Wednesday, April 22, 2026

The Honorable Jessica Caloza
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0052

RE: Support for ACA 18 – Student Regent Empowerment Amendment

Dear Assemblymember Caloza,

The Office of the External Affairs Vice President (EAVP) of the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC), the officially-recognized student government representing the interests of UC Berkeley's over 30,000 undergraduate students, writes to express support for ACA 18. ACA 18 offers an opportunity to strengthen how UC students are represented on the Board of Regents.

The UC Board of Regents have significant constitutional authority to autonomously govern the affairs of the University of California, including managing the system's $53 billion annual budget, educating 300,000 students, and controlling almost $200 billion in investments. The Student Regent position, established through student advocacy in 1975, plays a meaningful role in representing student perspectives in decisions related to campus life, budgets, and overall wellbeing.

While the Student Regent position is a critical step towards democratic accountability for UC students, there remain opportunities to further enhance the system. With one voting student regent on a 26-member board, the UC student population has relatively limited direct representation in decision-making processes. For a public university system tasked with serving the people of California, this dynamic highlights an opportunity to continue advancing principles of shared governance and accountability.

ACA 18 seeks to address this gap in student representation. By proposing two voting student regents, one undergraduate and one graduate, the amendment aims to provide greater student participation in Board deliberations. Additionally, ACA 18 would algin the UC more closely with other California public higher education systems. Both the California State University and California Community Colleges Board of Governors include two voting student members, reflecting a broader approach to student representation. In this context, the proposal offers an opportunity for the UC to further strengthen its commitment to inclusive governance.

The ASUC External Affairs Vice President's Office wishes to express our strong support for ACA 18 and its goal of supporting the representation of student communities. The EAVP urges the Legislature to advance ACA 18 and place it before California voters. Students are not peripheral to the university's mission of public good, we are the means of realizing that good.

Sincerely,

Calvin Yang
ASUC External Affairs Vice President