Dear California Undergraduate Student,

You may have heard that UC Regents are considering raising tuition. We write to reassure you that if tuition does increase, financial aid resources are expected to increase, too.

The plan being considered by Regents is intended to provide greater long-term stability to UC’s tuition and financial aid. It aims to keep costs as low and predictable as possible while maintaining access, affordability and excellence at the university.

Specifically, the plan calls for tuition increases of up to 5 percent annually over the next five years, provided that UC receives expected levels of state support during that time. For 2015-16, that means an increase of $612 for in-state students. The increase might be less, or eliminated, if UC receives higher-than-expected levels of state support.

The plan also would continue to fund UC’s robust financial aid program, which helps 55% of California undergraduates pay no tuition at all. Even if tuition increases, students who currently have their tuition and fees fully or partially covered by grants and scholarships are expected to continue to do so, as long as their general financial circumstances don’t change.

If you are not currently a financial aid recipient, we encourage you to explore filing a 2015-16 financial aid application (FAFSA or California Dream Act Application) when it is available in January to be considered for aid.

To learn more about the Regents’ proposed plan, please visit http://budget.universityofcalifornia.edu.

Sincerely,

Diana M. Ralls
Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships
University of California, Merced

Christopher W. Carter
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