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California State Senate

SENATOR
KEVIN DE LEÓN
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR
TWENTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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AMENDMENTS
ENERGY, UTILITIES &
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GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
RULES

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RULES

March 21, 2012

California State University Board of Trustees
Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

RE: California State University Board of Trustees Vote to Increase President Salaries

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

I write to express my frustration with the Board's decision to provide pay increases for two of your top executives while the California State University (CSU) has also decided to freeze out tens of thousands of Californians from accessing your public university system.

We live in an era of budget cuts that necessitates shared sacrifice. The CSU system is not immune from our state's slow economic recovery, inflationary demands, or the need to focus on cost containment. However, even in these difficult times, the priority of CSU should always be preserving educational opportunities for its students and those that aspire to pursue higher education at one of your universities.

Your vote yesterday sent the message that you are willing to put the needs of CSU presidents above the needs of students and their families. Although the approved pay hikes are in accordance with the executive pay policy you recently adopted in January, I believe the decision was callous and oblivious to CSU's responsibility to ensure that higher education opportunities are available and affordable for low- and middle-income families across our state.

The CSU Board of Trustees should not entertain any increases in executive salaries or other compensation while there is a freeze on student enrollment. Such actions only undermine the integrity of the CSU system and the credibility of the Board.

If you would like further discussion of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 651-4022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin de León".

KEVIN DE LEÓN
Twenty-Second Senate District