To: Ex Officio Trustees
    Lt. Gov Gavin Newsom
    Speaker Anthony Rendon
    State Superintendent Tom Torlakson

Appointed Trustees
    Silas Abrego
    Douglas Faigin
    Hugo Morales
    Lateefah Simon
    Maggie White

April 4, 2017

An Open Letter to Principled CSU Trustees

Dear Trustees,

We are writing to thank you for standing up for California State University students. On March 22, 2017, the Chancellor asked you to raise tuition by 5%. All of us appreciate that you voted against the increase and urged that body to chart a new course for the CSU. Your vote and your comments at the Board meeting reflected a commitment to access and equity for current and future CSU students. We are grateful your commitment to the People’s University.

While the outcome of the vote was disappointing, we want you to know that there is still an opportunity to fight against a tuition increase and we invite you to join with us, again. On April 4 and 5, faculty and students from all 23 campuses will be meeting with legislators and urging them support AB 393, which would place a moratorium on tuition increases in the CSU and community colleges for two years, until the 2019-20 academic year. At the same time, we will be vigorously advocating for an additional $182.5 million for the CSU budget, an investment we hope all Trustees and CSU leaders will be championing this spring.

Over the past 30 years, state funding for the CSU has continually fallen short of what our system needs to thrive. Moreover, as state funding has decreased over the years, our student body has become increasingly diverse. The painful truth is that California is spending less per student now, when nearly three out of four are students of color, than it did in 1985 when the majority of students were white. That disinvestment has a very concrete impact on students and their families, who find themselves paying about 4.5 times more than they would be if state investment had been stable and tuition simply kept pace with inflation.

You have taken the first step by rejecting yet another tuition increase.

We invite you to come with us this week and continue to work with us over coming months as we work to prevent more financial burdens from hitting our current and future students. We must restore our state’s commitment to the CSU, and we will fight alongside you to make this goal a reality.
The CSU is the great equalizer in our state and the means for future generations to realize their dreams. Our students will teach, design, and lead California. It is not hyperbole to say that they are our future. We must continue to fight for them to have access to quality, affordable, public higher education.

We look forward to continuing to fight the tuition increase together, and are proud to stand with you in that effort.

In Solidarity,

The Officers and Members of the California Faculty Association

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