



FROM STUDENTS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

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With Moratorium on Tuition Increases Almost Over, CSU Students Plan Day of Action Demanding No More Fee Increases and Return to CA Master Plan

NEWS FROM STUDENTS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

Students in the Cal State system Plan May 2nd “Reclaim the CSU” Day of Action, in Opposition to Proposed Tuition Increases and as Part of Larger Student Movement for Free Higher Education

Students throughout the CSU system are planning a day of action on May 2nd to “Reclaim the CSU,” with actions at Chico State, San Francisco State, CSU Stanislaus, Cal Poly SLO, and CSULA. Students are speaking out as part of a growing student movement in the U.S., opposing not only recently proposed tuition increases but advocating for a return to the CA Master Plan and its promise of tuition-free higher education for all.

Students for Quality Education (SQE) has been fighting since 2007 for an affordable, accessible, quality CSU, and against the trends of privatization and de-funding of public higher education. After a decade of drastic tuition increases (283% between 2001 and 2011), extensive student organizing led to limited state reinvestment in the CSU and a 4-year freeze on tuition increases. With this freeze about to end, the CSU Board of Trustees has recommended in their recent “financial sustainability report” that tuition start increasing annually, based on inflation. This recommendation comes despite the fact that tuition has skyrocketed far beyond inflation since 2000, so much so that many students can no longer afford to attend a CSU. Today a student has to work 758 hours at minimum wage to cover tuition and fees for a year, compared to 320 hours in 2000.

Marcos Zepeda, a student at Chico State, said:

"We demand that the CSU invests in its students. As the system of public higher education of such a diverse, wealthy state, it is outrageous that the CSU operates like a corporation and has become less and less accessible over recent years to Californians of all backgrounds. We students demand the democratization of the CSU and transparency of its operation. On May 2, we will continue to voice our demands and fight for the reinstatement of the once revolutionary, and still very attainable, vision that is the Master Plan for Higher Education"

Students are tired of paying more for lower quality education. They are calling not only for a continued tuition freeze immediately and free higher education in the long term, but for a complete shift in the CSU priorities: a reinvestment and expansion of ethnic studies, the hiring of more tenure-track faculty members and fewer administrators, and more transparency and student voices in the governance of the CSU.

Keli McHugh, a student at San Francisco State, said:

"I'm going to be part of this May Day Action because I want to help more individuals have access to higher education. We all should have the option to start our future without drowning in debt."

More information about the events on each campus will be shared next week. Please go to CSUSQE.ORG for more information about Students for Quality Education and the movement for affordable, accessible, quality higher education.