January 25, 2009

Michael Goldstein, Chair
UCLA Academic Senate

Re: UC Financial Aid Proposal for The Regents

Dear Academic Senate Chair Goldstein:

At its January 16, 2009 meeting, the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools (CUARS) considered the UC Financial Aid Proposed Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, as requested by University of California President Yudof. The proposed plan was endorsed unanimously by CUARS with 8 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The student vote was 2 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The members applauded the President’s commitment to preserving accessibility to UC and to better market the value of UC’s current financial aid programs. The CUARS student members noted, in particular, that the transparency of the proposed Financial Aid program will help potential students in understanding the Financial Aid support that would be available to them, and assist them in weighing and understanding their options. This information would help students make more informed decisions about their educational careers and the accessibility of a UC education.

The committee appreciates the additional gift assistance the proposed plan will afford to an estimated 1,100 undergraduates. The hope was expressed that the additional support will appeal to underrepresented minority students and persuade them to consider a UC education as a viable option.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me (x 5-1778; sharpe@ucla.edu) or Judith Lacertosa, CUARS Principal Policy Analyst (x51194; jlacertosa@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Jenny Sharpe, Chair, CUARS

cc: Jaime Balboa, CAO, Academic Senate
    Judith Lacertosa, Principal Policy Analyst
    Dorothy Ayers, Assistant to Senate Leadership & CAO