students that ensures the academic qualifications for admitted nonresident undergraduate students exceed, on average, the academic qualifications of resident undergraduate students. The bill would also require UC to report to the Legislature annually on the relative qualifications of admitted residents and nonresidents. While the bill's provisions are consistent with existing UC policy regarding the admission of nonresidents, we are deeply concerned that the bill ties UC's entire state budget allocation to our compliance with this measure. Moreover, the Legislature has historically recognized the importance of keeping admissions policies in the purview of faculty both at UC and CSU.

UC, like the Legislature, is fully committed to ensuring that nonresidents are meeting the academic admission standards established in our policies and in the Master Plan. The Academic Senate's Compare Favorably policy is meant to ensure that nonresident undergraduates admitted to UC campuses present qualifications that are at least as high as or higher, on average, than Californians admitted to the same campus. While quantitative measures such as SAT scores or grade-point averages are only two in several criteria used to determine which students are most qualified, the UC Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) reports annually on those measures. Freshmen admitted to UC from out of state have higher average standardized test scores than their California peers. In addition, UC's admissions policy sets a higher minimum for a nonresident's GPA and provides no guarantee of admission for any nonresident student, even if they meet eligibility requirements. In response to concerns expressed regarding the enrollment of nonresident students, UC's Academic Senate is reviewing the Compare Favorably policy, and expects to release a report in the coming months on current Senate policy with respect to nonresident admission, focusing on compliance with the Master Plan and consistency with the University's overall undergraduate admissions goals.

The University continues to be committed to reporting annually on the relative qualifications of admitted residents and nonresidents and being fully transparent with respect to our compliance with policy. As with prior years, UC's annual report is expected to be released in the summer.

For these reasons, we do not believe it is necessary to condition our state funding appropriation on compliance with the provisions of the bill, given UC's existing admission policy and voluntary compliance with the reporting requirements. We are further requesting amendments that would preserve the University's authority in setting admissions policy. As such, we would like to request the bill be amended to address our concerns.

As always, thank you for your consideration of our views and your commitment to higher education. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924 if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,



Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
Assemblymember Catharine Baker
Vice Chair and Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Executive Vice President and CFO Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock
Interim Director Kieran Flaherty