

## **Talking Points on Proposition 30 and UC**

### **What is Proposition 30?**

- Proposition 30, popularly known as the Governor's tax, would raise \$9 billion in its first year and \$6 billion in each of the subsequent 6 years. Nine-tenths of the money raised would come from increased income tax on those who make above \$250,000 a year and the remainder would come from an increase of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one percent on the State sales tax. This is a progressive tax and California needs the revenue it will raise to support very popular and necessary programs.

### **How does it affect UC Students, Faculty, and Staff?**

- Proposition 30 is extremely important to anyone associated with the University of California. If the proposition does not pass, the State has promised to cut the UC budget by \$375 million.
- While the UC Administration doesn't always make the best use of its resources – all too often showering compensation benefits on top executives and diverting money from undergraduate education to medical centers and other lower-priority programs, there is no question that a \$375 million cut would devastate the UC system and lead serious problems for virtually all UC students, faculty, and staff.
- The Regents have committed to raising tuition/fees if Prop. 30 fails.
- Other likely cuts would destroy the few student services left at UC with a very negative impact on student retention and time to graduation.
- Lecturers who do between one-third and one-half of the teaching at UC would almost certainly face additional layoffs and reductions in time. It would be more difficult to bargain pay increases necessary to offset the recent and continuing increases in employee pension costs. This would be a crisis for lecturers and their families, but it also would result in reduced class offerings, making UC undergraduates pay more for less and increase the average time it takes to graduate from UC.
- Student fees are already far too high, either forcing students to take employment, often at the expense of their studies, take leaves from school to earn money before returning, or take out loans with interest that they will never be able to pay off – or all of the above.
- Graduate students would face reduced teaching assistant, research assistant, and fellowship support.
- Libraries would face major cuts, impacting the ability of Librarians to address their historic low-pay when compared to C SU and community

college librarians. The reduced service to faculty and students would have a clear and noticeably impact on the quality of learning and research at UC.

- Originally, the State of California supported close to 100% of the UC budget and UC was among the very best universities in the world. Currently the State pays less than 14% of the UC budget, a reduction of about one-third over the past 4 years and UC is significantly reducing the quality of education it offers undergraduates from all over California. UC's very existence as a public institution of higher learning is being threatened, with student fees replacing State funding as the biggest revenue source for UC.

**Does Proposition 30 have a good chance of winning this November?**

- Recent polls show Proposition 30 winning, but the negative campaign by conservative anti-tax groups is slowly but steadily reducing support for the measure.
- Many constituencies in California depend upon State programs for their survival and well-being, including all K-12 and higher education teachers and their unions, students and their families, the disabled, families with children, seniors, people concerned about the environment, and so many others depending on State programs. If we can get even a significant plurality of these potential voters on November 6, we would pass Proposition 30 easily. Unfortunately, a lot of these folks remain unregistered to vote or typically don't turn out on election day. But it is possible to mobilize them, and our success in passing Proposition 30 will require us to do so.
- Many powerful groups, including most California unions and the Regents of UC, have endorsed Proposition 30. On Tuesday, October 16, 2013, there will be demonstrations and other events on all UC campuses in support of Proposition 30. Even rational business people, who depend upon an educated workforce, UC research, roads, public transit, and other infrastructure are supporting this measure and send out campaign literature to their employees. California's economic success depends upon Proposition 30 passing. Increasing numbers of newspapers across the State are beginning to endorse the measure.
- The outcome of the measure is close that we know it will take all of our effort to get it passed. Citizens have until October 22 to register to vote if they want to participate in the November 6 election. We are getting good cooperation from campus administrators in giving us access to register new UC students. We need to expand our efforts, so every eligible UC student and his or her parents (and some people living close to campuses) join us.