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April 16, 2012

The Honorable Mark Leno  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Leno:

Pursuant to Section 10803 of the Education Code, I am pleased to enclose the University of California's report to the Legislature on *Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier*.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President Debora Obley would be pleased to speak with you. She can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9112, or by email at [Debora.Obley@ucop.edu](mailto:Debora.Obley@ucop.edu).

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark G. Yudof".

Mark G. Yudof  
President

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Gregory Schmidt, Secretary of the Senate  
Ms. Jody Martin, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Ms. Tina McGree, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Mr. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Ms. Diane Anderson, Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Provost and Executive Vice President Lawrence Pitts  
Vice Provost Russell Rumberger  
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Dan Dooley  
Vice President Patrick Lenz  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez  
Associate Vice President Debora Obley  
Executive Director Jenny Kao  
Director Kathleen Dettman

**2011 Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier**

April 2012  
Legislative Report



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### 2011 Unique Statewide Pupil Identifier

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 10803 of the Education Code, which states:

“10803. (a) The Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University shall each establish a process by which colleges and universities within those systems issue, maintain, and report information using the unique statewide pupil identifiers specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (e) of Section 60900.

(b) Annually, on or before April 1, the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University shall provide a progress report to the Governor and the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature. The report shall include a detailed timeline for the implementation, maintenance, and use of the unique statewide pupil identifiers pursuant to subdivision (a).”

This document is the annual report responding to this legislative request.

I. Background

The move to adopt a unique Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) paves the way for longitudinally-linked student-level data. The ability for the University of California (UC) to more accurately track students over time will prove an invaluable tool for assessing student progress in relation to academic preparation, participation in special programs, as well as campus outreach efforts. In addition, the SSID will facilitate a more comprehensive assessment of graduation and retention rates as students move across segments, as well as employment trends (for graduates and non-graduates alike). In the absence of such an identifier (or a reliable SSN) UC has relied on the use of “fuzzy matches”, which use a combination of information about a student to uniquely identify them.

II. Identifiers

UC began collection of the SSID on the Undergraduate Application beginning with the Fall 2007 admission cycle (November 2006). The SSID has been kept as an optional item on the application as many of UC applicants are not from California. Since the 2007-08 academic year, the SSID has been routinely pulled into the UC Corporate Student System from the application database. Including the 2011 admissions cycle underway, UC now has data for five entering cohorts. Each year approximately 70% of California applicants report their SSID, however no validation is applied since no validating source is available. Reports from our call center lead us to believe that California students are generally unaware of their SSID or where to find it. Given that the reporting rate is low and we have not validated the self-reported SSID, we have not yet used this information in any formal way and are still relying on historical methodologies for uniquely identifying students.

In addition, the University of California's State Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) programs have a data collection system that allows for SSID's to be collected, stored, and used in the analysis of student outcomes. Yet SSID's are not currently routinely collected because many of our programs do not have access to this information, which is typically self-reported. As with admissions, a vast majority of students are not aware of their SSIDs when participating in UC programs. UC's Education Partnerships (EP) also accesses SSID data stored in the UC Corporate Student System, when available. We are prepared to more fully utilize the SSID in our programs, policy and outcomes evaluations once the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (Cal-Pads) is fully developed and the data becomes more robust and reliable.

A. Detailed timeline for the implementation, maintenance, and use of the unique statewide pupil identifiers:

As stated above, the SSID has already been incorporated into UC student data systems and can now be tracked over time. Usefulness of the SSID is currently limited until such time as the data is more accurately reported by K-12 schools and more readily available in electronic form. UC is participating in efforts to facilitate the sharing of student data between the three public segments of higher education (University of California, California State Universities, and California Community Colleges) and K-12 institutions (California Department of Education - CDE). The goal is to directly match UC and CDE student data, providing a way to validate self-reported SSID. Access to CDE student SSID data will also provide UC a means for deriving an SSID for those who did not provide this information on their undergraduate applications. Attaining this goal continues to be dependent on getting SSID included on all student high school transcripts, ideally electronic submission of all such transcripts (eTran), and provision of a comprehensive dataset of valid SSID's matched with student name and high school from CDE (so data received can be validated).

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