



AGENDA  
 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
 August 30, 2021  
 7 PM PST  
 Zoom: [https://ucla.zoom.us/s/97123303841](https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97123303841)

**I. Call to Order**

Velazquez

- Cassandra calls the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet**

- Signed via Google Docs

**II. Approval of Agenda\***

Gatica

- Strike Grace Song appointment
- Strike Himaja appointment
- Herman motions to approve the agenda as amended, Mominah seconds
- By 8-0-0 the motion passes, agenda is approved as amended

**III. Approval of the minutes\***

Gatica

**IV. Public Comment**

Velazquez

- Public comment concluded at 7:05 p.m.

**V. Funding**

**VI. Special Presentations**

**VII. Appointments**

**ASUCLA Communications Board: Alexandre Holt\***

Velazquez

- Tayloneei moves to appoint Alexandre Holt to ASUCLA Communications Board, Sarah seconds
- By motion of 11-0-0 the motion passes, Alexandre Holt is appointed to ASUCLA Communications Board

**Campus Programs Committee, alternate (CPC): Brian Moreno-Alvarez\***

Velazquez

- Herman motions to appoint Brian Moreno-Alvarez to Campus Programs Committee alternate, Tayloneei seconds
- By motion of 12-0-1 the motion passes, Brian Moreno-Alvarez appointed as Campus Programs Committee alternate

**Budget Review Director: Kayla Rafanan\***

Velazquez

- Sarah moves to appoint Kayla Rafanan as Budget Review Director, Angie seconds
- By motion of 10-0-0 the motion passes, Kayla Rafanan appointed as Budget Review Director

**John Wooden Center Board of Governors: John Simpkins\***

Velazquez

**Student Conduct Committee: Katelyn Downing\***

Velazquez

- Promise motions to approve Katelyn Downing for Student Conduct Committee, Tayloneei seconds
- By motion of 12-0-1 the motion passes, Katelyn Downing appointed to Student Conduct Committee

**Committee on Disability: Grace Song\***

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**Ficom Vice Chair: Joshua Prentice\***

J. Wang

- Tayloneei motions to appoint Joshua Prentice to Ficom Vice Chair, Sarah seconds
- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, Joshua Prentice appointed to Ficom Vice Chair

**Ficom General Members: Christine Tseng\***

J. Wang

- Jane motions to appoint Christine Tseng to Ficom General Members, Tayloneei seconds
- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, Christine Tseng appointed to Ficom General Members

**Ficom General Members: Ryan Dunker\***

J. Wang

- Tayloneei motions to appoint Ryan Dunker as Ficom General Members, Herman seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, Ryan Dunker appointed to Ficom General Members

**Ficom General Members: Jennifer Yung\***

J. Wang

- Promise motions to appoint Jennifer Yung to Ficom General Members, Tayloneei seconds

- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, Jennifer Yung appointed to Ficom General Members

Academic Freedom Committee: Kate Melnery\* Quint

Committee on Budget and Planning: Dakota Edison\* Quint

- Sarah motions to appoint Dakota Edison to Committee on Budget and Planning, Herman seconds
- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, Dakota Edison appointed to Committee on Budget and Planning

Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS): Daniela Cortez Bravo\* Quint

- Herman motions to appoint Daniela Cortez Bravo to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools, Tayloneei seconds
- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, Daniela Cortez Bravo appointed to the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools

Faculty Executive Committee: Himaja Vendidani\* Quint

Legislative Assembly Committee: Kaylee Blanco\* Quint

- Tayloneei motions to appoint Kaylee Blanco to Legislative Assembly Committee, Herman seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, Kaylee Blanco appointed to Legislative Assembly Committee

Committee on General Education Governance: Anusha Entezari\* Quint

Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Mina Anochie\* Quint

- Tayloneei motions to appoint Mina Anochie to Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Carl seconds
- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, Mina Anochie appointed to the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications: Victoria Vargas\* Quint

- Herman motions to appoint Victoria Vargas to the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications, Carl seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, Victoria Vargas is appointed to the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications

Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS): Heidy Melchor\* Quint

- Tayloneei motions to approve Heidy Melchor to Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools, Carl seconds
- By motion of 12-0-0 the motion passes, Heidy Melchor appointed to Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools

Academic Senate (Legislative Assembly Council) Mariam Aref\* Quint

## **IX. Old Business**

## **X. New Business**

### **[UCOP Community Safety Plan Response Statement](#)**

Velazquez

#### **Dear UCLA Campus Community and Administration,**

We, students of the Campus Safety Alliance, USAC Office of the President and Internal Vice President, write in response to President Drake's Community Safety Plan. The Plan's language about "transforming UC's culture, policies and practices" as it relates to public safety is encouraging, but we want to ensure that changes are truly transformational, and not just buzzwords or empty promises. We know this is a "living document" and a broad outline for campuses, but the Plan leaves us with a lot of questions about this process and how it will look at UCLA and other UC campuses. We take this as an opportunity to share some of our initial feedback, questions, and suggestions for the document itself as well as its implementation at UCLA.

#### **On ambiguous language:**

Guideline 1 states that "Our campus safety system must reflect the needs and values of a diverse campus community, including those vulnerable to harm." If "those vulnerable to harm" means Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Trans and Queer people, we ask that the document directly say that. In order to address campus safety, it is important to name who is most impacted by policing and that this is an issue of racial justice. Language should be direct, even if it causes discomfort for some people. Ambiguous, vague language will not help us move forward to "transform" the culture or system.

#### **On deadlines:**

There are several “expected completed dates” that say that certain tasks will be completed by September 30th, 2021. These tasks include the establishment in Guideline 1.2 of a “community-led process... to define and advise on the specific strategies and approach on the tiered response model.” Why is this deadline so close, a month away and only a week into the start of classes, when students have not been notified at all about this, yet it is supposed to involve them? How will UCLA determine which faculty, students, and staff will be a part of this process? We think these are important considerations that require advance planning, and thus think that this deadline should be moved, especially so that we can prioritize BIPOC, impacted students, staff, and faculty, who are experts in their lived experiences and in matters of racial justice and abolition.

Also by September 30th, according to Guideline 1.3 “Campus leadership,” will supposedly have heard and considered views on “maintaining, defunding and abolishing police departments.” This suggests that hearing the abolitionist perspective is a one-and-done, when really it should be a continued framework and practice that shapes how we address public safety throughout the process and over the years. We are also curious who this “campus leadership” will be, who is considered a leader, who has the power and the final say. We believe this process should be democratic, and, as stated before, centering the knowledge of BIPOC impacted people.

#### **On an accountability body:**

We want to ensure that the “accountability body” in Guideline 4 does not entrench the current harmful system of policing. If in existence, an oversight board should have actual power -- such as to fire officers and make steps toward divestment. We want to know the requirements of who would be on such a board, or any decision-making body for that matter, such as their knowledge of anti-Blackness in policing, critical race theory, and alternatives to policing and incarceration. We also want to highlight the faculty of the Divest/Invest Collective at UCLA, who called for a board of their own, comprised of faculty who are experts in racial justice, abolition, and related subjects, as well as BIPOC, system-impacted, formerly- incarcerated students and staff. This is not for mere sake of representation, but actual implementation of systemic change, grounded in people’s lived experiences as well as research and data.

#### **On tiered response & police presence at protests and other events:**

We believe that the presence of police should be minimized in a tiered response model, especially involving mental health crises. Thus the university should prioritize non-police roles for preventing and responding to crises. We want to ensure that the university has an equitable and racial justice approach to consulting the community -- and letting impacted community members guide the process -- as described above.

Guideline 2 states that the UC will “minimize police presence at protests” and that “non-sworn security personnel will patrol residence halls and staff events.” This invokes an overall sense that there still needs to be some degree of policing or “patrolling” in these places. We push back against this assertion. Community spaces, events, and protests should be free of monitoring. Safety is of utmost priority, and for Black, Indigenous, queer people of color in these spaces, the presence of police can have the very effect of making people feel unsafe or unable to express themselves freely. We want to ensure that “non-sworn security personnel” are not simply replicating policing under a different name. Moreover, we want to see the university reverse the provisions of the “Gold Book,” which, among other measures, seeks to amplify policing of protest, when it should not just be “minimized,” but eliminated entirely.

#### **On the question of violence:**

Guideline 2 says that “The University will prioritize deterrence and violent crime prevention over the enforcement of non-violent minor offenses.” Interpretations of violence and legal classifications of “violent crime” differ across geography and are often racist in that Black and Brown people are seen as violent while the violence of white supremacy is disregarded. How will UCLA define “violence?” What literature will aid the understanding of how violence arises? What non-policing steps will the university take to prevent and deter violence?

Under the same guideline, there is a provision for “restorative justice programs,” but seemingly only in the event of “nonviolent and low-level crimes.” We think this misses the point of restorative justice, which has a potential to transform harm and prevent cycles of violence. Thus restorative justice should not be limited to nonviolent crimes.

**On data transparency:**

Of the data proposed for a dashboard in Guideline 3, the first category is “crime data.” How is the university defining “crime”? If the plan is to use arrest data to constitute “crime,” this should be changed for multiple reasons. First, people often get arrested when they have not broken the law and are falsely accused. Secondly, we should be questioning what we define as “criminal” and pushing back on criminalizing acts of survival.

Moreover, we ask how the university will incorporate into its analysis work that has already been done by scholars within the UC and in our local communities, such as Los Angeles’s Care First, Jails Last report. UCLA scholars have already done research about UCPD policing at UCLA and in Westwood, with two reports having come out just this year. “Policing UCLA,” a report led by the Million Dollar Hoods Research Project and No UCPD Coalition, found that 29% of UCLA PD arrests from 2013-2018 were of Black people, even though Black people make up only 2% of Westwood’s population. The top five charges, including trespassing, public disturbances, and warrants, show cases of criminalizing people who have been formerly policed, shut out of housing, or seen as threats to a white, propertied public order. “Mapping Yesterday’s Police Activity at UCLA,” further shows how UCLA PD’s primary activity involves property or “people deemed disruptive,” with less than 10% of events dealing with actual or threatened violence. It also finds that policing off campus in Westwood more commonly leads to arrests, but also that more than 80% of events “do not result in follow-ups for any asserted or possible crime.” These issues, and more addressed in these reports, are pertinent in addressing policing and public safety at UCLA. The rigorous analysis done by students and faculty experts should be prioritized in discussions about data and general discussions on the root of the problem and how to transform public safety.

**On hiring:**

Guideline 1.10 states that the University will not hire officers with misconduct, but we ask why there is a need to continue hiring officers in the first place. As described above, their primary roles are to maintain the propertied whiteness of the university, to police who “belongs” here, setting a boundary when in fact everybody should belong. The money used to hire new officers could be directed somewhere else, such as toward non-police crisis response teams and mental health resources.

The same can be said about hiring someone full-time to “monitor and support system wide implementation of the UC Community Safety Plan.” What would the criteria for hiring this person be? How much would this person be paid? Can this money be better spent on resources for students?

**On a “living document”:**

We see this letter as a starting point. We have not addressed all of our thoughts here, and we know that there are many community members whose opinions have not been heard and will need to be front and center for these discussions and changes. Our hope is both for future conversations and forums to be held throughout the process and for transformational change to be implemented and become tangible.

Sincerely,

SIGN ON HERE

**XI. Adjournment\***

- Cassandra adjourns the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Velazquez

**Good and Welfare;**

\* Indicates Action Item

# Indicates Consent Item

@Indicates Executive Session Item