University of California
Student Advisor to the UC Board of Regents

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Office of the Student Regent
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1. Executive Summary

With nearly 246,000 students across the Universities of California’s ten-campus system, student representation on the Board of Regents is of the utmost importance. Currently, students, one of the largest active stakeholders within the UC, have only two representatives on the Board of Regents with a single vote; the Student Regent and Student Regent-designate, collectively referred to as Student Regents, are tasked with speaking on behalf of all of these students. As it stands, there are no mechanisms in place to ensure that the Student Regents represent the diverse viewpoints, programs of study, and backgrounds of the large student population.

Increased student representation will ensure that the Board of Regents has a greater sustained and engaged relationship with students and a more holistic understanding of issues relating to the student body. Moreover, it will improve existing relations between students and the Board of Regents by fostering a greater sense of student involvement. The Student Advisor will serve to increase dialogue among the various constituents of the University of California, without diluting the voting power of the current Regents or replacing any current positions, and will effectively inform the trajectory of decision making with a complementary perspective.

2. Proposed Power and Duties of the Student Advisor

The powers and duties of the Student Advisor are designed to supplement and not replace those of the Student Regent and Student Regent-Designate. Further, the Student Advisor should hail from a complementary educational program to that of the incoming Student Regent. The Student Advisor is charged with further representing the interests of the student body to the Board of Regents. In order to maximize the efficiency and productivity of the position, the powers and duties of the Student Advisor shall be limited to those set forth below;

- The Student Advisor to the Regents shall not be a member of the Board.
- The Student Advisor to the Regents shall not have voting powers.
- The Student Advisor to the Regents shall advise the Board on issues of concern to the student population and shall have access to only open-session Regents meetings with the power to take the floor during these sessions.
- The Student Advisor to the Regents shall serve as an advisory member on three of the Board of Regents committees, prioritizing committees on which the Student Regent or Student Regent-Designate does not serve.

3. Procedural Considerations

Eligibility to Serve

- The Student Advisor shall be enrolled as a student in good standing at a campus of the University of California for each regular academic term during his or her service as Student Advisor.
• A Student Body President, or equivalent, or a member of the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association (UCSA), shall not be eligible for appointment as a Student Advisor. Moreover, while serving on the Board, a Student Advisor shall not hold any appointed or elected student government position.
• A student who is or has served as a student advisor shall not be eligible for reappointment as a Student Advisor.

Selection Procedures
A function of the Student Advisor position shall be to represent a different demographic than is represented by the Student Regent. This shall allow for a more holistic representation of student backgrounds and ideas to the Board of Regents. The duration of the appointment of the Student Advisor shall be one academic year, beginning in July and culminating the following July. The timeline of the selection process is outlined below:

1. **November:** Release of system wide notice, including information on eligibility, the role and time commitment of the Student Advisors, the application period, as well as the selection process details.
2. **Mid November - Last Week of February:** The application period will last from mid-November through the last week of February. The Office of the President will perform an administrative review to ensure appropriate eligibility and qualifications of the applicants.
3. **March:** The Council of Presidents will read through the applications and select 10 semifinalists. Each semifinalist must then provide at least two references from University faculty or staff who are able to respond to predefined questions about the candidate's qualifications. Such references will be kept confidential by the Office of the President and must be received prior to the April interview (below).
4. **April:** UCSA will interview the semifinalists in person and agree on 2-3 finalists.
5. **May:** The President, in consultation with the Board Chair and outgoing Student Regent, will select one of the finalists to serve as the Student Advisor. The newly appointed Student Advisor will serve a one-year term beginning July 1st.
6. **July:** First committee and Regents' meetings for the newly appointed Student Advisor

4. Funding
A process for funding and a designated source of funds in the Office of the President (Student Affairs) would be required to cover the amount of anticipated annual expenditures.
• Expenses likely would include:
  o Reimbursement for the Student Advisor to travel to Regents meetings and other University events to which Regents are invited
  o University parking pass for the Student Advisor valid only at Regent meetings and events

5. Concerns with Creating the Position of Student Advisor
Adequacy of Current Communications
Although the Student Regent position is not the only means through which students can involve themselves with the governance processes of the UC – the University of California Student Association (UCSA), Student Advocates to the Regents (StARs), Committee Representatives, and Student Observers all exist for this very purpose – it is, however, the only position with the access and immediacy to key resources and decision makers necessary to effectively advocate on behalf of students.

With the limited time frame students have at the UC, it has proven to be exceptionally difficult for students to meaningfully contribute to the governance of UC and see their efforts come to fruition, in large part due to the difficulty of navigating UC bureaucracy and in learning the landscape of communication. The Student Regent position has been remarkably successful at tackling this challenge, and for this reason, the Student Advisor position borrows on many of the same structures. Furthermore, the Student Advisor’s complementary educational background will enhance the existing student representation provided by the Student Regents by sharing informed and unique insights and perspectives with the Board.

**Efficacy of the Student Advisor Position**

Since this is a new position that has yet to be tested, the program length will be initially capped at two years. Mirroring the process that took place with the creation of the Staff Advisor position in 2005 under President Dynes, the Student Advisor program will be evaluated at the conclusion of the two-year trial period. The criteria in which to develop the effectiveness and overall contribution of the Student Advisor position to the Board will be drawn from the Staff Advisor evaluation, as well as benchmarks set by the UC President, Board Chair, and collective student leadership.