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AUDIT COMMITTEE VOTES TO EXAMINE UC's BOOKS

Are Funds Allocated for Instruction Being Spent on Administration?

SACRAMENTO, CA - Faculty and staff from the University Council-AFT applauded today's vote by the bipartisan Joint Legislative Audit Committee to authorize the State Auditor General to examine the UC administration's books. The vote to conduct an audit comes amidst growing concern that the UC administration has not lived up to its promise last year to increase the quality of undergraduate education, including instructional excellence, as part of its agreement that gave UC predictable increases in state funding. The audit will assist the Legislature in understanding how funds are used for instruction and research compared to the University's overall growth. The committee voted to instruct the State Auditor General to examine UC's books to determine:

- How much of the public funds appropriated for undergraduate instruction are actually spent for that purpose, and how much are being spent on administrative growth?
- Are new funds allocated by the legislature to regularize Summer Sessions being used properly?
- What are the contributions of non-tenure track faculty to undergraduate education?

Current expenditure reports from the University do not allow the public or the legislature to measure whether the UC is meeting its commitments.

"Among public institutions in California, none has more disdain for public accountability than the University of California. The University will receive almost \$3.5 billion in state funds this year and almost \$2 billion specifically for instruction," said Jeremy Elkins, President of the University Council - American Federation of Teachers (California Federation of Teachers), representing lecturers and librarians throughout the statewide UC system. "The University

administration has said publicly that it is not required to spend the money it receives for the purposes it was intended. Taxpayers may be shocked to discover how money intended for instruction is actually spent. I expect that an audit will show that part of the scandal is the University's practice of exploiting non-tenure track faculty while the University diverts money intended for instruction to other purposes. It is time that the University of California was made accountable to the public it is supposed to serve. I commend Assembly member Oropeza for spearheading this important step towards legislative oversight of the public's money."

UC and the governor's office agreed last year that, in return for predictable increases in state funding for the UC, the university would be held accountable for increasing the quality of undergraduate education and maintaining the excellence of its instruction, including summer sessions. "We can't tell if the UC administration has met the goals it pledged to meet, because the way they report their expenditures doesn't answer these questions," said Mary Bergan, president of the California Federation of Teachers. "That's why the state audit is crucial."

Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza (D – Long Beach) requested the audit, saying, "In spite of the University's agreement to increase the quality of undergraduate education, one of its fastest rising costs is academic administration. We need to ensure that the University's priorities are in the right place – on educating students."

The California Federation of Teachers represents over one hundred thousand certificated and classified employees at all levels of California public education. CFT represents 4000 non-tenure track faculty and librarians at the University of California.

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