

**MEDIA ADVISORY FROM STUDENTS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION**

For Immediate Release: January 27, 2017

**CSU Students Plan “#FreeTheCSU” Days of Action: SQE Demands No More Fee Increases and a CSU That Protects All Students**

California — Students throughout the CSU system are ready to #FreeTheCSU on Jan. 31-Feb. 1, and will be demonstrating at the CSU Board of Trustees in Long Beach, as well as at Chico State, CSU East Bay, Fresno State, Sonoma State, CSU Fullerton, and CSU San Bernardino.

They are speaking out as part of a growing student movement in the U.S. These events will oppose the 5% tuition increase being discussed by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 31 and Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Given the current political climate of the nation we feel the need to address and advocate for a CSU free of debt, deportation, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, racism, and fear. In addition, we are fighting for a return to the CA Master Plan and its promise of tuition-free higher education for all.

The events next week, planned by Students for Quality Education (SQE) and other campus-based student groups, are targeting Chancellor White, campus presidents, and Governor Brown. Students demand a fully funded CSU and that CSU administrators reverse privatizing trends and make affordability for students a priority once again.

**Jan. 31 Events:**

***Long Beach, CA:*** Tuesday, Jan. 31 @ 9:30 am PST

401 Golden Shore, Long Beach, CA 90802

Contact: Michelle Aranda, (626) 322-8975

Students from many CSU campuses will be present at the Board of Trustees meeting, where students will be speaking and demonstrating inside the meeting against a possible tuition increase.

***Fullerton, CA*:** Tuesday, Jan. 31 @ 10 am PST

CSU Fullerton, Humanities Quad

Contact: Ashley Rojo, (562)-233-4183

SQE and fellow CSUF students activists are staging a walkout (10:15am) and rally (10:45am) on Tuesday, January 31. We are against the tuition increase, demand a fully funded CSU, and want to ensure the safety of our students and protect education from the newly appointed presidential administration.

**Feb. 1 Events:**

***Chico, CA:*** Wednesday, February 1 @ 12:30 pm PST

Chico State, Trinity Commons

Contact: Radhika Kataria, (510) 363-4241

Chico State students will hold a rally and forum to discuss the proposed tuition increase and what it will take to protect all students from bigotry and hate. They will march from the Trinity Commons to the campus president’s office.

***East Bay, CA:*** Wednesday, Feb. 1 @ 3 pm PST

CSU East Bay, In front of Recreation and Wellness Center (RAW)

Contact: Isaiah Avila De La Cruz, (209)-534-7418

***Sonoma, CA*:** Wednesday, Feb. 1 @ 11 am PST

Sonoma State, Stevenson Hall Courtyard

Contact: Briana Rodriguez, (925)-727-4720

Sonoma State students will hold a rally and forum in the Stevenson Hall Courtyard, followed by a banner drop to oppose the proposed tuition increase.

***Fresno, CA:***Wednesday, Feb. 1 @ 12:30 pm

Fresno State, Engineering East (EE) Building 190

Contact: Sam Retton, (559)-232-3452

Fresno State students will hold a teach-in about the state of public higher education in California, the steady decline in CSU funding, and the proposed tuition increase. They will take action by sending personal messages to Governor Brown.

***San Bernardino, CA:*** Wednesday, Feb.1 @ 11 am PST

CSU San Bernardino, outside SBSCI Building

Contact: Andrew Crampton, (951)-966-5735

SQE members from multiple campuses will have a meet and greet to talk to CSUSB students about the tuition increase and other issues in the CSU, and will discuss how students can make our voices heard.

**BACKGROUND:**

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. Today a student has to work 682 hours at minimum wage to cover tuition and fees for a year, compared to 320 hours in 2000.

As a student led four-year tuition freeze has come to an end, Chancellor Timothy White will be discussing a 5% tuition increase in order to fund the Board of Trustees graduation initiative (GI 2025); during the next Board of Trustees Meeting on January 31st and February 1st.

Students are already suffering from homelessness, food insecurity, and fair access and affordability to their higher education. Tuition increases are not an option, as students and members of SQE are advocating. The group is set to holds multiple actions throughout various CSU campuses and during the Board of Trustees meeting. They are calling for a movement that demands a CSU free of attacks on higher education. Students deserve free and quality higher education throughout California.

To learn more: <http://csusqe.org/>

***ABOUT STUDENTS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION:*** *SQE is a statewide student organization, fighting for affordable, accessible, quality education for all. SQE was founded by students in the CSU system in 2007, and since then SQE has fought to oppose student fees, preserve ethnic studies, and reclaim the governance of the CSU for students, faculty and staff. SQE recognizes that faculty working conditions are student learning conditions.*