



JOINT STATEMENT

June 17, 2019

JOINT STATEMENT ON CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT FROM THE STUDENT GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)

To the USC and UCLA communities:

Regarding three cases of former USC Student Health Center doctors George Tyndall and Dennis Kelly¹ and the former UCLA Arthur Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center obstetrician-gynecologist James Mason Heaps², the USC Undergraduate Student Government (USG), UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC), USC Graduate Student Government (GSG), and UCLA Graduate Students Association (GSA) jointly condemn the voiced deplorable actions of these individuals, as well as the lack of accountability, proactive response, and transparency from our universities.

USG, USAC, GSG, and GSA, who collectively represent over 93,000 students in Los Angeles County, stand in solidarity with the hundreds of individuals who allege sexual harassment and battery against these three former student health center doctors, among other incidents across campus.

While we recognize past efforts to improve our student health systems, as well as litigation to indemnify victims, we request that -- outside of any court proceedings -- relevant administrative units continue to review health system policies and make changes that will better ensure patient safety. As we approach a new school year, both institutions have an extraordinary opportunity to rethink health approaches and reshape workplace culture. They also have a necessary obligation to protect the integrity, well-being, and safety of all students; we call for this to be the top priority for all campus departments at USC and UCLA.

As student governments for the 2019-2020 school year, we unequivocally reaffirm our full support to work with the relevant parties to better ensure the safety of students, including outside of student health centers, and will continue our efforts in improving campus climate³.

Respectfully,

USC USG Executive Cabinet
USC GSG Executive Board

UCLA USAC
UCLA GSA

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¹ <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2019/04/22/new-allegations-against-former-usc-doctors/>

² <https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-edu-ucla-heaps-sexual-misconduct-20190615-story.html>

³ Please see previous publications from USG, USAC, GSG, and GSA regarding campus sexual assault.