Resolution to Condemn the UC Tuition Increase Approved in the November 2014 UC Regents Meeting

WHEREAS, on November 19th, 2014 UC Regents passed a proposal to increase tuition for all University of California students up to 5% per year ending in the 2019-2020 school year, with some professional student programs facing a one time Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) increase as high as 20%;

WHEREAS, the yearly 5% tuition increase is contingent on the State of California funding, with UC remaining approximately 500 million dollars short of 2007-2008 funding levels;

WHEREAS, as of November 15th 2014 (1), UC has yet to comply with California State law AB 94 Section 11 Article 7.5 (2) where:

“(a) The University of California shall report biennially to the Legislature and the Department of Finance, on or before October 1, 2014, and on or before October 1 of each even-numbered year thereafter, on the total costs of education at the University of California. (b) The report shall identify the costs of undergraduate education, graduate academic education, graduate professional education, and research activities. All four categories listed in this subdivision shall be reported in total and disaggregated separately by health sciences disciplines, disciplines included in paragraph (10) of subdivision (b) of Section 92675, and all other disciplines. For purposes of this report, research for which a student earns credit toward his or her degree program shall be identified as undergraduate education or graduate education. (c) The costs shall also be reported by fund source, including all of the following: (1) State General Fund. (2) Systemwide tuition and fees. (3) Nonresident tuition and fees and other student fees. (4) University of California General Funds, including interest on General Fund balances and the portion of indirect cost recovery and patent royalty income used for core educational purposes”

and this report is expected to prove crucial to the discussion of funding UC;

WHEREAS, 40% of graduate and professional students enter graduate or professional school with undergraduate loan debt which accrues interest during their pursuit of a graduate or professional degree, and graduate and professional students are taking on greater amounts of student loans as research funding decreases (3);

WHEREAS, tuition increases have widespread impacts on graduate and professional student funding sources, and without guarantees in funding to offset the tuition increases, campuses and academic departments will be hard pressed to maintain current hiring levels of teaching assistants, associate instructors, readers, and graduate student researchers to fulfill UC’s teaching and research missions,
WHEREAS, UC Davis Student Health Insurance Committee projects an average approximate increase of graduate student health insurance premiums of 30%, from $3,432 in the 2014-2015 academic year to a projected $4,461 in the 2015-2016 academic year, and SHIP increases with tuition increases further complicate affordable education for graduate and professional students;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, on behalf of the UC Davis graduate and professional students, we, the Graduate Student Association, call for the following actions:

I. Freeze tuition and fees for UC students,
II. The University of California to comply with state law AB 94 by the end of the 2014 calendar year and publish the results to the general public,
III. The State of California to increase funding to UC to meet the spirit of affordability under the California Master Plan for Higher Education,
IV. A task force consisting of UC undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, UC faculty, UC administration, California state lawmakers, and members of the California public to be convened to evaluate if UC expenditures match the educational mission of UC,
V. Prioritize UC expenditures towards undergraduate, graduate, and professional education to reduce the student contribution or self-help expectation,

and the GSA will direct its elected officers to lobby for I-V in their official capacities, further this document shall be publicized on the GSA website and circulated to UC Davis campus administration, UC Office of the President, and other stakeholders.