

University of California students and workers oppose the tuition hike

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A coalition of nine student groups is mobilizing to protest on Thursday a tuition hike proposed by the University of California regents.

The UC Regents -- the governing body of all 10 UCs -- is holding a vote on Thursday over whether to approve a new kind of tuition hike which has been described best as a "[forever hike](#)": after 2022, each successive freshman class attending a UC would experience up to a 6% hike in tuition. The next cohort of students would experience another hike, and so on and so forth, with no definite end.

This proposal, which comes as the state of California faces a \$76 billion budget surplus and as the national student debt sits at \$1.7 trillion, represents a drastic move in the wrong direction. Instead of supporting its student population, the UC administration is raising the costs of education.

For this reason, the proposal has come under sharp criticism in the hours since its release. The University of California chapters of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA), as well as United Auto Workers Local 2865 (UAW 2865), the labor union that represents all of the over 19,000 UC academic student employees, stand together with eight other student organizations and counting in opposition to this unwarranted and inequitable charge on education.

"Even as the university admits its most diverse class ever, it is making itself less accessible by balancing its budget on the backs of those least able to afford it," said UAW Local 2865 President Rafael Jaime.

The regents are getting ready to declare that they do not value affordability, access or diversity in California higher education. That's why we're fighting back.

California YDSA chapters and other student organizers are meeting **Thursday, July 22 at 8:00 AM** in front of the Oakland office of the Regents at **1111 Franklin Street**, where the members will hold a meeting to vote on the proposal. YDSA members will also seek to speak out against the policy during the public section portion of the meeting.

"The Regents are attempting to force through a highly controversial tuition hike in the middle of the summer, when they know student input is least likely to interfere with their plans," said Cyn Huang, who is co-chair of both National and Berkeley YDSA and a Head Steward in UAW 2865. "We reject this proposal and the vision of higher education that it represents; we'll be organizing student opposition until we have a fully-funded, democratized UC system."

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