

MINUTES  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
Ackerman Grand Ballroom  
November 8, 2014  
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Avinoam Baral, Conrad Contreras, Manjot Singh, Sofia Moreno Haq, Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed, Fabienne Roth, Allyson Bach, Greg Kalfayan, Cynthia Wong, Irmay Garcia, Carlos Quintanilla, Heather Rosen, Savannah Badalich, Cindy Wang

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

I. Call to Order

II. A. Approval of the Agenda

-Baral added a New Business Item and explained that the meeting will be approval of the Minutes, Special Presentations, New Business, Office and Member, and Fund allocations

-Sadhegi-Movahed moves to add new business item council vacancy before public comment.

-Rosen moves to approve the agenda as amended. Wong seconds.

12-0-0 the agenda is approved.

-Baral says he will be leading the conversation. Devin Murphy resigned November 15, Friday and according to the constitutional byalws the internal vice president takes the position immediately. So his former position has a vacancy and wants to discuss his plans for IVP vacancy and wants input.

-Contreras states that before we talk about IVP vacancy we should talk about transparency about how a position assumes presidency and thinks that as a council they should talk about because it happened over the weekend. According to the constituon the composition of council will be decided by council and this warrants a discussion in terms of IVP ascending to presidency right away, not something that could be automatic.

-Baral states the constituoin directly says after the vacancy of a midpoint of a term the internal vice president gets it immediately there is no consent of council or anything like that mentioned so at this point the former internal president is now the president.

-Sadeghi-Movahed wanted to discuss the transparency of the transition and assumption of office since according to the constitution its councils responsibility to decide the midpoint so upon the ascension of office without consulting council there was a lack of transparency and it was apparently worked out with admin and would have appreciated a more transparent means and open up a discussion regarding the midpoint. According to student government office, each council member was in stated as an employee of ASUCLA in June 1<sup>st</sup>. The oath of office was in May but the pay period started June 1<sup>st</sup>. She doesn't feel comfortable not having this discussion and the president's role is so vital to USAC. Not having students to choose their own president makes her uncomfortable despite the vacancy amendment. We need to have a discussion on the midpoint in general and thought it was questionable that the assumption came over the resignation and it was a shocking transition.

-Rosen thanks Sadeghi-Movahed for sharing her concerns. She states that we didn't take this position for pay, we did it to make a difference. She assumed her role on May as financial supports commissioner and that would be the midsection after Devon's resignation.

-Bach states to speak on the urgency on why Baral assumed it because the resignation took place right before a vital resolution and the leadership is needed. We need someone to take the role of president and nothing has gone against the bylaws. She's in full of support of the ascension of office and agrees there should be a discussion but the urgency of the resolution requires leadership.

-Contreras agrees there's a sense of urgency and appreciates Baral taking the role but we need to know the difference between a chair of the council and a president. He agrees we aren't here to get paid but June 1<sup>st</sup> is when we gained access to everything and got into our offices. We need to think about the start of our term as June 1<sup>st</sup> and evaluate the midpoint from there. To be solution oriented there needs to be something in the constitution that defines the midpoint. Right now we have to discuss what a midpoint is, this is a student run government and as council we should recognize the midpoint.

-Bach respects Contreras but truly believes there isn't anything that went against the constitution and assumed the role of president. Just because we sworn in on the first meeting we voted on to contingency and started allocating money for contingency. The June is just for administrative purchases. From my understanding that's when council started. If you want proof you can look back at the minutes.

-Singh states there's a difference between actual power and figurative power. Literally the actual power is when we're paid to be on council that's our job and run an office, and we are literally paid to be on council and does think that's the midpoint on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

-Baral wants to move the conversation forward and be frank, this decision and wants to be solution oriented. As the chief executive of the council I made a decision, and the decision is that I assume presidency. In my position, the decision is done and there's one recourse which is judicial board filing. In this stage that's what the constitution says and I follow the constitution. In respect to everyone whose here and moving forward, we move forward talking about IVP vacancy and take the oath of office and then move on to public comment.

-Roth states there's a discussion that has to be had at the council table and this is something that should be resolved and be comfortable with who is president and thinks that this is supposed to be discussed and doesn't want to disrespect anyone's time.

-Singh states article 2 section b subsection 3 in the constitution shall approve the membership so it says in the constitution we should

-Contreras moves to recognize the midpoint as December 1 and our start as June 1<sup>st</sup>

-Baral states you can't have motions it's a discussion item

-Badalich asks administration about the differences between May and June

-Champawat states the cases have been laid out well and think it revolves around taking the oath and primarily revolves around the stipend and isn't sure what other clarification is appropriate for meeting and it's something that you should grapple with. The constitution is not any clearer than that and oath and votes are not meaningless. He's not sure what there is to add.

- Zimmerman says the only difference is office access. Right when you got to office you receive ability to gain access and some students requested that they have arbitrary time for them to get out of the office before new members are sworn in.
- Wong states that given we took the oath on May 13<sup>th</sup> we should stick with that as the beginning of our term and if we want a productive conversation we should talk about the vacancy of IVP.
- Rosen says she started her platforms and her job when she took oath. Patty just said it was for administrative purposes.
- Bach states if we conclude that it started June 1<sup>st</sup> what happens to the groups for contingency when we allocated money?
- Wang says according to bylaws it had to be voted by council and since you voted on May 13<sup>th</sup> and you are the council that voted
- Roth asks if anyone knows when we got signatory powers
- Champawat states once youre sworn in to a meeting those votes have authority.
- Singh asks if we have to vote on it to make this an action item.
- Baral states if you want to make an action item it has to be a 2/3 vote
- Singh moves to make council vacancy an action item. Sadeghi-Movahed seconds. 7 people raised. Motion fails, it remains a discussion item.

### III. Oath of Office

-I Avinoam Baral do solemnly swear, that I will to the best of my ability support the constitution and the bylaws of the undergraduate student association of UCLA and that I will to the best of the ability promote, maintain, worth, and extend value and name of the University of California.

### III. Approval of the Minutes from November 12, 2014

-Wong moves to approve the minutes. Badalich seconds.  
12-0-0 the minutes are approved.

### III. Public Comments

-Baral tells everyone to be in respect for each other and we should all take that very seriously. All of you have had your bruin cards checked at the door and part of the UCLA community, theres only audio for public comment. When you sign up there are no substitutions. Maria and Nicole are here from CAPS if anything triggers you he encourages you to talk about them. There will be a 2 minute limit and please don't make him pound the gavel, he wants to be respectful and will politely ask you to stop public comment.

-Esteemed USAC council, my name is Amber Latif and I'm speaking on behalf of MSA. We ask for your support in divestment because we can no longer afford to stand idly by as our endowment continues to swell with stained money from this corrupt system. This resolution calls for the withdrawal of our investments from companies that have been proven to strip people of their born rights as well as the establishment of oversight and transparency concerning the investments that WE collectively fund. UCLA fosters the future leaders of our country and we have an obligation to be righteous in our actions.

We came to UCLA because we felt it would be the best way to prepare ourselves to make history, and the time has come. We have done our part, and now, USAC, we hand you the reins. I look forward to the moment that I can look my Palestinian classmates in the eyes knowing I'm no longer responsible for the crimes taken against their families. It is now in your hands to decide whether or not today will be that day.

I'm sure all of us in this room can agree that we do not want to profit from human rights violations, and that is exactly what this resolution seeks to address. We ask that you vote to divest from these companies because no human life is more valuable than another, because as a public institution we should be undertaking MORAL investments, and because we deserve oversight as to how our money is being used. I urge you to vote to pass this resolution, for a vote of no will only succeed in exhibiting bystanderism and silencing YOUR Palestinian classmates. A vote of no will equal many things, but it will not in any way contribute to a safer campus climate. Fighting anti-semitism or hatred towards ANY group is admirable but continuing our involvement in human rights violations is not. And as our student representatives, we ask that you put ALL students first, not just some. ALL students first, including the 32 student groups endorsing this bill, standing together, united, in solidarity, for justice. So I urge you, council members, to do the right thing. Vote to pass this resolution, and vote to stand by us on the right side of history. Thank you.

-Good evening, my name is Jacob Manheim and I am the president of Jewish Voice for Peace at UCLA. JVP proudly co-sponsors this resolution to divest from companies engaged in violence against Palestinians. Given USAC's platform and power to advocate for positive change, I and the other progressive Jews on campus would like to thank you for providing the opportunity for this forum.

There are some who claim that divestment threatens campus climate. But a climate that is too delicate to challenge the status quo and provide for open discourse on issues such as our complicity in human rights violations is a climate that needs to be challenged. In fact, such a climate perpetuates existing systems of unequal privilege and oppression.

There are also some who argue that divestment targets a particular community. JVP at UCLA adamantly rejects this assertion, which claims that supporting equal rights for Palestinians is inherently anti-Semitic. We find it appalling when the historical persecution of the Jewish people is appropriated to justify state-sanctioned and internationally recognized human rights violations against Palestinians.

As students, how can we allow ourselves to profit from the oppression of families of our fellow Bruins?

Voting for divestment does not mean that you are choosing a side; voting for divestment does not mean that you are pro-Israel or pro-Palestinian or for any political group for that matter. Rather divestment removes our financial endorsement of all sides, and is the most neutral position that council can take. We at JVP call on our student leaders to pass the divestment resolution and send a message to the Regents that UCLA students should not have to choose between going to school and funding companies that direct violence their communities back

home.

Good evening everyone,

My name Janetta Osborne. I am currently the vice chair of the Afrikan student union. I am also the chair of BlaQue, which is an organization that seeks to uplift those of Afrikan descent, but specifically from a lgbt-queer position. So in that I am also here on behalf of the queer alliance.

Now, I must say that I feel it is extremely important that as UCLA students we embrace diversity.

Every individual regardless of background has a different perspective to bring to the table and therefore a different knowledge to add to our educational experience. We need to learn from each other, instead of resisting each other

With that being said, I Have made an active decision to learn about the Partition Plan in 1947, and about our Palestinian peoples who have been facing oppression, colonialism, and dehumanization for over 60 years.

So, As a an Afrikan, Black, and gender Queer identified individual, I understand first hand what it feels like to have my ideas, view points and life experiences completely undermined by oppressive systems of power that function within social, political, and educational institutions.

To this day my communities have faced historical institutionalized oppression and racism. Police brutality and violence. Resulting in community marginalization and the improper address of our needs as underrepresented communities within the university of California educational system.

Therefore, I insure you that the illegal occupation in Palestine goes against human rights. And as bruins I feel it is our duty to collectively divest from companies engaged in violence against Palestinians." Injustice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere," mlk. remember that!

Also I feel it is out-of-pocket that we only have thirty individuals speaking on the issue.

Hi everyone, my name is Sarah and I'm the external vice president for MSA, one of the proud co-sponsors of this resolution. From a point of moral consistency, I urge you do vote yes. Let me elaborate -

We do so much work here at UCLA to alleviate homelessness. We should maintain moral consistency and not enable homelessness abroad either. This past summer alone, over 500,000 Palestinians were displaced and over 180,000 were left homeless due to attacks carried out by the companies that we are invested in.

We do so much work here at UCLA around community health programs and the only way to maintain moral consistency is to divest from these corporations so that we're not making money off of the hospitals being bombed and the people being injured in Palestine.

We do so much amazing work here to fight stigma around mental health. 900,000 Palestinian children are in need of psychiatric help and it would only be morally consistent with our efforts here to divest from companies that perpetuate the conditions that cause such deep, and often irreversible psychological trauma in an entire population.

Moral consistency is simple. Either everyone has a right to livelihood or no one does. Either everyone has human rights or no one does. There is no Palestinian exception to moral consistency.

Dear council, Martin Luther King once said that there will come a time when silence is betrayal. Now is that time, this is that moment. We can no longer turn our backs on this issue and say it doesn't affect us - we all know it does, else there wouldn't be this many of us united here tonight in support of the bill. I urge you, respected council members, to take the vote you know you will be proud of when Palestinians are free. Stop our complicity, vote yes.

My name is Kristine de los Santos. I am a second year undergrad and the Administrative Coordinator for Samahang Pilipino. I am here speaking as an ally in support of Divestment on behalf of Samahang Pilipino, the official voice for Pilipino's on this campus.

The fact that we as Bruins are complicit in occupation through investment has already been established. And if it has not been established, let me make it clear: WE, as BRUINS, through NOT divesting from COMPANIES complicit in human rights abuses, are violating internationally proclaimed human rights.

We, as Pilipinos, are allies in support of divestment because we understand and defy the effects of feeling unsafe in one's own country. The Philippines has a long history of American occupation spanning over a hundred years, a part of which saw conditions like those in Palestine today. The American occupation has led Filipinos to look for jobs elsewhere.

With that in mind, currently our community has a presence of 36,000 Overseas Filipino Workers in Israel who are experiencing similar struggles to those immigrants here in the U.S.--abuse by employers, human trafficking, discrimination and degradation, among others. Add to that the trauma that Filipinos experience being caught in the conflict. We refuse to be complicit in the destruction and endangerment of not just Palestinians and Israelis, but Filipino migrant workers in the occupied regions as well. Right now, our student fees and our community is invested in these companies. We are involuntarily complicit in the oppression of our Pilipino community and that of our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

With that being said, this divestment is NOT strictly an Israeli-Palestinian conflict; it is a human conflict. It is a human conflict that affects communities alongside Palestinians, such as Pilipinos. It is a human conflict that is being funded by our students, making this an issue that puts STUDENTS FIRST.

It is a human conflict which Alumni from the original STUDENTS FIRST! coalition would challenge by supporting Divestment.

Also, s/o to our Pilipino EVP for legitimately putting all students first and organizing the Fund the UC action today.

Our investment in these American companies is a human conflict that forces us to fund oppression and the loss of life--lives of the families of the students that USAC COUNCIL

is accountable to. The power and privilege you have as USAC Council is to attain this single, REALISTIC goal of divestment. We must be thorough in our beliefs and act to support human rights.

Samahang Pilipino at UCLA supports Students for Justice in Palestine in its efforts to divest from companies that continue to contribute to human rights violations. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian community and the growing number of Pilipinos supporting the Palestinian community across the country

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I'm Todd Lu, a second year Political Science student and Research Coordinator of the Student Collective Against Labor Exploitation. What unites us as a collective against labor exploitation, and for divestment, is not an identity we were born with, but our commitment to stand in solidarity with the oppressed, and a will to fight on behalf of a class that is globally trampled by imperialism and settler colonialism.

In the past summer we have already seen during the fifty day attack on Gaza of the deaths of over 2,000 Palestinians civilians, one in four of whom were children. The same US companies who sold the missiles, bombs, and aircraft that the Israeli military used are the same companies that our university invests our public money into.

If you do not allow us to divest, if you make sure that the only legal way for anybody to get access to a UC education is through funding oppression, you would have evidently failed to put students first. Rather, what you would have put first is a system in which shareholders, CEOs, and their friends the UC Regents, take our tuition money and use it to invest in multinational companies profiting from the military occupation of the Palestinians. To the UC Regents, the profits of Caterpillar and Raytheon, generated from human rights abuses, are more important than the voices of hundreds of united students.

We believe that the UC system is inherently integrated into the global economy such that although not every student thinks Palestinian self-determination matters, all students are complicit in funding Palestinian repression. Currently the US stands as one of the few states that actively defends the system that oppresses the Palestinian people, but by voting to divest from US companies that profit from the occupation, we students actively take part in the narrative that will change US foreign policy, and by extension dismantle this very strong political barrier to Palestinian self-determination.

-LAUSD is officially teaching ethnic studies

-This week and next week Bruin Feminists are hosting a personal hygiene drive and this is a public health issue.

-Theres a vigil for the 43 mexican students Thursday at 5 in front of Powell. We should stand against any state that kills citizens.

-Baral closes the public comment at 8:56.

-Badalich moves for a 10 minute recess. Sadeghi-Movahed seconds.

12-0-0 theres a 10 minute recess and will resume at 9:07.

## V. Special Presentations

### A. Vote Yes on the Resolution (Safwan Hamdi)

-Rasha Hawdler plays a video of 2 palestinian students describing what its like to be Palestinian and stop the occupation of palestine. They have a powerpoint on end complicity in human rights abuses. Because of the attacks on Gaza this summer, enabled by arms manufactures that our university invests in, divestment has never been more urgent. It is time we end our complicity in violence. They show a before and after image of the University in Gaza amd hospitals destroyed. According to the UN over 9,000 children require psychological help. Palestinians suffer violence. How are we connected? Our funds are invested in these companies in human rights violations, weapons manufactures, and corporations that enable occupation of the west bank. We never gave consent! No student should be forced to endorse occupation, forced to invest in weapons, forced in destruction of homes. So council knowing what you know now about human rights violations, raise your hand if you want to stay invested in companies that profit from human rights violations. No student feels comfortable knowing their funding violence against Palestinians. If you vote yes on divestment you are supporting basic human rights for all people, taking back your voice, you are choosing people over profits. If you vote no, you are choosing to remain invested in human rights violations and silencing thousands of students. Our campaign has been student organized, student funded, student run and resolution process had feedback form and townhall, input from all sides of the issue, and endorsed by dozens of communities, organizations, and faculty. Do the right thin! #ucladivest

## B. Vote No on the Resolution (Eytan Davidowits)

-They represent organized Israel and pro-Israel and they explain why they are against the resolution. USAC is focused on issues that focus on majority and tonight we're focusing on a region 5,000 miles away instead of focusing our effort on near issues such as the tuition increase. Tonight we are focusing on polarizing special issues and creating an impossible solution and marginalizing one group. The regents have explicitly stated they will not divest. We have collected over 2,000 students from UCLA undergraduate students, some numbers that believed that USAC should focus on some efforts. There are large groups across cultural and political groups who don't approve making time for BDS. Make no mistake, we the leaders of the Jewish community want to voice our strong objections but will not subject our marginalization. We have shown this for thousands of students on not productive dialogue on a tiny fraction of the UCLA community. Please join us as we take a positive step forward and create a platform. We will invest in a campaign for joint Israeli-Palestine groups and humanize these protesters work living on both sides of the Gulf in the Middle East with clean water. This campaign will prove the situation without alienating. We ask that you stop further polarizing and stop allowing USAC to be a circus with marginal political causes. At what point can we take a stance and put aside the hate and do away with making students feel unwelcome. We will make every effort that next year's council has students first. Imagine a world on how the Israeli-Palestine was resolved and the first collaborative solution and united we can create something revolutionary. Let's start here and let's start now.

## X. New Business

A. A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians  
A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians

Sponsored by: Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed, Conrad Contreras, Manjot Singh

Student group co-sponsors: Students for Justice in Palestine, American Indian Students Association, Bengali Students Association, Bruin Feminists for Equality, IDEAS (Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success), Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project, Jewish Voice for Peace, Muslim Students Association, Queer Alliance, Samahang Pilipino, Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation, UMMA Volunteer Project, United Arab Society

WHEREAS, in September 2014, the University of California signed onto the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses"

WHEREAS, the University of California remains invested in companies that do not meet the standards endorsed by the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment;

WHEREAS, investment in companies engaged in violence against others is harmful to students at UCLA who are affected by such violence;

WHEREAS, UC students did not give consent to invest in companies engaged in violence against<sup>1</sup>, which include guidelines stating that “businesses should<sup>2</sup>;  
;

WHEREAS, UC students have used and continue to use divestment agency and to change UC policies that maintain investments in companies that demonstrate a lack of accountability, ethicality, and respect for the rights and dignity of others, most notably in the context of South Africa

WHEREAS, the following illustrative and non-exhaustive list of companies in which the University of California invests

WHEREAS, Boeing, Caterpillar, Cement Roadstone Holdings, Cemex, General Dynamics, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and United Technologies have violated the universal right “to life, liberty, and security of person;” “to education;” to “privacy, family [and] home;” “to own property, and ...[not to] be arbitrarily deprived of property”

WHEREAS, Caterpillar has violated these rights by continually providing engineering tools and bulldozers routinely used in the demolition of Palestinian homes, refugee camps, water cisterns, and

agricultural fields in the West Bank and Gaza settlements and to construct the Separation Wall and checkpoints throughout the West Bank have been ruled to be in violation of international law in the International Court of Justice’s 2004

#### Advisory Opinion

WHEREAS, by providing cement and other building materials, Cement Roadstone Holdings (CRH) has contributed to the construction of military checkpoints, the Separation Wall, and illegal settlements within the occupied Palestinian territory<sup>4</sup> and most recently in the context of fossil fuels<sup>7</sup> profit from and enable human rights abuses and violence;<sup>9-10</sup>, and by providing bulldozers used to expand illegal<sup>11</sup>;  
;<sup>12</sup>

; WHEREAS, Cemex also owns and operates manufacturing plants in illegal West Bank settlements, exploiting Palestinian natural resources in violation of international law

WHEREAS, CRH and Cemex have supplied building materials used to build illegal settlements, the Separation Wall, and checkpoints within the occupied Palestinian territory

WHEREAS, Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) has provided biometric identification systems used at Israeli military checkpoints, which restrict the freedom of movement of Palestinians, facilitate discrimination against Palestinians, and reinforce a stratification of citizenship

WHEREAS, HP profits from global mass incarceration and provides prisoner data systems for the United States Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs (ICE) Law Enforcement Support Center

WHEREAS, corporations that the University of California invests in, including Boeing<sup>18</sup> Dynamics Technologies <sup>24</sup> Gaza Strip

WHEREAS, having documented serious violations of human rights and possible war crimes Amnesty International other parties to cease the transfer or sale of arms that would likely be used in the further commission of human rights violations, specifically referencing corporations in which the University of California currently invests

WHEREAS, investment in these companies shows implicit support for the decisions and actions of these companies, as well as their consequences, which include the killings of civilians;

WHEREAS, the consequences of these companies' actions also affect the UCLA community directly, including students whose families experience occupation, systematic discrimination, death, injury, and other forms of human rights violations;

WHEREAS, the only way to achieve financial neutrality in such situations is to end our investment in and implicit support for such companies through divestment;

WHEREAS, this resolution aims neither to condemn a country, a people, or a community nor to determine a political solution, but is solely aimed at ending our University's support of companies that enable human rights violations;

WHEREAS, support for human rights and opposition to investments in companies engaged in violence are principles that have the power to unite members of the UCLA community;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California to withdraw investments in securities, endowments, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments with holdings in the aforementioned companies, at such time and in such manner as fund trustees may determine; and that the University of California maintain the withdrawal of investments, in accordance with trustees' fiduciary duty, until <sup>13</sup>; <sup>14</sup>; <sup>15</sup>; <sup>16</sup>; <sup>17</sup>, General<sup>22</sup>, and United, General Electric<sup>23</sup>, have provided weapons used in attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in the<sup>19</sup> Lockheed Martin <sup>20</sup>, Northrop Grumman <sup>21</sup> Raytheon <sup>25</sup>, both<sup>26</sup> and Human Rights Watch<sup>27</sup> called upon the United States government and<sup>24</sup>; these companies are no longer engaged in the violation of human

rights and other behavior that fail to adhere to the University of California-endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that if it is found that UCLA funds are being invested in any of the above mentioned companies, the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon UCLA to divest all stocks and securities of such companies, at such time and in such manner as fund trustees may determine, and maintain divestment from said companies, in accordance with the fund trustees' fiduciary duty, until they meet the University of California-endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon UCLA and the UCLA Foundation, in accordance with fund trustees' fiduciary duties, to refrain from making further investments, and to advocate that the

University of California not make further investments, in any companies engaged in the violation of human rights or other behavior that fails to adhere to the University of California-endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California to establish a means of implementing greater student oversight of the University's investments;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that in addition to divestment, the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California to invest in and support ventures in Israel and Palestine that promote human rights and justice, and that do not contribute to the oppression of any group;

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that we, the students, call upon our university to dissociate itself from companies that engage or aid in systematic prejudiced oppression, whether this system targets people based on their religion, nationality, gender, race or orientation, by divesting from companies that participate in or profit from human rights violations.

[1] UC joins UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment

[2] Principles for Responsible Investment Annual Report 2014 Principles for Responsible Investment: What is

Responsible Investment?, and The UN Global Compact's Ten Principles

[3] Divesting is the process of selling an asset, done for either financial or social goals.

[4] UCLA African Studies Center “Remembering Nelson Mandela,” a reflection on divestment and The Student

Anti-Apartheid Newsletter: Special Report on University of California Divestment Action

[5] A Resolution In Support of Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies

[6] A Resolution to Divest Undergraduate Students Association Council and UC Los Angeles Finances from

Corporations Profiting from the Prison Industrial Complex

[7] UC Retirement Portfolio holdings include investments in Caterpillar, Cement Roadstone Holdings, Cemex, General

Electric, Hewlett-Packard, and Lockheed Martin. UC General Endowment Portfolio holdings include investments in

Cement Roadstone Holdings, Cemex, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, and Lockheed Martin. Both portfolios include

investments in the Russell 3000 Index, which includes Boeing, Caterpillar, General Dynamics, General Electric,

Hewlett-Packard, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and United Technologies.

[8] The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

[9] Human Rights Watch’s “Razing Rafah: Mass Home Demolitions in the Gaza Strip,” cites Caterpillar’s violations

[10] Amnesty International report “Israel and the Occupied Territories: Under the Rubble: House Demolition and

Destruction of Land and Property,” citing how Caterpillar bulldozers are used to violate human rights.

[11]

International Court of Justice: Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian

Territory (9 July 2004)

[12] See Project Clean Hands' report on Cement Roadstone Holdings, Who Profits report on Cement Roadstone

Holdings

[13] Who Profits report on Cemex

[14] See 13, and New England United Methodist Church reports on said companies and documentation on said

companies

[15] Who Profits' report on HP's involvement in settlements and occupation infrastructure

[16] Global Exchange's report on HP includes information on services to domestic prison and immigration systems

[17] See Boeing's report on its weapons sales and specifically, its sales of AH-64 Apache helicopters, F-15E Strike

Eagle fighter jets, F-16 missiles, and AGM-114 Hellfire missiles.

[18] See the AFSC's report on arms sales to Israel, citing General Dynamics sale of weapons used in attacks on civilians.

[19] General Electric's sale of engines for Boeing's AH-64 Apache helicopters, and engines for Blackhawk helicopters.

[20] Lockheed Martin supplies Israel with F-16 fighter jets and missiles, Longbow Hellfire missiles (with Northrop

Grumman) and AH-64 Apache Longbow helicopter parts.

[21] See Northrop Grumman's sales of missile systems, gunships, and services for F-16 fighter jets.

[22] See documentation of Raytheon's arms transfers, including missiles and bombs used in human rights violations.

[23] United Technologies renders services to the Israeli military through its aviation subsidiaries, Pratt and Whitney and

Sikorsky, which manufacture engines used in F-15s and F-16s, and Blackhawk helicopters, respectively.

[24] Amnesty International's report "Fuelling Conflict: Foreign Arms Supplies to Israel/Gaza", details arms sales made

by Boeing, General Electric, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon.

[25] See: Amnesty International's "Operation 'Cast Lead': 22 Days of Death and Destruction", and Human Rights

Watch's "Israel: In-Depth Look at Gaza School Attacks", and "Gaza: Airstrikes Violated Laws of War"

[26] Amnesty International letter to Congress calling for arms embargo; Amnesty International: UN must impose arms

embargo and mandate an international investigation as civilian death toll rises; Amnesty International: "The United

States is Not Just a Bystander in Israel-Gaza Violence"; Amnesty International: "Stop US shipment of fuel to Israel's

armed forces as evidence of Gaza war crimes mounts"

[27] Human Rights Watch: Unlawful Israeli Airstrikes Kill Civilians, and Israeli Soldiers Shoot and Kill Fleeing Civilians

-Sadeghi-Movahed mentions a few other co-sponsors to give more clarity to how much solidarity there is, ASU, Fossil Fuel of UCLA, and MeCha are also cosponsoring.

-Baral states for council members there is discussion over general language of the resolution and if you want to make change you can ask for a friendly amendment in which the authors can accept and its automatically added to the text or you can ask for a nonfriendly amendment and its subject to a vote by the council. He now wants to start the conversation and maybe go around on who wants to say what and we can address them as they come up.

-Sadeghi-Movahed says since we have had this resolution for a while and for those who are leaning towards voting no and want them to describe amendments for them to vote yes on it and consensus building is more important.

-Rosen states first of all wants to recognize in the resolution it says our tuition is being used in these companies but on July 28. 2014 Daily Bruin actually wrote down a pie chart of exactly where your money is going as a student. \$4,023 is going to financial aid, 1,300 is going to UCSHIP, \$512 is going to wooden and government, \$486 is going to miscellaneous fees and \$320 is going through educational fee and exactly where your money is going as students and is clearly broken down and google daily bruin pi chart. As the financial supports commission and felt the need to look up the financial information about funding for investment and passed around copies for each council member. As you can see on this paper it actually says specific countries the University of

California is invested in such as Lithuania, Croatia, South Africa, Hungary, Poland, Brazil, Argentina, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Egypt, Russia, and Vietnam and we are directly invested in and I put Israel on the list. We are not directly invested in the Israeli government and if you look at this information. In the first column is the freedom score on numerical value of civil liberties and political rights and 1 is the best and 7 is the worst. At the top its USA, Chile where as near the bottom its Kazakhstan and Vietnam at 5.6. In the next column over and look at congress democracy score based on numerical factors and electoric process and political culture and civil liberties with a numerical value and the highest is the most democratic. Whereas you have Vietnam and Kazakhstan and 2.95. This is the specific amount of money in each country. Rosen also has a list of socially irresponsible and printed out select countries. Rosen really appreciates talking about human rights violations and as student government we do pay attention. What she's questioning why are we diverting our attention to Israel with indirect investments versus human violations directly and its important we talk about ethical investments. We should think about the differences between corporations and government. She understands the prerogative of the resolution and the student groups pushing forward and increases understanding as student groups, we are USAC and we are capable of representing all undergraduates. This isn't to invalidate and these are two different issues of student groups and USAC. She wants to bring about the list and there are other real life issues of human right violations.

-Roth thanks Rosen for putting it together and understands the countries that we're invested in but this resolution is talking about American countries and not governments. Its really interesting to see but its not relevant to this resolution. In addition, if you are personally being affected then bring forward your own resolution. If we recognize there is an issue with the investments that we have in these companies and suggesting other things that are worst, I don't understand. So we shouldn't divest from these companies because theres worse things happening?

-Contreras really appreciates the research, I did my research too and can actually talk about why tuition is going to these companies. The way investments work that funds from all UCs are funneled into the regents in stocks and bonds. Returns from these investments are then funneled back to UC's. When we pay our tuition it goes to the UC regents and in general sense its to the pot and that's where the endowment comes in from investments and makes difference between operations. It's our money, our funds, whether its tuition or endowments.

-Singh just wants to reiterate we aren't talking about Israeli government we are talking about companies that affect Palestinian students. We should also be productive about the resolution and talk about it instead of other things.

-Sadeghi-Movahed says as an Iranian woman from a government that's doing human rights violations and if I found out theres companies in iran that were profiting over human rights violations would definitely bring up a divestment resolution and stay morally consistent. We should divest from everything and especially because Armenian Stdent Association talks about divestment from Turkey. For us to stay morally consistent that this is the time to divest. In all the literature you've given us and all these breakdown, what amendment would you be proposing to incorporate what you've just given us to our divestment resolution and want to know what I can change for her to feel more comfortable to vote yes?

-Bach has no amendments and wants to move forward. For a while she's been going back and forth and we've known for a while that this was coming to council. She really wants to represent the 2000 students opposed to it too and see the implications of just voting yes or no. It was a concern brought to them personally and a concern with what happened in Berkeley. There's a greater implication to this resolution before we vote on it.

-Garcia thanks Rosen and wants to bring it back to the resolution and the fifth whereas really encompasses what we should do with these countries. It's very evident that this resolution is talking about companies rather than divesting from countries. She really doesn't know how transparent the process is with the students first. Maybe those all 2000 are going against divestment but from what I've heard it wasn't a transparent process and they were just doing the paperwork.

-Badalich respects what Bach is saying but also wants to pay special attention that we have 32 student groups that have created this solidarity movement behind the resolution. It's not just the fact it's this many people in the room. Not just that, the fact they represent many students from these groups. Secondly with the students first verbiage there is a lot happening on our campus like sexual assault and tuition reform. We do have issues that relate to students first and I'm advocating for them. She doesn't see them as mutually exclusive they are going over each other.

-Contreras respects Bach but you brought the issue about being divisive and there are people that disagree with it. It's about taking a stance about what's right. I'm not a politician I'm an advocate and politicians take stances and see problems in the country. Think about the right things. Just because there's an issue, is it too controversial? Take a stance. I'm not here as a politician and I'm always going to represent all students by representing underrepresented students. We all need to think about progress and where that's come from. Affirmative action used to be divisive. There's a majority of people who don't think affirmative action is needed. We need to take our privilege as a council talking about the lives of people and we're worried about divisive issues. We really need to take a stance.

-Garcia states we have to implore the regents because students have power. If we're going to be fighting the tuition hike and you're saying we have the power to do that, why don't we have the power to divest from these companies? I don't think what we do has to be solely on this campus but it should be about what is affecting on the campus. We will work on those issues that happen on campus and we work on those everyday. We don't need to limit ourselves.

-Rosen states that Roth we should not value one life over another and I completely agree. Why are we isolating the lives that are happening in Israel. Additionally, Sadeghi-Movahed we should develop a more holistic resolution that encompasses all these companies. Contreras, you stated we should stand up for what's right and I completely agree, that's why we should include these companies. There are over 1000 student groups that exist and they didn't come because they didn't feel safe here.

-Roth states in response to Rosen, if we include these human rights violations in these companies and then other countries, would that then pass? Then surely you're admitting that we should be divesting from these companies and adding more of these countries doesn't dismiss from that fact. Roth agrees it can start a wider conversation on where our money goes in light of the tuition increase and council can come together to gather the students voice and mobilize to hold them accountable and doesn't take away from this

resolution right now for those who don't feel comfortable of their money going to human rights violations.

-Sadeghi-Movahed states that the first five whereas clauses define that the university of California does not meet the standards of the UN. There are whereas clauses in here that specifically says UC is invested across the board in human right violations. We are not trying to vindicate any specific entity, and I'm going to ask you again if you want to propose any amendments to the resolution that would indicate any sort of concrete wording to what you're saying regarding even more in every part of the world. If we're invested then that's our responsibility. If that's what you want to do I am willing to craft an amendment to move forward. At this point it's become so circular. We need to move forward from this conversation and add these amendments so it can be as strong and as holistic as possible to be productive.

-Garcia has a question about being holistic. I know we're all student leaders, did you go to the townhall to propose these suggestions? We can work together to ensure everyone feels comfortable. Obviously this took a lot of time.

-Moreno Haq says she will reiterate. WHEREAS, this resolution aims neither to condemn a country, a people, or a community nor to determine a political solution, but is solely aimed at ending our University's support of companies that enable human rights violations. We can do both. If they don't feel safe and then us as a council didn't do our job if they didn't feel safe. We have such a diverse group of students and we must embrace this. If this is a diverse community right here we are acknowledging it. If underrepresented ideas aren't represented then we lack diversity.

-Bach has no amendments for this resolution because perception becomes reality when we vote on this resolution. We have known about this resolution for a long time and read about it for the time it is presented and discuss it within the next 5 minutes. Through my discussions prior was able to understand the personal humanistic aspects. I am grappling with the issue and I'm not trying to silence. This is what we're voting on it. I'm sorry it doesn't matter what title you put and the title affects certain students on campus. The Pro-Israel students feel as if they're bringing concerns and students did come. This isn't an easy thing to grapple but doesn't want to silence the other student groups which is why it deserves a long discussion.

-Badalich agrees that it should be a long discussion because that's not what we did last year and it was a failure of last council. First off, with the concerns about safety that you and Rosen brought up why didn't you bring that up when we talked about the safety. I understand that last year it wasn't a safe space, but there was an intentional protest of not coming here. These students still came out despite not feeling safe not knowing what to expect. If you vote yes on this perception will be one way but if you vote no the perception will be on Palestinian students. You need to look at the language. I understand there's certain points but if you're not aiding in constructive criticism going forward then this is going back and forth. I think we should be talking but it should be constructive.

-Rosen states Bruin for Israel came up to her and spoke out in regards and understand we have the townhall. It's important that you directly email and spoke to members. Additionally if you want to talk about the language, the title A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians seems to be BDS. She wants to rename it to A Resolution to Divest from Companies and Countries Engaged in Violence Against Human Right Violations.

-Sadeghi-Movahed wants to break down the title. Divestment is the process of selling an asset, the opposite of investment. None of the title has BDS. We are talking about divestment the precedents set prior and has nothing against BDS because its not in this resolution at all. From companies, not entities or states. Violence is bad. Against Palestinians is the most important person, the Palestinian students don't feel safe on this campus knowing that their tuition is going towards violence against families. Each student at this campus has a story and background. IF we talk about Palestine it becomes conflated with a bigger issue. If we prioritize some human rights over others and who matters and who doesn't, it's exhausting. You shouldn't have to justify your own humanity knowing that their tuition is going towards funding oppression. The townhall was productive and you can submit feedback. This conversation seems almost like a filibuster in a way.

-Contreras says there is a need for this issue because Palestinians brought it up in terms of community and others in solidarity because there is a need for the community. I am really exhausted that if we bring up issues for a marginalized community asks for a basic human right people in power always think its taking away from them when its not because they literally have nothing. They have been psychologically and physically affected. Yes a lot of people that are here are going to perceive this. This is not just about us, its thinking about people outside of our communities. I'm pretty sure you all know that he was a peer advisor that filiipino workers rights are being violated. When he tells his students, its being discussed and they feel empowered. There are so many people taking a stance against a lot of things. I'm going to think about every student he has served.

-Garcia states that people are so inclined to talk about perception but taking away the word Palestinians out of the title silencing them. There will be a misconception about what this is doing and proper information. If this is not in the resolution then we aren't having the perception and everything is written with intent. Go by what the resolution said and no one is going to change anything about the resolution she doesn't see why there should be any issues right now.

-Roth states that she went to the townhall and made so many suggestions to ensure that this resolution wording would not marginalize anyone. I circled and scribbled and commented that wasn't appropriate or was and did see a few members of the jewish community there. There was even an online submission. If you didn't feel safe in a space you can submit your ideas online and it would still be considered. It was pretty transparent and open and a lot of her suggestions were taken into account.

-Rosen states its important to realize that we don't have any right to speak on any community. Its not our power or right to speak on behalf. We cant just look at the words in the text, we cant look straight at the words we have to think about the larger context. We need to understand the larger implications.

-Bach moves to have a 15 minute recess. Badalich seconds.

-Singh wants to make the point that no one on the council opposes human rights. In terms of what Rosen brought up we cant speak on behalf of communities but we can hear those issues—its called solidarity. Singh says its common sense and its perception of what makes sense. For him its not in support of occupation in Palestinians.

-Rosen states I want to reiterate that no human life is more than an another and I don't want to invalidate anyone.

-Garcia states that if you want to encompass them then we should pass this one and then talk about what you want to talk about. If there's no actual language to be changed then you should feel comfortable voting.

-Kalfayan stated First of all, I agree that we shouldn't table it. We should move on to a vote. The groups involved in drafting this resolution have done their due diligence in terms of being transparent and taking input, and we all had a chance to voice our concerns.

With that said, over these breaks, I've been writing a little statement I wanted about my thoughts on where we're at. Maybe we can all go around and then move to a vote. The very first line in the USAC bylaws mentioning CEC says, "The Campus Events Commission shall be the entertainment office of the council" (Article IV, Section F, Line 1). I ran for student government to lead CEC in throwing entertainment-driven and fun events that bring our undergraduate student community together. We've had many successes, like the Bruin Bash concert featuring Chance the Rapper or the Big Hero 6 screening we secured with Disney. We are screening the summer blockbuster Guardians of the Galaxy in this room Thursday night at 8. Just enough time to catch the bonfire and head over here. Anyways, I don't believe it is helpful to the mission of CEC that its commissioner cast a vote favoring one side of this very polarizing issue. I know some people might think this is running and hiding from a difficult vote, but I don't see it that way. My job is to produce events and make decisions that draw students together. Students on both sides of this resolution have approached me and explained how important this issue is to them. I've realized that voting "no," against the resolution, alienates Palestinian students and the groups that stand in solidarity with them. Voting "yes," in favor of the resolution, alienates Jewish students, and the groups that stand in solidarity with them. That's why I've decided to abstain. No matter which way I vote, students will contend that I'm not representing their interests. Either a vote "for" or a vote "against" will anger, offend, alienate, and marginalize groups on campus represented here tonight. To end on a positive note, I respect all of you no matter how you vote. I applaud you for voting with your consciences, and I hope you respect my decision, too.

-Wong states similar to Kalfayan she's spent a lot of time thinking about how to vote on this resolution and taking the time out of your day. It's heartbreaking to realize that recognizing and invalidating the struggles of one group we may be perpetuating the hurt of another and I firmly believe that this was not the intent of this resolution. I stand in solidarity with this cause but does that mean I have to support the methods in doing so. To the writers of this resolution, I see you and I hear you, and I cannot possibly understand what it feels like in this decision. If my decision angers you or saddens you but there is no doubt that I stand in solidarity. My decision to abstain is not fear of indecision because I know I can not vote yes or no fully on the stance either. Regardless of how you feel about this decision I hope you would interpret this about an individual choice and respect my decision. My role on this council is for service and if there's one

thing I learned from CSC, we all come from different communities and we all have different stories. Unless we are brave enough to hear these perspectives, we are doing a dishonor. She thanks everyone for coming to this meeting and the strength of the voice. Everyones opinions may differ perhaps we find solace in the similarities in student power.

-Garcia thanks everyone for coming out

-Quintanilla stated that hes been quiet and its been really hard to speak up against the issue and I have friends on both sides of the issue. This whole time for multiple weeks ive been between two very hard rocks. I think that two weeks ago I was going to abstain and I totally respect this abstain but I knew I wanted to vote. I came to this with an idea of how I was going to decide what would be my vote and listening to everyone and I changed my mind. Everyone knows the struggle and issues and I will vote yes.

-Rosen says her decision just reflects her and not her office.

-Bach thanks everyone for sitting in front of her and for those whove talked to her personally has given perspective and happy with how the dialogue occurred based on perceptions. I will vote the way my heart and conscious has told me. I went to church and I apologize to those that I've hurt but I stand wholeheartedly what I believe is right in my heart. I hope you respect my decision.

-Roth states that with me in particular theres a lot of mixed emotions I was elected by people who believed that I represented them and I would in one way and its been a really hard journey to reconcile that fact and not feeling like I betrayed the thousand plus people that supported me in getting in my seat and then my own conscious on how I want to vote. Its been a really long process that I've been thinking about divestment last year and its taken a really long time to come to. It hasn't been overnight and just wants to say that if you feel betrayed by my vote or the person you voted for isn't representing you but I'm doing what I think is right and whats best for school. Its been hard for us and no one likes to walk out knowing they've isolated any percent of UCLA. I will make a vote. This doesn't reflect her own office and I actually have a variety of perspectives.

-Contreras is happy with the way its going because its progressive.

-Singh shouts out to everyone in this room.

-Moreno Haq thanks everyone for coming and all the beautiful communities here. She states I don't want anyone to think we're condemning any country because this is a humans rights issue.

-Sadeghi-Movahed states it doesn't reflect her office and that being said this whole act of solidarity has inspired me that so much so I've taken it more upon myself to be more active in my community. Its absolutely inspiring and empowering. I hope I can be a strong ally.

-Badalich states theres a difference in light and day with the contrast because of the respect and atmosphere of the conversation. I am an activist. Before a council member, I'm an activist. I'm voting for this because I don't want to be complicit of human rights violations of Palestinians. I shall promote a healthy wellness and that will not change

whether its domestic violence or sexual violence, I will help them. If you don't like me as a person I am still a resource

-Garcia states if you want to get constructive criticism that's okay, don't be nervous to say yes or no because that's just a campus climate issue. I will be brave.

-Baral asks everyone to be respectful and mindful, and its not nice to display emotions. My personal recommendation and request that if you are happy or sad about the decision that you take it outside to demonstrate your emotions.

-Badalich moves to approve A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians. Garcia seconds.

-Baral states that after I talk it wont be a discussion it's a vote. I just want to reflect as a person on this council that I'm a Israeli student and I was born in Israel. I think Israel is what's right about the middle east and whats been there in the short 7 years is nothing short of astounding. Do not ever ever ever frame this conflict as indigenous or non-indigenous. When you frame it in that way I don't matter and I don't have place in my homeland and I would never take that from anybody. Being president actually sucks and not voice your opinion when you are up here is extremely difficult especially on a day like this. Its so hard to go back to community on the day that 5 people were murdered in Israel I went to deal with government that divested from companies. As a personal note I was born in a home in Israel and the bus I would take has so many suicide bombings to the 18<sup>th</sup> because that's the numerical value of life. Its so hard to be here and its so hard to be Israel and to thoe people that put me here and people that have done everything. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I couldn't be there or represent the way you wanted me to. I'm sorry that at the end of the day that this council is going to have this resolution that's not meant to target you and theres a difference between intention and action. If our intention is to divest from companies from human rights and the action is to divest from Israel its hard to not take it any way. I feel like I don't matter. Its especially difficult when you talk about this big universal bar of standards. All we're trying to do is raise Israel to that standard, it's so false I cant begin. Our standard is that we don't give a shit, we are invested in every country in the world. Its outrageous that's our standard and what we're doing is targeting Israel. I hope to have a very successful term of USAC president. So without further adieu theres amotion on the table.

9-2-2 the resolution passes.

## VII. Officer and Member Reports

### A. President – Avinoam Baral

-Baral's goal is to release IVP application so the council can vote on the new Internal vice president. A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians

### B. Internal Vice President – Avinoam Baral

-Baral states we have our CRC meeting.

### C. Administrative Representative

VIII. Funding Allocations

A. Contingency Programming

B. EVP Travel and Advocacy Grant

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Announcements

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XII. Signing of the attendance sheet

XIII. Adjournment

XIV. Good and Welfare