



AGENDA
 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
 April 30 2021
 8 AM PST
 Zoom: <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97123303841>

I. Call to Order

Riley

- Naomi calls the meeting to order at 8:04am

A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Signed via Google Docs

II. Approval of Agenda*

Luong

- Sachi motions to approve agenda, Emily seconds
- By motion of 8-0-0 the motion passes, agenda is approved

III. Approval of the minutes*

Luong

- None

IV. Public Comment

Riley

- Public comment concluded at 8:07am

V. Funding

- None

VII. Appointments

- None

VIII. Officer Reports

- None

IX. Old Business

- None

X. New Business

[Council Endorsement of Bruin Emergency Relief Fund Referendum*](#) Riley
Bruin Emergency Relief Fund Referendum

Shall the Undergraduate Students Association ensure the student-run support of those in crises by increasing student fees by \$2.00 per undergraduate student per quarter in order to establish a USAC Emergency Fund that shall be allocated to undergraduate students facing emergencies that require financial assistance?

This new fee would be collected from all undergraduate students enrolled in Fall, Winter, and Spring, beginning in Fall 2021.

This fee will be adjusted annually by the Los Angeles County Consumer Price Index in order to address changes due to inflation and rising costs of living, beginning in Fall 2022.

25% of the amount collected will be returned to undergraduate financial aid.

____ YES
 ____ NO

Supplemental Ballot Information

The Bruin Emergency Relief Fund Referendum seeks to provide accessible financial support for all UCLA undergraduate students when assistance is needed to help cover the costs of an emergency. The Bruin Emergency Relief Fund will serve as a student-led resource for financial support throughout the academic year. Funds acquired through the Bruin Emergency Relief Fund may be used for any emergency that has affected a student's well-being and/or safety. Such emergencies may include: natural disasters, changes in employment, outstanding medical expenses, legal costs (such as immigration expenses, tenant support, or victimization due to a crime), housing or food insecurity, and more. The next time an unforeseeable event, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic, occurs, we desire to be prepared and have this funding body act as an immediate source of relief for **all** undergraduate UCLA students-in-need, regardless of immigration status, transfer status, system-impact (formerly incarcerated students or students otherwise impacted by incarceration), guardianship, federal/financial aid eligibility, and international residency.

To assess the current financial needs of the student body, the USAC Office of the President dispersed a Financial Needs Assessment Survey during Winter Quarter 2021. Results from the survey revealed that approximately 70% of the respondents stated that COVID-19 affected their financial situation (i.e., inability to pay for tuition fees, pay for basic needs). Additionally, around 76% (50/67) of respondents reported that the extent to which the University and its related entities financially supported them to be a 3 (moderate) or less; with 1 being not at all/very little and 5 being fully supported. The survey also found that 61.6% (42/67) of respondents experienced a loss of housing since the start of the new year. Furthermore, 38.5% (26/67) of respondents reported living with relatives and 15.4% (10/67) in temporary living arrangements (motels, hotels, etc.) due to economic hardship. Lastly, an added 7.7% (5/67) of respondents expressed that although they have shelter, it is difficult to pay rent each month.

The Office of the President also looked to the "2020 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey: UCLA" of 7753 students conducted by the UCLA's Student Affairs Information & Research Office which found that 32% of survey respondents were at least concerned about having reliable internet access (14% of survey respondents were very concerned about having reliable internet access), 35% of survey respondents were at least concerned about meeting their basic needs (18% of survey respondents were very concerned about meeting their basic needs), 52% of survey respondents were at least concerned about losing their job (31% of survey respondents were very concerned about losing their job), 59% of survey respondents were very concerned about paying their bills (36% of survey respondents were very concerned about paying their bills).¹

Additionally, in 2020, UCLA's Center for the Transformation of Schools,² found that 5% of University of California students are experiencing homelessness.³ UCLA's Newsroom listed that more than 35% of undergraduates receive Pell Grants, federal aid for students from low income families.⁴

To arrive at the fee of \$2 each quarter for Fall, Winter and Spring, the Office of the President looked to the 2020 and 2021 Undergraduate Student Association Pandemic Relief funds which allocated \$280,000 to 1120 students and \$120,600 to 482 students respectively.⁵ A \$2 fee would allow the Undergraduate Student Association Council to allocate around \$135,000 annually to students in need with around \$45,000 (25% of the fee) returned to Financial Aid to offset the fee increase.

¹ [https://www.sairo.ucla.edu/Portals/107/Data%20Bite/Covid 19%20Briefs/UCUES2020BriefCOVID_Exp_Final.pdf](https://www.sairo.ucla.edu/Portals/107/Data%20Bite/Covid%2019%20Briefs/UCUES2020BriefCOVID_Exp_Final.pdf)

² <http://transformschools.ucla.edu/stateofcrisis/>

³ <https://dailybruin.com/2020/11/11/ucla-report-details-state-of-student-homelessness-in-california> ⁴ <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/ucla-fast-facts>

⁵ <https://dailybruin.com/2021/02/15/usac-launches-new-pandemic-relief-fund-to-help-students-in-need>

- Promise motions to endorse the Bruin Emergency Relief Fund Referendum, Emily seconds
- By motion of 9-0-0 the motion passes, the vote to endorse BERF is approved

XI. Adjournment*

Riley

- Naomi adjourns the meeting 8:09am

Good and Welfare

* Indicates Action Item
Indicates Consent Item
@Indicates Executive Session Item