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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative to the Regents  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

November 22, 2019

**JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Support for the Fair Pay to Play Act**

Dear Janet,

As you know, Governor Newsom signed the California Senate Bill 206 – the Fair Pay to Play Act – in September 2019. At its November 20, 2019 meeting, the Academic Council unanimously endorsed the attached statement in support of the Fair Pay to Play Act. The Act allows student athletes to earn income from endorsements and the commercial use of their name, image, and likeness, without losing eligibility for competitions or scholarships.

We ask University leadership to stand with the Council in support of the bill. We are aware it will take three years to implement, and we look forward to engaging with the Administration as it makes plans to implement the legislation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kum-Kum Bhavnani".

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair  
Academic Council

Encl.

cc: Academic Council  
Senate Directors

**STATEMENT OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL ON  
SENATE BILL 206: FAIR PAY TO PLAY ACT  
November 2019**

The Academic Council, the governing body of the University of California's Academic Senate, strongly supports California Senate Bill 206, the Fair Pay to Play Act, and urges President Napolitano and the University of California to join us in articulating the significant social-justice dimensions of this legislation. The goal of this legislation is to protect and to advance the rights and well-being of college students who participate in athletics. This goal includes financial reform efforts that will enable athletes to monetize the use of their names, images, and likenesses. We stand with our intercollegiate athletes at the University of California and firmly believe that they should have the same rights as all other college students who, like all citizens in California, enjoy basic economic freedom. At its core, this is a civil rights issue, and the time is long overdue for fairness, equity, and justice for college students involved in intercollegiate athletics. As this bill moves toward implementation in 2023, we expect that the University will work with the Academic Council and with the relevant Senate committees in the spirit of shared governance to create policies that will not only ensure legal compliance but that will also respect the underlying goal of securing equitable treatment for our college athletes.

**Background**

On September 27, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 206, Fair Pay to Play Act, co-sponsored by state Senator Nancy Skinner and Senator Steve Bradford. SB 206 makes California the first state to allow college athletes to receive compensation for their name, image, and likeness. The full text of the bill can be found here:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB206](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB206)