

Senate Bill No.: 2011-12-13

Date: February 2, 2012

Authored by: A.S. President Amanda Flavin

Referred to: Committee of the Whole

Action Taken: Senate approved on 02/07/12 (votes: 13-1-6)

Subject: Resolution in Opposition to Governor’s Proposed Cuts to the Cal Grant *and Loan Forgiveness Programs*

1. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. is the official voice of students of California State University, Northridge; and
2. WHEREAS: The Associated Students, Inc. is the primary advocate for students at California State University, Northridge and provides excellent, meaningful programs and services designed to create and enhance a spirited, learning focused campus environment; and
3. WHEREAS: The Mission of the CSU is “To encourage and provide access to an excellent education to all who are prepared for and wish to participate in collegiate study.” The CSU provides access to higher educational opportunities for low-income and middle-class residents of California through reasonable fees and financial assistance; and
4. WHEREAS: Over 65,000 current CSU students rely on financial support from the Cal Grant program for the cost of student fees, textbooks, and living expenses; and
5. WHEREAS: The Governor’s 2012/13 budget proposal includes reducing access to the Cal Grant program by \$131.2 million by increasing the minimum GPA requirement for Cal Grant A from 3.0 to 3.25, Cal Grant B from 2.0 to 2.75, and Community College transfer entitlement award from 2.4 to 2.75
6. WHEREAS: The Governor’s 2012/13 budget proposal also includes a \$6.6 million reduction by eliminating new loan assumptions for the teacher and nursing loan forgiveness program; taken together in the first year of implementation this would impact approximately 26,600 students and 2,600 teachers; and
7. WHEREAS: California made a promise to its residents through the Donahue Act and later the Master Plan for Higher Education to provide, “Access to education, and the opportunity for educational success, for all qualified Californians.”

8. WHEREAS: California committed to providing affordable higher education through the development and funding of the Cal Grant program; and
9. WHEREAS: The State must provide adequate funding for the Cal Grant program in order to protect access to the CSU for students of California; and
10. WHEREAS: The Governor's proposed budget deliberately breaks promises the state made; and
11. WHEREAS: The immediacy of the implementations of the changes in the GPA requirements will lead to the inability of many California residents to access higher education; and would cause ____
12. WHEREAS: Many recipients impacted by the proposed changes to the Cal Grant program rely on receiving the Cal Grant for purposes of financial planning. Moreover the immediate implementation would cause many students who currently attend college to have to drop out and or extend their date of graduation; therefore let it be
1. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students of California State University Northridge firmly opposes the ~~cuts~~ **proposed changes** to Cal Grant program **and SNAPLE and APLE Loan Forgiveness programs**; and be it further
2. RESOLVED: That the Associated Students of California State University Northridge demands that the Governor, the Assembly, and the Senate keep the promises they made to California residents by funding the Cal Grant programs, **and by not applying changes to current recipients**, and be it further
3. RESOLVED: The Associated Students of California State University Northridge commits to lobbying through CSSA and organized student movements to protest against these policy changes; and finally let it be
4. RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution will be distributed widely, including, but not limited to the following:

Barack Obama, President, United States of America
Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California
U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid
California Student Aid Commission
Charles B. Reed, Chancellor, California State Universities (CSU)
The Board of Trustees, CSU
Dr. Harry Hellenbrand, Interim President, CSU Northridge
Lilly Vidal, Director of Financial Aid, CSU Northridge
The Daily Sundial, CSU Northridge