There are calls from many groups to raise taxes under the impression that higher taxes will solve the current budget situation. Will this solve the problem or exacerbate it? Currently, there is some tinkering around the fiscal edges with things such as oil extraction taxes and higher taxes on cigarettes, but these alone will not solve the systemic problems we face. The current tax system in California needs reform...badly. Simply raising taxes is not the answer. Revenues are far too volatile. Politicians are too quick to spend when times are good and too slow or powerless to cut at times like now. The personal income tax, property taxes and sales taxes all need a hard look. This will not solve the current budget shortfall, but it should lead to longer-term stability in California revenues. Be sure to attend the January CUC breakfast as Dr. Michael Moore’s will discuss the current California tax system and its weaknesses, examine the merits or problems with current tax proposals, and outline the barriers to passing meaningful tax reform.

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With an Update on the 2012 State Budget and its impact on UCR, student tuition rates, and the UCR School of Medicine.

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