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**FACULTY FIGHT CRISIS AT UC BERKELEY--  
STATE AND ADMIN POLICIES UNDERMINE ACCESS &  
EXCELLENCE**

In the week of September 21-25, there will be a series of events at Berkeley and other University of California campuses, in direct response to recent budget decisions by the UC administration. At Berkeley, the union-led walk-out and a series of faculty-led teach-ins will focus on educating the campus community and the public about the current crisis facing the University, and on solidarity among faculty, staff and students.

Recently, the *Washington Monthly* awarded the University of California, Berkeley the #1 position in three categories: educating students from poor/working class backgrounds, outstanding research, and public service. Also recently, decisions by the California Regents and the University of California Office of the President threaten to destroy what is largely agreed to be the premier public research university in the world. As these fee increases, faculty furloughs, staff cuts and program reductions play out, the student body will become privatized, many of the most stellar faculty may leave for greener pastures and better compensation, and both the access to and the excellence of this great institution will be diminished.

Ironically, access and excellence are the twin themes of Chancellor Birgeneau's formal address of one year ago, and the current rhetoric supporting privatization strategies directly undermines Berkeley's long history of public education at the highest level. Berkeley is a public institution not only by virtue of its financial structure, but also because of the University's larger mission, which integrates intellectual and service agendas in the arenas of poverty programs, agricultural and ecological initiatives, public health and global service. Berkeley students become the professionals that combine ambition with ethical judgment, and recognize that the vision of the future is as important to consider as the immediate problems of the present.

A primary threat to Berkeley's public mission is the proposed, drastic increases in student fees-- 30% over the next year—which will place an unfair and untenable 'tax on parents'. Meanwhile, the continuation of minority rule in the California legislature, the infamous 'Proposition 13', protects the wealthier citizens of the state from contributing their fair share to public coffers that in turn support the university. As a result, the proportion of in-state students will quickly diminish, and Berkeley for all intents and purposes will become, like some of other formerly public universities, a private institution. We will have shut out the children of middle-class and

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lower income California parents who cannot bear the burden of these high tuition rates, the very people who this university was put in place to serve.

Berkeley's world-class status as a research institution is also threatened, as the administration develops a vocabulary of corporate rhetoric that separates education from research, and defines the teaching mission through such quantifiable phrases "instructional days" and "educational delivery systems." Missing is the acknowledgement of the intrinsic link between teaching and research, as Berkeley faculty bring their late-breaking and often ground-breaking intellectual discoveries into undergraduate lecture hall, the graduate seminar room, and the laboratory. These students then go on to become the next generation of educators, researchers, business developers and public servants. They are the promise of a California rich in ideas, values, compassion and innovation.

Berkeley faculty have formed the organization SAVE, to fight current threats to the public, teaching and research aspects of Berkeley. They maintain that to endanger the open access to public education is to endanger our future—economically, environmentally and ethically. They challenge the administration's claim that budget cuts at the State level and the minority-run legislature leave them no choice. Save calls attention to what they feel are the current, misguided spending priorities:

- huge and unnecessary growth in administrators with exorbitant salaries and bonuses
- millions of dollars in student fees used to support the losses piled up by intercollegiate athletics.
- profits made in certain nonacademic units of the university which are not used to support the university's academic needs.
- donation priorities going for nonacademic projects.
- lack of transparency on what money there is in the university and how it can be used.
- Unfair staff layoffs and faculty furloughs (essentially pay reductions).

SAVE proposes the following actions:

- Pressure the administration to fully disclose the budgetary situation, both current and planned.
- Educate parents and alumni about the situation, and encouraging them to regularly lobby the governor and legislature to support a 2010 ballot measure to return majority rule to the legislature.
- Convene a team of faculty experts from different and appropriate fields to gather a record of, and re-examine the wisdom of, all budget cuts with academic effects.
- Insist upon effective faculty representation to the 'Gould Commission on the Future of the University,' and a revision to the Gould Commission charge to reflect faculty and student concerns.