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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

EVP Allbright Announces Senate Webcam; Steps Made to Improve Transparency and Accessibility of ASUC

Berkeley — ASUC Executive Vice President Taylor Allbright announced that students could now watch proceedings in the Senate Chambers through the new Senate Webcam. A number of steps have been made this year to improve connectivity between students and the ASUC Senate by utilizing available technologies.

“After several months of putting the pieces left by previous administrations back together, I am happy to announce that my office has finally been able to restore the functionality of the Webcam in the Senate Chambers,” said Allbright.

The webcam, which came at no new cost to students because it had been dysfunctional for nearly two years, is accessible online to students at <http://senate.asuc.org/>.

At the same website, whoever is chairing a Senate meeting can post up-to-the-minute information regarding the current status of Senate proceedings so that students waiting for a particular bill or speaker to appear have a sense of when to arrive at the Chambers. “The webcam will increase student accessibility to



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the ASUC because the inconvenience students and student groups often face while waiting for their bills to come up, sometimes for several hours, can be frustrating and overwhelming," explained Allbright. "Now, anybody waiting for a bill can watch from home, a café, or the library while following developments by checking the new website."

The new webcam comes just one month after the new ASUC Elected Officials Blog, which was inaugurated on Feb 8, 2008 in a post by Allbright that described the blog as "an exciting opportunity for communication among elected officials and the broader student body."

The blog, which all Senators and Executives have the ability to post on, is meant to encourage Senators to publicly express their views in a way that allows engagement with the student body as well as the general public. It can be viewed at <http://blogs.asuc.org/>.

For the future, Allbright said that she planned to have a live audio feed connected to the webcam so that students could listen in on Senate proceedings away from campus. "We are always excited to hear suggestions from the student body as to how we can improve the ASUC using the technology at our disposal," said Allbright.