

Assembly California Legislature

May 24, 2006

The Honorable Fabian Núñez
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California State University Budget Augmentation

Dear Speaker Núñez and Chair Laird:

As your colleagues, we are voicing our support for actions by the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education to augment the CSU budget by increasing its base budget from 3% to 6%, an additional \$76 million above the Governor's 2006-07 January budget. Without this additional funding, it will be unfortunate if K-14 schools are being lifted by this year's revenue increases, while the CSU – and the students it serves – is left behind.

CSU has suffered extensive budget cuts since the 2002-03 budget year that exceed half-a-billion dollars in state general funds, or nearly 20% of its operating budget. In terms of human infrastructure, these cuts are the equivalent of closing down three of the largest CSU campuses and denying a CSU education to more than 100,000 students. These cuts have forced CSU campuses to reduce student services and diminish class offerings, resulting in the deterioration of educational opportunities for students.

Even though the CSU negotiated a funding agreement with the Governor, the "Compact" has been highly criticized by legislators and state policymakers for its inadequacy. Due to recent budget cuts, even if the Compact is fully funded, it will take until 2008-09 before the CSU budget even reaches the level of state dollars it received in 2002-03.

Surprisingly, the 2005-06 CSU general fund budget is actually lower than it was four years ago in 2001-02. The CSU has been tasked with educating 15,000 more full-time students, resulting in cuts to critical student programs and classes in order to accommodate increased enrollment.

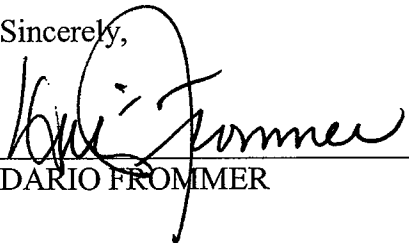
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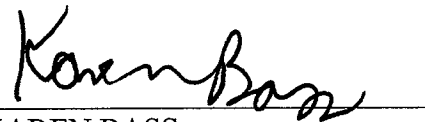
In the next few years, there will be tens of thousands more students seeking access to a CSU education – a student body served by the CSU that is predominantly low-income and reflects the diversity of our state. We urge you to support the Assembly Budget subcommittee's approved 3% base increase above the Governor's budget to help rebuild the CSU and avoid further diluting student educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

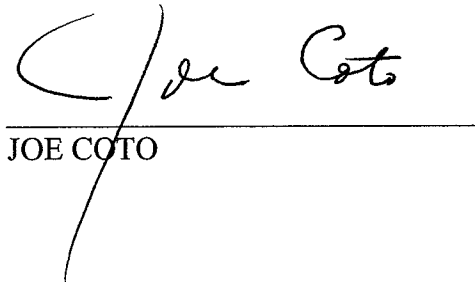

DARIO FROMMER


ALBERTO TORRICO


HECTOR DE LA TORRE


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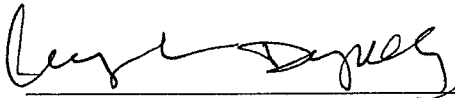

JOE COTO


CINDY MONTAÑEZ

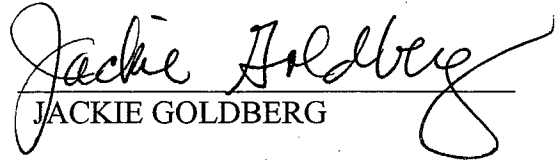

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LORI SALDAÑA



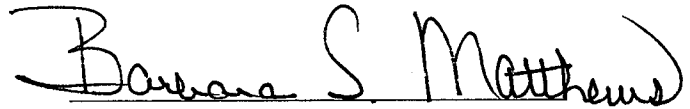
PEDRO NAVA



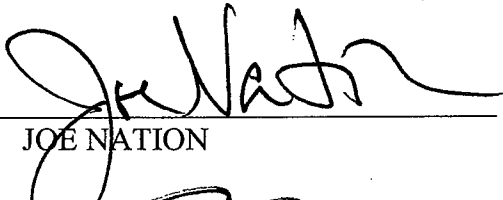
SIMÓN SALINAS



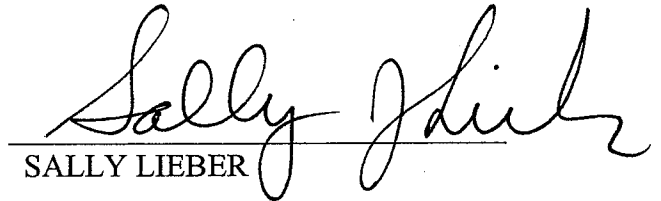
ED CHAVEZ



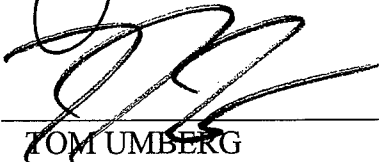
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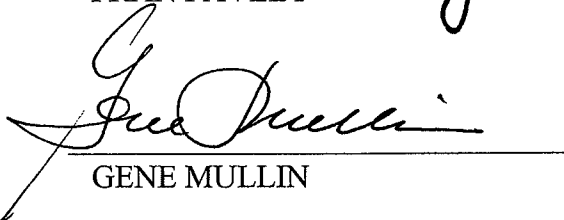
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