

Tuition goes up, quality goes down

- Fees started increasing in 2004, well before the current economic crisis. From less than \$4,000 per year in 2004, today students pay \$14,460. The UC Regents hope to continue increasing this to \$22,000 in the next years. (chart)
- Quality is going down as a result: class size is growing, with some GSIs are assigned as many as 150 students. Courses are being cut, making it more difficult for students to graduate on time. Libraries are open fewer hours. It is harder to attract and retain top faculty. Deeper effects will be felt long-term, as the student and faculty bodies change.
- Today about a third of freshmen are out of state or international, because they pay \$37,300. Two years ago just one-tenth of freshmen were out-of-state or international. As a result, there are fewer spaces for Californians, who's parents have been supporting the UC with their taxes for decades.

Where do our tuition fees go, if not into quality education?

- Into miss-managing the university: UC now has more senior managers (8,822 full time equivalent human hours) than faculty (8,669). In 1994, there were 3 managers to 6 faculty, while today there is more than one manger per faculty. (chart)
- Into salary increases for top management: *every time the UC Regents meet, they approve bonus and salary increases over 20%, even as they approve fee increases.* You can confirm this on the website: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/minutes/>
- Into speculating with the UC's financial assets: in 2000 UC Regents like real estate investor Richard Blum re-directed the UC's retirement fund to risky investments that he had an economic interest in. As a result, the UC's retirement fund lost \$23 million by 2009. Rather than spend money on instruction (which is like paying rent, the money "disappears"), the UC Regents prefer to invest in the hope of a financial return.

What is the big deal, if I am still getting a good education?

- Students are overwhelmed by debts they find increasingly difficult to pay on graduation (chart). It is just not fair to tell 18-year olds: get into major debt, or forego higher education.
- Quality, accessible education is vital to a functioning democracy and a productive society. For every \$1 invested, the UC produces \$14 in overall economic output. A recent NSF report tracks the loss of U.S. competitiveness as nationwide, state support for universities fell 20% from 2002-2010.
- This matters for inequality, today at the highest level it has been in the United States since 1928. Incomes for the top 1% have nearly quadrupled since 1980—while their tax bills have been cut nearly in half.
- The UC is a model around the world for its powerful combination of excellence and inclusion. UC Berkeley is ranked in the top five universities world-wide. California is the 8th largest economy in the world and our GDP has doubled since 1987 to \$1.9 trillion. If California can not afford to provide opportunities for its youth and defend its flagship universities, then this is a truly dismal world we live in. It is the definitive end of what is left of the "American dream".

Why is this happening to us?

- Because our leaders and managers started to believe that education could be adequately funded with student fees and revenues from research. This belief has proven to be wrong: fees are inadequate because they will never be enough to maintain investment-universities, and research revenues are small compared to the costs of doing research.
- Political and economic power has increasingly concentrated in investors. Many UC Regents represent corporate interests, particularly in real estate and banking. They make decisions looking at *their pockets*, not out interests.
- These trends are visible nationwide, at universities like Michigan and Virginia, and in the Wall Street bail out of 2008. After thirty years of falling tax revenues, fewer restrictions on the flow of capital, and reduction of state capacity, society has reached its limit. To continue on this path would

require dismantling institutions that are important to us, like the UC, and accepting cut-backs on hard-won human rights.

Ways to Get Involved: Occupy Education

- A nation-wide movement calling itself Occupy Education is organizing actions on campuses across the country beginning March 1st.
- In California, a coalition of hundreds of students, workers, and educators from across the state and across California public education—the UCs, the CSUs, the Community Colleges, and K-12 schools—is planning two statewide days of action:
 - March 1st – Campus Actions: Students, workers, teachers, and faculty are planning actions on campuses across the state. See how you can get involved on your own campus—or start something yourself!
 - March 5th – Occupy the Capitol/March on Sacramento: Californians from across public education will converge on the capitol to show lawmakers that we care about the education of our state. Carpools are being organized now—plug into one or coordinate your own!
- Information on campus actions can be found at www.teachthebudget.org

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Websites with information

<http://teachthebudget.com/>

<http://changinguniversities.blogspot.com/>

<http://ucaft.org/category/issues/teach-budget>

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Boxes with info: UC Regents, Prop 13