

Finalized

Approved January 27, 2015

MINUTES
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
Kerckhoff Hall 417
January 20, 2015
7:00 PM

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

ABSENT: Allyson Bach

GUESTS:

I. Call to Order

-Baral calls the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

II. A. Approval of the Agenda

-Hourdequin strikes the Internal Vice President Report.

-Singh strikes the General Representative 1 report.

-Bach strikes the Academic Affairs Commissioner Report.

-Wong strikes the community services commissioner Report.

-Garcia strikes the Cultural Affairs Mini Fund Allocation

-Contreras strikes the EVP Travel and Advocacy Grant

-Bach strikes ASRF

-Baral strikes Vision for USAC Office of President

-Badalich strikes the Student Wellness Programming Fund

Roth moves to approve the agenda as amended. Hourdequin seconds.

13-0-0 the agenda is approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes from January 13, 2015

-Badalich moves to approve the meetings. Bach seconds.

13-0-0 the minutes are approved.

III. Public Comments

-Rasha Hawdler is the president and cofounder of Bengal and BSA highly endorses the Armenian students resolution. We have proudly endorsed divestment and we want to remain morally consistent to support communities that are oppressed. We respect ASU's use of divestment because it's a peaceful use to end funds and raise funds. ASA has held two town halls that fostered a safe space. As descendants of the genocide in 1971 we share similar sentiments of Armenian brothers and sisters. The systematic campaign for genocide and denial is wrong. We cannot be complicit to trauma and pain for Armenian people.

-Armenia is here as member of Armenian Student Association and fourth generation genocide survivor. This is touchy as she is a survivor from all four sides. There was talk of discomfort coming wrong and it was uncomfortable to sit in a room full of genocide deniers. Genocide denial invalidates my families life stories and essentially how I ended

up at UCLA. Relocation of Armenians is inaccurate because they relocated them to a desert in a harsh unlivable biome where they are forced to die. Please vote to divest from the republic of Turkey.

-Annais says her purpose of life is to learn about the world and promote peace. This specific issue is about her purpose. How dare you deny the systematic genocide of Armenians when there are evidence. How dare you deny the Ottoman Turks stabbing Armenian pregnant women. Is that not an act of hatred? How dare you deny the act the forceful removal of Armenians? How dare you deny the credibility of Armenians? How dare you deny my grandfathers ability to escape even though they were unable to save her family? How dare you deny genocide. I dare you to stare in my eyes and tell me the Armenian genocide is contradictory. I dare you doubt that there's so much money in my tuition complicit to the Republic of Turkey.

-Miriam is part of the Armenian Student Association. I find it inappropriate to deny genocide. These blood stains of committed crimes remains unpunished. This issue has significant value especially because her great grandparents were directly affected by the genocide. All of my grandparents became orphans because their parents were brutally murdered in front of their eyes. They were deprived of their family and belongings. They passed away with the dream that the genocide will be recognized and justice will be served. I feel uncomfortable the university I attend doesn't recognize this. Turkey fails to serve justice. All Armenian Bruins are presenting this resolution for justice.

-The ASA president talks and co-writer to remove our complicity in the denial of genocide. I want to talk about one specific issue is that this issue is no relevant its too international and it doesn't matter. I cant emphasize how much this event has literally defined the existence of Armenians around the world. Without this event there's a good chance none of us would be here. My grandfather was a genocide survivor. This genocide is why there's so many in Los Angeles. Denying it denies our human history. It is a huge part of our culture and our being. There are deniers of the genocide on the campus and that is problematic and that makes the issue relevant. The fact that the Turkish government for decades to stop genocide recognition efforts that makes it relevant.

-Christina states that passing this resolution is a crucial step to promoting accountability and morality of those people that have denied the genocide. This has really impacted me as well as a lot of other students and part of her identity has been lost because of this. My last name isn't even Armenian and I'll never know what my last name is because my great grandparents were orphans in the deserts and grew up and thought they were Muslims as Bedouins. By 18 it was revealed that they were Armenians and should get married and her great grandfather was given a different last name from a Turkish word. I really want to promote passing this resolution because it means a lot to those impacted. Imagine not knowing what part of your identity is and wondering where that part is.

-Audranay just wants to say a few reasons why you should support this bill. The fact that anyone would deny the Armenian genocide doesn't stop it from being real. It is emotional and important it is as students on the UCLA campus. That's why its relevant. When you hear all of the stories imagine the impact its had on making it who we are. A school that we love so much and that we financially go to and the school we carry around being so proud is contributing to someone who's deteriorating our heritage and does not respect what our ancestors have gone through. Just because there's denial it doesn't invalidate this resolution.

-Savannah is a Human Biology Major and Spanish minor. She thanks them for being supportive and receptive. People in the room are probably talking more eloquently. She wants to emphasize divestment from Republic of Turkey as our obligation to our ethics. The Turkish government actively denies the genocide. This council has taken moral concern here and abroad. If you stand for ethical consistency you will vote to pass it. Any denial of the Armenian genocide is denial of my narrative. It shouldn't be controversial to recognize genocide or truth to divide communities. It should unify us behind this truth. I stand with the Turkish people and support their right to ethical and accountable governments so I don't think you're doing anything wrong by passing this.

-Morris is a first year student and can speak for all the Armenians. Its unfortunate we are here today and 100 years ago a genocide from our people. There have been 1.5 Armenian deaths and attempt to destruct our culture. Small events that can pass in this room can change the course of history because history repeats itself. The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century. This is a small step towards Turkey that we don't stand for it. As a student I'm thankful you have been here for us.

-The Armenian genocide is a historical fact. I oppose this bill because its attacking the Republic of Turkey when it was the Ottoman Empire. I'm against this bill because Turkey has been renovating and relocating the Armenians. I oppose this bill because it makes no distinction of the Republic of Turkey and the Ottoman Empire. I oppose this bill because the drafters have ignored our concerns.

-Sarah is the external vice president of Muslim student association and I'm not Armenian and cant speak on behalf of Armenians. However I am here to call you for moral consistency and I thought I would share with you. Turkey has done a lot of humanitarian efforts. How much does it come from government bonds that come here? The amount of money here is negligible and this resolution has no effect. This is the perfect opportunity and I urge you to vote yes for moral consistency.

-Ana is speaking on behalf of SJP. Students for Justice in Palestine proudly endorse the Armenian Students as students working to bring attention to ongoing displacement we cannot on good conscious ignore them. We support them and recognize the genocide perpetuated against Armenians. Although this is a contentious episode as students of conscience we cannot let our discomfort to continue to respect cultures. We must oppose ethnic cleansing and remain morally consistent.

-I am here in support and this message is especially relevant. One of the biggest reasons we want to divest from companies from Palestinians because these Palestinian community extended to our campus. Armenian genocide denial is a perpetuation of the trauma afflicted on the Armenian community. Armenian people and community are suffering. I would strongly suggest that council will remain morally consistent.

-The current president of the Muslim Student Association and cant talk on behalf of them. USAC has an entirely different responsibility than MSA does. Its important for USAC to remain morally consistent. For us to not honor their wishes illogically follows. In this instance a lot of people have had arguments against divestment because we are not specifically targeting the policy of genocide denial we'll be hurting all the aid they do in other places. The fact is that 65 million will not put a dent in their operating budget. This is symbolic that you will make the right decision.

-Sofia Rakhel has been at so many meetings. I have pictures for you of my family for you and half of them have been murdered. Its important for moral consistency and human

rights. This is it, we are targeting a government because they will not recognize nor give us reparations for massacre in mass. This is the foundations for the current republic of Turkey. It is not an isolated thing of the past at all. We have millions of us directly living in diaspora. My last name was lost when my parents or my great grandparents were slaughtered by machetes. There is literally not this isolated moment there is continued cultural erasure. We are denying history and justice. This country needs to recognize that this country is built on the indigenous people of here. Are we actually kidding to deny that? The enslavement of black people and the massacre of indigenous people created this country. I never thought I would live for the 100th anniversary and it will still be denied. This is oppression.

-My name is Ani and one of the cowriters. The events of 1915 were genocide its not up for the debate. A bunch of denial is racist and offensive and something we've dealt with for 100 years. We chose divestment for our outlet and it has come to this. The UC has exhibited historically for divestment for Darfur genocide and South Africa. Genocide denial is unacceptable and sends a clear message that we're not standing up for this and no longer want to be complicit in heinous crimes. Its unacceptable for the UC to be in the entity. This heinous nature of our cause and you all saw for yourselves. Our concerns to back it up prove that divestment works. We are asking you all to please vote yes.

-Good evening this is Morris Sarafin and you know how I stand on this issue. In keeping with this theme I want to give you all a little story. As a small child from the age 2-5 was sung a lullaby as I fell asleep. There's an Armenian lullaby, a very sad and simple structured historical account of the experiences many experiences. I hope you can imagine my surprise when that song was played as a presentation against the Armenian genocide was presented. Its triggering and traumatic that the first way I was taught about the oppression of my people was completely used in opposition and complete denial. I want you to put myself in these shoes, we should burn these shoes. This is the state of insensitivity that we want to attack and target. That is the institution we want to target with this resolution. Its not about lines of continuity, and you must recognize you are my representatives. My actual money go into a government that is funded this sort of cultural insensitivity.

-Faria is a 5th year student majoring in biochemistry and gender studies. As someone that strives to be an ally I have come to understand that its vital to understand history. I'm a Pakistani Shiah Muslim who share this Muslim identity are targeted. You cant be an ally when its convenient for you. We have to recognize this Armenian genocide and divest Turkish government. There traumatic history is enough. How much more blood shed do they need to give you?

-If we are serious about never again then lets be serious about that and pass this resolution and send a message to the republic of Turkey and the world can know justice on the issue of genocide.

-Natalie has talked to genocide deniers and no one should have to endure this. When the Ottoman empire fell a lot of the leaders were shuttled into the Turkey government. It took death to start a real conversation about Turkish government. Can you blame Armenians for thinking that the Republic of Turkey think that Armenian lives are disposable? Countries that commit genocide have no other incentive to act, they should be held accountable. Justice is delayed time and time again. No one should have to endure this.

-The activism chair for the Armenian Students Association and I'm pissed off. I am complicit in the denial of the history. My over priced tuition dollars are trying to erase my history. I'm over it, we need to do something. Why do you think there are so many Armenians in this room and on that campus? Because of displacement and genocide. The fact that I can no longer think in Armenian is a result of genocide. If this happened 100 years ago it doesn't mean its not a problem. It's even more of a problem that hasn't been resolved. Its been 100 years denial. I am complicit in the erasure of my own history.

-The former ASA president and the issue is struck for us here. We are all in the diaspora and we are here because of the genocide. My ancestors are all from eastern turkey and formerly western Armenia. I've been searching for my identity and constantly interview my grandparents to ask what my family history was. They are not going to be long for much longer and even they don't know because they've grown up without their grandparents. I just want you to listen to everyone's personal stories and take into account the continue denial affects our identity. I don't know if you understand how traumatizing it is to watch my grandfather break down in front of me for not meeting any grandparents except 1. Its traumatizing. Take into account that the Turkish government is not educating on the truth which is why we want to divest because they are supporting lies that affects our identities.

-In the past saying something that never happened is a travesty to UCLA and the nation. I am here because my great grandparents had to watch their siblings and parents be slaughtered. I was deprived of our family members. We are not going to allow here and sit here and allow for something to go on. Sure some people say it was the Ottoman empire and Modern Turkey has not accepted this. Blood was not shed for us to not accept this denial.

-We are both alumni of Armenian Student group and want to tell you what happened in Iran during the genocide. There's a region northwest of Iran and when Turkish groups went and would just kill everyone in the homes. This has been recorded in Iranian history and I am not standing in denial.

-I'm a graduate student who explores the identity of minorities and how it plays in genetically and historically. When you have victimized pass and you start to emulate those very people. Your dead grandparents. The people who have had those injustices on them. You have students in this very room and constituents who are dealing with intergenerational trauma. This is PTSD that lives in generations and you begin to emulate the victims and become victims themselves.

-Its hard to understand someone's history or culture or background but a point I want to make is put yourself back into elementary school whichever grade you were in 2001 and how you felt that morning. Up until that how scared I was to go to school and that something that affected all of our lives and feel pain. Every year at ground 0 there are people that go up and speak and remember all of the fallen lives and 100 years from now there still will have commemorations. That's what brings Armenian genocide. This is what we need. This is making us feel pain. We don't hate Turks. My grandfather was taken from a Turkish family, I stand against the Turkish government but I am not against the Turkish people.

-I am the great grandchild of 7 Armenian survivors. This resolution is working to address the Armenian genocide. I ask you to let the facts speak for themselves. We as students were not given the choice to be invested in this government. By voting you are taking

your own stance. You are not responsible for the UC decisions but you are responsible for speaking up. USAC has already passed resolutions to recognize Armenian genocide, all we are asking is for divestment.

-Verj is a fourth year philosophy student. The denial of the genocide is systematic and indicative of a larger human rights problem. The ability of free speech and assembly is not an isolated incident of the past but speaks on human rights violations. If you acknowledge the pain and suffering of one group and say that one group suffering is more legitimate than the other is a problem of moral consistency and human dignity.

-Alex is a recent alum and current grad student and is speaking in support of this resolution.

V. Special Presentations

A. Armenian Student Association Divestment Presentation – Mikael Matossian

-Mikael and Morris state the resolution quotes the resolution of when USAC recognized the Armenian genocide. It specifically targets and asks to divest that over 70 million dollars in bonds that we are invested in the Republic of Turkey. We don't want to be complicit and must maintain moral consistency. This resolution wants to raise awareness of the Armenian genocide that it was a real fact and the necessary reparations for the Armenian people. It is our way to hold them accountable for what they did and the perpetuation of the Armenian genocide. The actual act of divestment is to hold UCLA and regents accountable on how they manage their money. This resolution does not want to target any group people or culture. Our issue is with the Turkish government. This is not a spear campaign against Turkey in Turkey. Essentially what we are trying to imply is that a lot of our families continue to exist because of the good and kind heartedness of the Turkish family who tried to keep Armenians alive throughout the Armenian genocide. We really want to emphasize that the ethnic cleansing and cultural erasure happened after the republic of Turkey was formed. It continued a lot of deportations and a lot of cultural erasure that all of us are still suffering from. It is very important to tie it into current republic and any sort of denial makes them complicit. Genocide's last step is denied. There is still a committee complicit in genocide. A lot of us don't hear about it and 43 states condemn its denial. They show pictures of before and after scenes of Armenian churches. The fact that they are taught that the Armenian genocide didn't exist and characterize the Armenians who want to dismantle Turkey. The textbooks state Armenians are threat to Turkish autonomy and want to twist the accounts to something that is a complete lie. There's been a penalty reduction and Turkish officials say that it's a part of choice to recognize it which is problematic. There is no such as net humanity, any good that you do does not absolve you of your human rights violations. Just because you did good it doesn't mean the Armenian genocide didn't happen. Another concern is that divestment is not the right tactic, but we don't know what else to do! We have exhausted all avenues and have been in the same situation we've been through for the past 99 years. Why divest? Its understood that a divestment is an endorsement for Armenian students. The Turkish government actively spends millions of dollars trying to fight Armenian genocide scholarship. Students didn't have a choice and did not give consent to fund a government that literally targeted our families. We are dedicated to highest goal and scholarship and say we should be held to our standards and to

divestment is a way to correct the wrong. The Armenian Student Association started in 1945 and ever since our inception the Armenian Student Association state that our very existence on this campus is inherently political. The way we define our identity is inherently political. We are asking us to formally divest and pass this resolution from an entity that denies our history. This is not the end all be all, this is not the only thing we're doing. It's not just Armenian students. This is part of a greater campaign and in this unique place where we can educate people to make sure they know about the genocide and raise voices.

B. Fund the UC

-Joseph states that her and Morris Sorrafin are there for the Fund the UC presentation. Joseph states that one of the campaigns they currently have is Fund the UC. Fund the UC is currently institutionalized by University of California Student Association that seeks to stabilize tuition and reduce tuition. We cannot afford tuition as is and working for a 5% tuition increase doesn't assist most students. Its done be legislation to convince Governor Brown to reallocate these funds. Some may ask "What do you people do?"

-Sorrain states they have concrete victories such as Proposition 30 that a portion of increase in sales and income tax will go to higher education to make sure that our higher education would remain the same and not increase. We have to understand that Prop 30 was a band aid solution. In many cases it's a temporary fix to a much more chronic problem. We are not satisfied with a tuition increase, we will continue to advocate for a tuition rollback.

-Joseph states that Proposition 30 was not meant for higher education but students actively mobilized to ensure that money went to higher education and subsequently cause a tuition freeze. However that money has run out and that is why we are here.

-Sorrafin states that California as a state passed the Middle Class Scholarship Act and wanted to reduce tuition for those that made less than \$150,000 and the increase financial aid has gone to students with lower socioeconomic backgrounds. We need to increase access. Speaker Perez actually cited a lot of effort that's University of California Student Association has done as the reasons on why its passed.

-Joseph states the Middle Class Tax Scholarship is under attacked and wants to use the funds to stop the subsequent tuition increase. It was just implemented this past and year and they are already trying to defund it. It is a shame. The plan for the middle class scholarship is to be implemented over 3 years. Its already being attacked this system. Often times UCLA is to be the forefront of a lot of movement but with proposition 30 to talk about the importance. Over the past 5 years there has been 300% increase in tuition. Even though the UC regents know that tuition has risen 300% they have actually voted on a plan that will increase tuition 5% over a span of 5 years. That means an increase of about 28%. Tuition is currently \$12,192 and in the event it will be \$15,564 by 2019. Its very important we take these figures into consideration. \$100 definitely makes a difference and a \$694 annual increase is detrimental to many students on campus. The first increase was in 1980 was \$792 and within 2014 we're already at \$12,000. The regents don't understand what its like to have unaffordable tuition because we must prioritize higher education. Its very important to link and show the correlation between rising tuition prices and the subsequent decrease in the quality of education. The first of many proposed budget plans we must show you how the budgeting process works.

Congress is very tedious with a whole bunch of proposal plans which governs the negotiations and have amendments for the next 4-5 months and if the state assembly and senate choose to approve this plan by July, we're fine. The first of many plans calls for a complete buy down of all tuition and has \$550 million for increase in enrollment for student services and on time graduation but also places a cap on enrollment of out of state students and accelerates middle class scholarship. We want to talk about senate bill SB15 as a buy down. Out of state students are left out and if you look at current students it comes from 70% such as out of state and international students when they pay the vast majority of the bill. Essentially, it increases non resident tuition and increases it by 17% as well with a \$4,000 tuition increase in a matter of a year. Governor Brown and department of finance stability plan. When it was proposed the governor said he will allocate 5% for 2 years and that's why the UC has proposed because they need 1% increase to offset us for tuition increase so they're pushing the governor 1% but he feels like he is forced to do that. UCLA is currently capped at maximum capacity if they don't allocate more funds. Online courses should not be a substitute for a UCLA education. Napolitano makes \$500,000 annually plus perks and doesn't understand the struggle students face day to day. To emphasize this discrepancy it doesn't prevent it from increasing tuition. Welcome to the nature of the budgeting process. It's literally just Napolitano and Governor Brown. The problem with this long stability plan when it's not stable when students don't know if tuition will or won't increase. It's not stable. It puts us down the path of privatization where individuals can't access or afford the institution such as UCLA. We essentially have until May and a lot of time after that as well to really show that students here do not appreciate being used as pawns and right now we have a battle of will for Napolitano. We don't stand for that we need consistent lobbying efforts and direct actions to get into these people's faces to show these elected officials that this system runs by students and should run by caring for these students. Governor Brown has an increase of 1.7% to department of corrections. The Governor has consistently that we don't have adequate funds for higher education but you can fund it towards prisons. Granted that would do is to lobby the governor that we have another solution. Although it's great that proposition 47 passed, our work isn't done. We just wanted to make this presentation about the importance of Fund the UC. As students we can't give up, there's still lobbying efforts and there are options that we can utilize.

-Roth asks why do you think that increasing out of state and international funds is a problem?

-Sorrafín states that all the tuition plans do not have our support because they all have humongous flaws. With SB15 there are egos in play and what SB15 wants to do aside from increasing tuition out of state solutions would be to completely destroy the middle class scholarship. Essentially a legislation we have a close bond to, we have personally advocated for that. These are people who should have same resources as us and should not be completely relied on or dependent on just because they come from somewhere else from the state of California.

-Joseph states the problem lies in the fact that there's only one approach, when in fact there's more options.

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VI. Officer and Member Reports

A. President – Avinoam Baral

-Baral states he met with the head librarian of UCLA and Café Powell might actually happen and they're doing texts and surveys of Powell right now. They want to advocate for that and keep our administrative accountable. Next we have the interviews for Vice Chancellor of equity and inclusion are happening in the next couple weeks over 6 months ago and keep you updated. He wants to invite everyone for the meeting of the administrative vice chancellor and if you have any particular feedback keep me posted and let me know. The election board chair has asked me that at 5:40pm in the E-Board office they are going to have an open meeting about election code reforms.

-Hourdequin yields to Sofia. Sofia states specifically because you are looking for diversity and inclusion you must include people of color organizations, you have to have representatives from each of these organizations and need input. That position in itself is a façade for diversity.

-Baral states they are including other students of color for the interviews.

B. External Vice President – Conrad Contreras

-Contreras states he's going to Assembly Thomas' Budget Priority Hearing to essentially advocate for students and increase funding for education for the UC and decreasing prison spending. I just want to make sure there's student representation there. It's in South LA.

C. Student Wellness Commission – Savannah Badalich

-Badalich states the #endstigma was featured this morning on Buzzfeed and if you look at the hashtag people have been contributing their own statements and wish they can give their own. Same with all of us and 7000 in solidarity we are giving them free license for other universities to do so. It's consent week! The ManUp art gallery is up in Kerckhoff for all of those in the room go check out the gallery! Tomorrow we have the word with CAC about the talk of masculinity and male sexual violence. We have consent conversations in the LGBT center on Thursday at 4:30. Our big event is the town hall on sexual violence at 2pm on Friday in Ackerman 308 and inviting USC and Occidental and other Los Angeles community colleges and highschoolers. Badalich displays graphics about consent in a positive light. It's all about consent and the idea is to strike you with something out of the ordinary. Consent is voluntary and the idea is that we want to talk about it in a positive state. We want to talk about the campaign about male sexual violence because its often not talked about when the statistics are alarming. Next week is body images art gallery talking about what body part they love.

D. Transfer Student Representative – Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed

-Sadeghi-Movahed wants to address a Daily Bruin about the transfer identity and divides campus further and they don't need more resources and when I read it I was a little bit of disappointed and the commentary on race and sexual identity and spectrums. Transfer students are actually diverse and maybe I'm not doing a good job. Transfer students come from every part of the world. This erases all the narratives to those who deserve this and I hope they watch this and its important for us to realize that we need more resources than traditional students.

E. Administrative Representatives

-Lazarovici states that people take on the group identity and victimization of their identities and make myself ask how do we both honor the past and heal the past? That's a theme we have been hearing for the last few months. How do we grapple with the pasts for ourselves and our ancestors? Tonight's conversation really made me think about the word diaspora and what does it mean to not be at home. I know a lot of people in the active and seek elected office as a desire to be at home. There are many courses who feels at home here and who doesn't. Maryssa stated that someone was trying to fit her for the cap and it wasn't made for her hair which was literally true but also metaphorically true. There was a young lady who said that they cant think in Armenian anymore. I know a lot of people will think or dream or count in a native language. I used to wear those little eyes and then I used to wear them as a necklace and then I would pin them inside my clothes as a good luck charm, and then after September 11 I stopped wearing them completely to avoid TSA questions. No matter how you vote tonight on this resolution, we have to have the conversation to acknowledge what's happening and how you want it to be.

VIII. Funding Allocations

A. Contingency Programming

-Wang states total required is \$34,473.79, total requested was \$10,642.74 and total recommended was \$3,200.00. Balance after allocation is \$33,758.74.

-Baral asks what the difference between the matrix she sent out.

-Wang said she added a new group.

-Wong moves to approve the allocation. Hourdequin seconds.

10-0-2 contingency allocation is approved.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

A. A Resolution to Divest from the Republic of Turkey to End the Perpetuation of the Armenian Genocide

A Resolution to Divest from the Republic of Turkey to End the Perpetuation

USAC co-sponsors: Savannah Badalich, Greg Kalfayan, Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed, Manjot Singh

Student organization co-sponsors: Armenian Dance Group, Alpha Epsilon Omega, Alpha Gamma Alpha, Armenians for Health Advancement, Hidden Road Initiative,

Student organization endorsers: Bengali Students Association, Indus, Jewish Voice for Peace, Muslim Student Association, Native Roots, Pakistani Student Association (Board) Samahang Pilipino, SCALE, Sikh Student Association, Students for Justice in Palestine

1. WHEREAS, genocide is defined by the United Nations as an act “committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group” [1];

2. WHEREAS, genocide denial is the tenth and final stage of genocide immediately following extermination [2];
3. WHEREAS, in 2012 the Undergraduate Students Association Council at the University of California, Los Angeles passed a “Resolution Commemorating the Armenian Genocide and Condemning its Denial” [3];
4. WHEREAS, the University of California is directly invested in the Republic of Turkey, which reaps the profits of [4] and actively denies the Armenian Genocide [5];
5. WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide was initiated by the Ottoman Empire and continued by the Republic of Turkey through ethnic cleansing [6], confiscation of Armenian properties, and the theft of Armenian capital;
6. WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey has engaged in a campaign of Armenian cultural erasure since the founding of the Republic of Turkey, including, but not limited to, ethnic cleansings and the destruction of sacred Armenian religious sites, thereby continuing the process of genocide [7];
7. WHEREAS, it is illegal to refer to the massacre and deportation of Armenians in 1915-1923 as genocide in the Republic of Turkey under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code
8. WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey sanctions historical revision of Armenian Genocide historiography and censors scholarship that acknowledges the crimes as genocide [9];
9. WHEREAS, the University of California as a public academic institution, guided by the principles of academic freedom, contradicts these principles by investing in a government that engages in academic censorship and criminalizes Armenian Genocide scholarship in Turkey; of the Armenian Genocide
10. WHEREAS, the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$55,432,125 [10];
11. WHEREAS, University of California General Endowment Pool (GEP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$9,652,475 [11];
12. WHEREAS, the University of California Retirement Plan investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$7,278,500 [12];
13. WHEREAS, the University of California General Endowment Pool investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$1, 683,500 [13];
14. WHEREAS, these investment holdings in the Republic of Turkey total a base market value of \$74,046,600;

15. WHEREAS, the Turkish Treasury makes capital contributions to the Export Credit Bank of Turkey as the sole shareholder of the Bank [14];

16. WHEREAS, these investments harm Armenian students, many of whom are living heirs to confiscated properties in Turkey and descendants of the 1.5 million people who were murdered or those who were forcibly relocated during the Armenian Genocide;

17. WHEREAS, investment in the Republic of Turkey enables its government to continue to deny justice to the Armenian people;

18. WHEREAS, divesting these funds would remove the University of California's complicity in the Armenian Genocide;

19. WHEREAS, this resolution aims to hold the Republic of Turkey's government responsible for denying justice to the Armenian people, and is not intended to condemn a specific community or individual;

20. WHEREAS, in 2006, the University of California divested from nine companies that did business in Sudan as a direct result of their contributions to the suffering in the Darfur region during the genocide in Darfur [15];

21. WHEREAS, it is the duty of members of the University of California, Los Angeles community to uphold the True Bruin values, including a commitment to "the highest ethical standards" [16];

22. LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Los Angeles Foundation to divest all financial holdings in the Republic of Turkey;

23. LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California, the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, Los Angeles Foundation to refrain from making any further investments in the Republic of Turkey until justice is done to the Armenian people through the official recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the Republic of Turkey.

[1] http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/pdf/osapg_analysis_framework.pdf

[2] <http://www.genocidewatch.org/genocide/tenstagesofgenocide.html>

[3] <https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/Resolution%20Commemorating%20the%20Armenian%20Genocide%20and%20Condemning%20its%20Denial.pdf>

[4]<http://armenianweekly.com/2013/09/23/the-confiscation-of-armenian-properties-an-interview-with-umit-kurt/>

[4] Kurt, Ümit, and Taner Akçam. Kanunların Ruhü: Emval-i Metruke Kanunlarında Soykırımın İzlerini Aramak (The Spirit of Laws: Seeking the Traces of Armenian Genocide in the Laws of Abandoned Property). 2012.

[5] http://www.nytimes.com/ref/timestopics/topics_armeniangenocide.html

[6] <http://www.armenian-genocide.org/kemal.html>

[7] <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/1861892055.html>

[8] <http://humanrightsturkey.org/2013/04/03/article-301-end-it-dont-amend-it/>

[9] <http://armenianweekly.com/2014/12/04/textbooks/>

[10] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/UCRP_Holdings.pdf

[11] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/GEP_Holdings.pdf

[12] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/UCRP_Holdings.pdf

[13] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/GEP_Holdings.pdf

[14] <https://www.eximbank.gov.tr/EN,1193/about-us.html>

[15] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/6302.html>

[16] <http://www.truebruin.ucla.edu/statement.htm>

-Baral states as far as numbering is the numbering essentially to the resolution. Perhaps to take the consistency for the USAC. This is a friendly amendment. Baral also says the word “ethnicity” and isn’t sure if its true.

-Sadeghi-Movahed adds a friendly amendment where it should be “also targeted” and “committed genocide against 750,000 Assyrians and 350,000 Pontian Greeks”

-Baral stated grab the link and send it to add as a source.

-Kalfayan states this resolution advances UCLA’s commitment to academic freedom and mission to preserve knowledge for the betterment of our global society. The government of Turkey actively denies historical truth and censors and imprisons academic journalists in its own country to counter the clear voices of genocide survivors and descendants. I’m one of those descendants. One of my great grandparents came to the US in 1909 and in 1915 he planned to revisit his hometown in Turkey. He got as far as Egypt and most of his family have been deported and dead. He changed his plan and moved to the US. His

daughter was born, my grandmother, and she graduated from UCLA. Another one of my great grandparents escaped from Turkey with his parents in 1915. We don't know what happened to his father and lost all of his history. He settled in Los Angeles and his son, my grandfather, also attended UCLA. I'm the Campus Events Commissioner and CEC's predecessor the Associated Student Speaker Program invited Martin Luther King Jr to speak in 1965, this past weekend UCLA discovered and released a recording of that speech. It is incredibly moving and still powerful to hear King talk about his struggle for social justice. That speech is part of history and could've been lost, because of the archivists we can all hear Dr. King's voice recorded 50 years ago. In Turkey, academics, archivists, and journalists are not free to discover the past because they are censored and imprisoned. The contrasts could not be more stark on what was done here at UCLA with Dr. King's speech and what the government of Turkey is attempting to do evidence all over the world. This resolution is attempting to take a stance consistent with UCLA's mission to support academic freedom, support the truth and vote for this resolution.

-Roth states on the UCLA's website that divestment helps to overcome apartheid and genocide in Darfur. Though the divestment will not affect the UC, not divesting will hurt it morally. Divestment is not out of our scope. My roommate is Jewish and if she found out that the UC were investing money that denied the Holocaust she would divest. Thankfully not every family has experienced genocide, it doesn't mean it's not important to recognize it. For example, Germany still pays reparations and acknowledges the atrocities.

-Sadeghi-Movahed states that half of her family is Turkish and fully recognizes the genocide and the violence is absolutely abhorrent. I just wanted to also comment on the last divestment meeting about solidarity. Every time communities support each other is beautiful. The solidarity of SWANA has been absolutely amazing and really overwhelmed and happy about it. I support this as an Iranian American. I can't as an Iranian be complicit that the Ottoman dynasty very actively massacred Syrians in Armenia and Iran. I can't know my money is going towards erasure in that history. I'm not happy about it. ASA has put their heart and soul to know exactly what the genocide is and the implications of voting no and abstaining. I think that their efforts and their passion and their drive is so incredibly inspiring and important for us as a council to see how many students are in support of this and how we can further represent students. I am in solidarity with the Armenian community.

-Garcia says she's in solidarity with the community and it's more shocking that people will deny the genocide. Again I want to bring attention that 2012 USAC passed a resolution "commemorate the Armenian genocide." It's our duty to continue this and this resolution should pass if you want to continue this. I don't see why this resolution wouldn't pass.

-Badalich wants to speak about her support for this resolution and completely in solidarity with Armenian students and ASA. I thought of Maryssa Hall too when a gentleman said why should we be accountable by our great grandfathers? I thought of Maryssa Hall about Thanksgiving, or as she calls it Thankstaken. When her family and people like her wasn't able to celebrate Thanksgiving and Native Americans and indigenous individuals on this campus that weren't able to celebrate. Maryssa Hall states that she is a kindergartener in her own history and that was one of those moments when my privilege smacked me in the face. As an able white student we are technically gaining

a lot from this history and ignoring that won't get rid of the privilege we have. I very much am in support of this. I can go on about trans generational trauma. Divestment is a tactic, many people feel comfortable by the word. When you think about divestment you think about the illegal occupation then I can't be okay with this one it would make it seem like that's okay. I want you to understand that this is erasure of history, as an academic institute and students who uphold true Bruin values we have to divest from the Republic of Turkey. You cannot be uncomfortable with the tactic of Turkey because both slates have used it, Darfur, South Africa, prison industrial complex, fossil fuels. Just because you were against divestment, perhaps you want to feel that it's okay for this one than that makes it okay for the other put the other out of your head. A lot of students are talking about the Armenian genocide and if you are uncomfortable for voting because you don't like the tactic because the tactic is tied to something else then you are not listening to the students in the room. As someone who is not part of the slate and sees it from the periphery, I really want those council members who are considering voting against the resolution for any reason against divestment as a tactic, I want you to reconsider why there are students in this room.

-Sadeghi-Movahed wants to hear if anyone has opposing sentiments to the resolution as a temperature check for constructive criticism.

-Singh says this is the first time the Sikh student association has taken a stance on anything so I just want to applaud that. The genocide happened in 1915 which is so recent that it's scary. I am voting yes for this. Even the state of India denies the Sikh genocide.

-Moreno Haq states she's been doing research on the Armenian genocide I haven't had a lot of Armenian friends but gratefully for coming to UCLA I've met so many Armenians. I support this because 100 years from now if people denied human rights violations in Palestine I'd be furious. There are people that are living proof that their grandparents have been killed as a result of this. We are here to stand in solidarity and I love that we can't pick and choose who we stand with. It is so sad to see people cry and beg me to understand what they have gone through for 100 years. You should not have to be defending that first of all. I would never deny that it ever occurred. I stand with all of you and want to thank everyone for speaking and guts to talk about the struggles.

-Contreras stated that he wished someone from Samahang Pilipino came to endorse it. This resolution means a lot because when Spain colonized the Philippines a lot of the records were burned and a part of my history won't know. I will never understand other people's experiences, all of our experiences are interconnected. This is a beautiful progressive movement and will continue to inspire me. I stand in solidarity with all of you and I will vote yes.

-Hourdequin thanks everyone for who came out and ASA and Turkish culture club for meeting with me. I look at this from a historical context and I fully recognize the Armenian genocide and I will be voting yes.

-Moreno Haq moves to approve A Resolution to Divest from the Republic of Turkey to End the Perpetuation of the Armenian Genocide. Roth seconded.

12-0-0 the Resolution is passed.

XI. Announcements

-Garcia says that CAC is programming with SWC about question mark. They have their CAC interns and again our Monday night concerns for hip-hop appreciation month. This Thursday is the MLK oratorical concert. This April is JRF.

-Kalfayan says tomorrow CEC has a speaker called Timothy DelaGhetto is a YouTube personality in Moore 100. On Thursday they are screening Maleficent

-Badalich says tomorrow Kerckhoff patio, Thursday Court of Sciences, and Friday Bruin Plaza. We have out art gallery next week. In addition we have suicide prevention hopefully next Wednesday from 5-8pm. We will also do consent grams with EVP.

-Wang says there's a finance workshop in Ackerman 3157 next Thursday. We will have representatives for CAC and CEC. Capital contingency will be open by the end of this week for furniture and other things.

-Wong says that Nonprofit Networking night is February 10th. We have over 20 different non profit organizations and all of them have internships or jobs. I highly recommend it, bring your resume. We have a volunteer opportunity with LA kitchen in Washington DC as a non profit organization on February 21st. We are also going to have homeboy industry tours week 7, 8, and 9.

-Roth says AAC's academic resource fair is what we're coprogramming on January 27th from 12-2 with academic counselors, LinkedIn pictures, and research opportunities. IVP and I reached out to the ex-US ambassador to South Africa and Libya and I asked him to schedule the ambassador in to give a talk to UCLA. The ambassador knew it was going to be student run and reached out to other student orgs and tried to book a room on the hill and we were denied. I have now been told that I would have to go through the vice chancellor's office and now we're not allowed to do. My director has been working this for 4 months, in my eyes there's not a real reason why its not allowed. As of right now we emailed hopefully we can talk to the vice chancellor.

-Baral asks if she talked to UCLA Events office.

-Roth stated its been taken out of our hands to a whole other administrative. It's a different measure when it comes to diplomats.

-Rosen states they have been talking about the Transportation scholarship and look forwards to the AAC academic resource fair.

-Kelsey states its actually 11am-2pm. Our last USA workshop is Kerckhoff 211 and the my.ucla survey is launched next week and trying to finalize the incentive to get students to participate in the survey. Its what students want to change about my.ucla and class planning. Last the Global Leadership Connection is looking for 3 ucla students to help interview high school students so email Bach if you're interested.

-Hourdequin says the student vendor fair will be releasing apps later this week so if you want to participate you should apply. We are going to continue promoting circle of 6 at consent week. She will also meeting with campus safety alliance next week to send out the email and presenting brainstorm ideas for campus safety day. We are going to have safety in the dark workshops.

-Sadeghi-Movahed states tomorrow is the bruin transfer resource fair and toast to transfers from 2-4pm in Bruin Plaza tomorrow. During the night time its from 8-10 in Kerckhoff Grand Salon and dress classy casual. There'll be light refreshments provided and come meet transfer students especially because you're the leaders of UCLA campus. We also launched the Iamabruin transfer project on our Facebook page.

- Garcia states that this Saturday there's diversity tour series to different parts of LA with places with cultural meeting. They are taking a tour to East LA with taste of Mexican culture, music and food. February 2nd they will have HEC Kickoff and have a film screening on the 5th and a workshop on the 10th. Our panel discussion is the 12th. We will have our fashion show the 19th. IT all ends the 26th for the Hip Hop Explosion concert.
- Badalich says that week 5 in Spring for April 25-May 3 is Bruin Health week. Please steer clear of week 5. The 25th is sextravaganza, the 26th would be for activists and the other will be under negotiation. Steer clear of week 5.
- Kalfayan says she would add it to all the all USAC calendar.
- Hourdequin states LGBT week will be week 3. She will email everyone to attend meetings.
- Garcia says the last opportunity to try out for models is tomorrow in Hedrick lounge.

XII. Signing of the attendance sheet

The attendance sheet has been passed around

XIII. Adjournment

-Roth moves to adjourn the meeting. Moreno-Haq seconds.

12-0-0 the meeting is adjourned at 10:52pm.

XIV. Good and Welfare