
Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

August 7, 2000

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 89—Relative to the Office of Student Regent of the University of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 89, as introduced, Vasconcellos. Office of Student Regent of the University of California.

This measure would recognize, commend, and celebrate the contributions of the office of student regent of the University of California and the 25 students who have held that office and commend the University of California for its commitment to the inclusion of students as equal partners in the shared governance of the university.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In his inaugural address of 1899, President
2 Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California
3 declared that “the age of paternalism in university
4 government is well nigh past” and that administrative
5 and academic decisions “which do not in the long run
6 commend themselves to the best sense of the student
7 public are probably wrong; they will be surely in the long
8 run nugatory”; and

9 WHEREAS, The failures of university governance in
10 the 1960s demonstrated the prescience of President
11 Wheeler, who concluded that “in the internal regulation
12 of the university order there can be in the last analysis no

1 fixed boundary line between the governing and the
2 governed”; and

3 WHEREAS, Since its founding on March 23, 1868, the
4 governance of the university has been entrusted to the
5 Regents of the University of California whose
6 composition has, over the decades, been intended to
7 represent the essential constituencies of California, its
8 people, and its university; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1974, the California Legislature
10 determined that providing for appointment of a student
11 of the University of California as a full and coequal
12 member of the Regents of the University of California,
13 among other improvements, was a “meaningful and
14 necessary change in the structure of the Board of
15 Regents” that would “insure that the university will be
16 more responsive and reflective of the interests of a
17 rapidly changing California,” according to the official
18 argument favoring amendment of the state Constitution,
19 signed by President of the University of California
20 Charles J. Hitch, Senator Albert S. Rodda, and
21 Assemblyman John J. Miller; and

22 WHEREAS, On November 5, 1974, the people of the
23 State of California amended the Constitution of the State
24 of California to provide for the appointment of a student
25 of the University of California as a regent for a term of not
26 less than one year, and that this appointment be made
27 only in consultation with representatives of students of
28 the university, including officers of the student
29 governments; and

30 WHEREAS, In the twenty-five years since the voters
31 established the position, the student regent has brought
32 a unique, essential, valuable, and appropriate viewpoint
33 to the highest councils of the university, providing a new
34 level of legitimacy, accountability, and effectiveness to
35 university policymaking, and at the same time giving to
36 students, parents, and ordinary Californians the
37 confidence that a person more of their own particular
38 experiences, economic circumstances, and values is now
39 more likely to sit at the regents’ table as a full-fledged
40 member of the board; and



1 WHEREAS, Carol Mock (Santa Barbara), Daryn
2 Beringer Peeples (Berkeley), Michael Salerno (Davis),
3 Hector Cruz Lozano (Davis), Leslie Lurie (Los Angeles),
4 David Neuman (Los Angeles), Linda Rae Sabo (San
5 Diego), Richard E. Anderson (Los Angeles), Fred Gaines
6 (Berkeley), Janice Eberly (Davis), David Hoffman (Los
7 Angeles), Jacquelyn Ross (Davis), Deborah Thorpe-Rana
8 (Davis), Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr. (Berkeley), Jenny Doh
9 (Irvine), Diana Darnell (San Francisco), Alex Wong
10 (Berkeley), Darby Ann Morrisroe (Davis), Terrence
11 Wooten (Riverside), Edward P. Gomez (Riverside), Jess
12 Bravin (Berkeley), Kathryn McClymond (Santa
13 Barbara), Max Espinoza (Los Angeles), and Michelle K.
14 Pannor (Berkeley) have served successively and
15 successfully as the student regent of the University of
16 California, with the twenty-sixth student regent of the
17 University of California, Justin Fong (Los Angeles)
18 assuming office on July 1, 2000; and

19 WHEREAS, Each of these students who has served as
20 a regent has dispatched her or his duties with idealism,
21 courage, and vigor—often serving as the “conscience” of
22 the Regents of the University of California, especially in
23 matters ranging from the affordability of tuition, to the
24 ethics of university business practices, to the
25 appropriateness of divestiture of university investments
26 in an apartheid economy, even while pursuing the
27 rigorous course of study expected of all the university’s
28 students; and

29 WHEREAS, The year 2000 marks the twenty-fifth
30 anniversary of the creation of the office of the Student
31 Regent of the University of California; now, therefore, be
32 it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
34 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the
35 State of California recognize, commend, and celebrate
36 the contributions of the office of the student regent of the
37 University of California, and of the twenty-five students
38 who have held the office over its life; and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That the Legislature commend the
40 University of California for its commitment to, and



1 encourage expansion of, its policy to include students at
2 all levels as equal partners in the process of shared
3 governance of the university; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That suitably inscribed copies of this
5 resolution be provided to the regents of the university
6 and to each student who has served as a student regent.

