

California Senate Education Committee | June 28, 2023

Testimony Presented by James Steintrager, Academic Senate Vice Chair, University of California

- Thank you, Chair Newman, members of the Education Committee, and staff for this opportunity to speak with you.
- My name is James Steintrager. I am a faculty member at UC Irvine and vice chair of the Academic Senate, representing faculty from all ten UC campuses. By delegation of the UC Regents, the Academic Senate establishes admission standards for the University of California. The UC Academic Senate respectfully opposes Assembly Bill 1749.
- **ADTs will increase time to degree.** ADTs are made up of two components: general education and CSU major preparation capped at 60 units.
- For STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines, the ADT structure does not prepare students to transfer to UC with coursework they need to perform at a junior level. There are **no** Engineering ADTs for this reason. Many STEM students will need at least three years post-transfer to complete their UC degrees if they come with an ADT alone. When underprepared ADT transfer students take longer than 2 years to finish, this reduces UC capacity for admitting new students.
- Other ADT earners are harmed for the opposite reason: UC-bound students must take courses they do not need for their major, leaving them with **excess course credits**.
- **These factors will also increase student education costs.**
- **Finally, AB 1749 will harm UC's ability to admit students representative of the State of California.** UC uses comprehensive review for admissions. However, the legislation mandates an admission guarantee dependent on GPA alone. Student GPA strongly correlates with family income and quality of high school education opportunities.
- The legislation also privileges students who live close to a given UC. For example, a student who lives close to UCLA will be prioritized over one who does not.
- UC shares your goals and is committed to making transfer work. We have proposed a systemwide transfer admission guarantee based on our UC Transfer Pathways model and specifically tailored to ensure student success at UC.