RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 970
WORKING FAMILIES STUDENT FEE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

WHEREAS, the Associated Students, CSUF, Inc. (ASI) is the representative voice for over 34,000 students at California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, in the last four years the California State University (CSU) system-wide fees have almost doubled from $3,048 in 2008/09 to $5,472 in 2011/12; and

WHEREAS, reductions in state support have forced the CSU Board of Trustees and the University of California (UC) Board of Regents to make retroactive fee increases, resulting in numerous breach of contract lawsuits including: Keller v. Board of Trustees, and Kashmiri v. UC Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, students and their families have struggled to afford the rapid rise and unpredictable nature of system-wide fees; and

WHEREAS, the Donahoe Higher Education Act of 1960, referred to as the California Master Plan for Higher Education, which promises a “tuition free” education, has been ignored in recent years; and

WHEREAS, since the Maddy-Dills Act was allowed to sunset, the state has not had a policy guiding the raising of system-wide student fees at the UC and CSU leaving students vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, the California State Student Association is the officially recognized voice of the 412,000 students of the CSU system; and

WHEREAS, the California State Student Association is helping to shape, sponsor, support and advocate for Assembly Bill 970 (AB 970), the Working Families Student Fee Transparency and Accountability Act, by Assemblymember Fong; and

WHEREAS, unlike system-wide fees, campus policies exists that guide adjustments made to campus based mandatory fees that include student consultation and notification; and

WHEREAS, AB 970 re-establishes a process for setting system-wide fees absent in state policy; and

WHEREAS, AB 970 mandates student consultation with the recognized statewide student association prior to publicly noticing a proposed increase in system-wide fees; and

WHEREAS, AB 970 requires a public comment period on any proposed system-wide fee increase in which the Board of Trustees and Board of Regents encourage, solicit and receive public comments on the proposed fee increase, making them more responsive and responsible to the public; and

WHEREAS, AB 970 requires a 6-month waiting period prior to fee implementation, providing students and families time to gather the resources necessary to pay for the cost of education; and

WHEREAS, AB 970 codifies existing policy that no less than 33% of student fee revenue shall be set aside of student fee revenue for institutional financial aid; and

WHEREAS, AB 970 requires the UC and CSU to submit expenditures for revenue derived from fees to the Legislative Analyst in order to justify any fee increases and prevent fees from being raised more than they absolutely need to be; and
WHEREAS, should there be an immediate need to raise fees on behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Legislature may circumvent the process outlined in AB 970 and raise fees themselves, putting pressure and public attention on the Legislature; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ASI Board of Directors support AB 970 and urges its passage through the State Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ASI Board of Directors support further state-wide discussion addressing what costs should be borne by students and their families for in-class instruction, as stated in the Donahoe Higher Education Act of 1960, compared to current costs incurred by students and their families for in-class instruction; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed widely to the California State Student Association, Assemblymember Chris Norby, Assemblymember Donald Wagner, Assemblymember Jose Solorio, Assemblymember Allan Monsoor, Assemblymember Jeff Miller, Assemblymember Paul Fong, the Speaker of the Assembly John A. Perez, Senator Lou Correa, Senator Tom Harman, Senator Mimi Walters, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, and Governor Jerry Brown.

Adopted by the ASI Board of Directors on the sixth day of December, two thousand and eleven

Christopher Labrot
ASI Secretary/Treasurer  Eric Niu  Jessie Frietze
ASI President & CEO  ASI Chief Governmental Officer