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**STATEMENT FROM THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION
& ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER ALBERTO TORRICO
ON STUDENT FEE INCREASE**

SACRAMENTO - Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico and California Faculty Association President Lillian Taiz issued this statement following the California State University Board of Trustees' approval today of a 10 percent increase in student fees.

"The Board of Trustees' action today shows an increasing dependency on annual, double digit student fee hikes to cover for declining state support. It is a dependency that must be broken to maintain access and affordability for students.

"Student fees have climbed more than 100 percent in less than a decade. This is the seventh increase in eight years for students. Despite a study showing every dollar invested into higher education returns \$4.41 to the California economy, students are carrying a heavier load when it comes to financing our universities.

"We must break the cycle of declining state support and rising student fees to keep the promise of access and affordability as spelled out in the Master Plan for Higher Education. That is why we are partnering on Assembly Bill 656, which would generate \$1 billion a year, all for higher education, by placing a tax on oil companies.

"Texas has supported its education programs with a similar tax since the 1800s. When oil companies are experiencing record profits and students and faculties are facing larger class sizes, declining course offerings and aging equipment and facilities, it makes sense to use a small portion of revenue derived from oil companies to assist California's higher education system.

"Californians understand how important our public universities and colleges are to our state's economic vitality. Keeping the doors to higher ed open to the next generation of teachers, nurses, engineers and other professionals is the only way to ensure that California possesses the high-quality, skilled workforce it needs to compete in a global economy."

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