



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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September 20, 2006

CHANCELLORS  
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS

Dear Colleagues:

With the November 7<sup>th</sup> General Election rapidly approaching, we are writing you to underscore the importance of our working together to increase the number of registered student voters.

As you know, the University is under both federal and State legislative mandates to maximize opportunities for students to register to vote. UC campuses already have a very good record of doing so, through the combined efforts of faculty, administrators, student governments, and other student organizations.

Given the critical importance of voter registration to a healthy democracy, I am confident we can do even better. To that end, as President of the University of California, I am officially declaring the week of October 16-23, 2006 (the last full week it is possible to register before the State voter registration cut off date of October 23) as *UC Student Voter Registration Week*. Our hope is that this action will help bring the programs, events, and other activities you already have planned into even sharper focus, and further serve to stimulate the creation of new initiatives.

The UCSA has adopted student voter registration and education as one of its three highest priorities for 2006-07, and they are to be commended for their commitment to the University of California and the citizens of this state in so doing. The UCSA, working in tandem with its member campus governments, campus life administrators, and campus faculty over the coming weeks, would like to register 26,000 new student voters, to educate 50,000 students about the candidates and issues through distribution of non-partisan voter education materials, and to increase student voter turnout at the polls by 10 percent over the student turnout for the 2002 General Election. To meet these goals, the UCSA and its member student governments have a full program of nonpartisan campus voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities planned, culminating during the weeks of October 16-23 and November 1-7. We would like to ask for the full cooperation and support of campuses in these largely student-government-initiated efforts wherever possible.

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To assist in these endeavors, the Office of the President will be issuing shortly a separate letter to campuses clarifying that the official nonpartisan student voter registration activities of student governments and other official units of the University should not be considered to be commercial or noncommercial solicitation--a type of activity that, as you know, is subject to special restrictions under both University and campus policy. This clarification of existing policy will pave the way for individual campuses, on an elective basis, to consider allowing official University student voter registration activities, under the direct supervision of student government or other official University units, to take place in non-public campus areas such as dining commons and residence halls. Student governments have found this type of activity to be a particularly effective means of increasing the number of students who are registered to vote.

Finally, in line with the UCSA's voter education and voter turnout goals, we would like to remind you of the importance of also initiating and supporting efforts to ensure that our students, once registered, have opportunities to be educationally informed about the candidates and issues through access to nonpartisan voter guides, public forums and the like; and are further encouraged to go to the polls and vote on Election Day.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Dynes  
President  
University of California



Bill Shiebler  
President  
University of California Student  
Association

cc: Provost Hume  
Executive Vice President Darling  
Interim Vice Provost Justus  
Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs  
UCSA Executive Board