

March 1st 2012 National Day of Action for Education

February 23, 2012

This letter is being sent to all active and emeriti faculty members of the UCSC Academic Senate.

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SCFA Website:
www.ucscfa.org

**OCCUPY
EDUCATION MARCH
1ST AND 5TH
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**Keep California's
Promise**

TEACH THE BUDGET

**Teaching the Budget is
a Good Idea!**

**How to Host a Trained
Class Presenter to Teach
the Curriculum**

Mobilization for Public Education in California

A major mobilization is coming up March 1-5, 2012 to put pressure on the Governor and legislature to renew support for public education in California. It includes a variety of marches, rallies and other activities around the state, peaking with a big show of protest on the Capitol grounds in Sacramento on Monday, March 5th.

The Council of U.C. Faculty Associations and most of the UC Faculty Associations have endorsed the statewide protests, which are organized by the ReFund California Coalition and Occupy Education California. AAUP, California Faculty Association Chapters, the Faculty Association of Community Colleges, and the American Federation of Teachers have also endorsed March 1 as a day of action to "Occupy Education."

Please check out the links to the left if you would like more information about the state fiscal crisis, what can be done to solve it, and the movement for refunding the state budget and supporting public education.

From the Executive Board of the SCFA

In addition ...

1. Join the demonstration at the Capitol on Monday, March 5th (morning).

There are buses going from Berkeley (and other points) and coming back. You may sign up and encourage staff and students to do so at: <http://www.refundcalifornia.org/march5>.

2. We have included a letter below from the Faculty Organizing Group (FOG) in Support of the March 1 and March 5 Protests. You may sign on to this statement by contacting Deborah Rosenberg at rosenberg@cuca.org.

3. FYI: Letter from UCSC's General Assembly to the Campus Community. You may sign up for a space at the Tent University at an address that appears in the text below.

Faculty Letter in Support of March 1 and 5 Protests

The past six months have brought increased awareness about growing inequalities and the capture of public resources by a small minority of private individuals and interests. Protests on

our own campuses at the University of California have joined the global and national movements against these inequalities. We call for the UC to re-affirm its commitment to serve the public good, to reset its priorities to put students first, to reverse the growth in administration and foster instruction and research, and, by taking all of these actions, to restore its role as the university of the people of California. We call on the State of California to fully fund the California Master Plan.

We are in solidarity with the non-violent protest called by the UCSC General Assembly starting March. We will not penalize students who are engaged in this civic work. Many of us will join in the actions, and we encourage our fellow faculty to support the March 1st and 5th days of actions in whatever ways they can.

LETTER FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY:

A democratic assembly of UC Santa Cruz students, workers and community members has decided on a strike to **shut down the campus on Thursday, March 1**. Save for emergency vehicles, residents of campus, and other necessary exceptions, we will block all traffic from entrance onto campus.

We act because the UC Regents who control our university system are continuing to push drastic increases to the cost of higher education and decreases in the number of California students with access to the UC. On that same day, we will put forward a Tent University, an alternative vision of education to counter that advanced by the UC Regents and similar elites. The Tent University will be an open setting at the base of campus for students, teachers, community members, and any other interested parties to teach seminars or workshops. All interested in teaching can contact organizers about scheduling and space by email (tentucsc@gmail.com) or on the strike website:

<http://march1strikeucsc.org/> The day will, of course, also have food, music, and activities throughout.

These events on our campus are to be part of two statewide days of action, March 1 and 5, across California public education. **On Monday, March 5, Santa Cruz students will travel to the state capitol to rally with peers** from other University of California and California State University campuses, community colleges, and K-12 schools.

The Teach the Budget campaign has volunteers available to teach ten- to twenty-minute presentations in your lectures or discussion sections about the budget crisis and the drastic de-funding of public education in California. You can access the form to request presenters, and the curriculum itself, on the Teach the Budget website:

<http://teachthebudget.com/the-2011-curriculum/>

We especially invite faculty to join the Tent University and teach lectures, workshops, or exhibitions or hold regularly scheduled lectures at the base of campus. Again, information on participating in the Tent University, and on the days of action, will be available at: <http://march1strikeucsc.org/> UCSC students greatly appreciate your support in this struggle. The budget crisis impacts us all, and we hope to encourage a community-wide discussion on these issues and the very real threats they pose to our university and society.

Thank you for your time and your support. Save public education!



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