AGENDA
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
September, 21, 2023
7 PM PST
Zoom: https://ucla.zoom.us/j/98686577744?pwd=Zm5TeGNIVG5PcTxQ3MzckN1Z01XZz09
Password: 245694

I. Call to Order
- Naomi calls the special meeting to order at 7:03pm.

A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet
- Present:
- Absent:

II. Approval of Agenda*
- Strike Bruin Advocacy Grant Allocations
- Strike SWC Programming Fund
- Strike Capital Contingency
- Strike Contingency Programming
- Strike ARC Allocations
- Strike TGIF

- Jonathan moves to approve the agenda as amended, Megan seconds.
- By vote of 12-0-0, the motion passes and the agenda is approved as amended.

III. Approval of the minutes*
- Sara moves to approve the minutes from 9/12/23, Eva seconds.
- By vote of 12-0-0, the motion passes and the minutes from 9/12/23 are approved.

IV. Public Comment
- Naomi: “So now we will be opening up public comment at 7:06pm. Briefly before, just remember that according to Article 6, Section A, the public comment section is meant for members of the association. That means undergraduates at UCLA who wish to address the Council on agenda items. The Council will limit comments to 2 minutes per speaker and 30 minutes per entire section. Time shall be kept by me and no speaker may yield their time to another public comment speaker.”

- Roger: “Hello everybody, my name is Roger. I am a rising junior and an environmental science major and a member of the DSU. I am here to speak today about the Covid-19 resolution. The resolution is incredibly meticulous with 62 citations and has demonstrated an unbelievable amount of support from the student body. The list of supporting organizations alone, given not only their numbers but their diversity of mission and makeup and how much of the undergraduate student body they represent, should all but guarantee the resolution to pass. I know that discussion of Covid is difficult but I would urge the council members to truly examine the data as opposed to the propagandized narrative of normal that is constantly pushed on us. All of this in mind, it is obvious to me that it is imperative of USAC to pass this resolution even when there will be push back for doing so. I urge you to not let this stop you. There will be pushback for failing it as well and that pushback will be accompanied by genuine danger. I have Covid-19 in May of 2022 and was only able to receive what little safety and comfort I did because of UCLA’s isolation housing which has not been drastically decreased. Despite having a mild case of Covid, my health has never been the same and I would never want even this much for others. When critics look back at the decisions made here tonight, I can only hope and pray that they will accuse us of being over cautious or that we cared too much. Thank you.”

- Rainer: “Hello, I am Rainer. I use he/him pronouns. I am the editor-in-chief of Outright News magazine which is UCLA's queer new magazine. If you don’t know us, I am also here to support the Covid-19 resolution on behalf of our
organization. It is a simple thing to prioritize people’s health and safety and a great way to stand in solidarity with vulnerable populations. I think that ensuring care for all of the UCLA community is very important and to make sure that everyone feels safe and cared for. Thank you.”

- Sarah: “Hello, I am Sarah and I am with Students for Socialism here on campus and I wanted to express my organization’s support for USAC’s resolution to strengthen UCLA’s Covid response especially in reaction to the rising Covid-19 infection rates. It is imperative that we react accordingly. No students should have to endanger their health in order to access education especially at a school such as UCLA which we know certainly has the resources it would need to continue protecting its student body. Students for Socialism stands in solidarity with USAC and all other supporting organizations in support of this resolution. Thank you.

- Taig: “Hello, my name is Taig, I use they/them pronouns. I am an RA for Hedrick Hall and I wanted to again echo support for the Covid-19 Resolution. I am an RA in a class triple building which means in the next two weeks I am going to be interacting with hundreds and hundreds of residents. I attempted to get PCR testing and things like that to ensure the safety of myself, my residents, and my coworkers and I wasn’t able to receive a test where I could test on the hill. I would have to return that test at Pauley Pavilion and I think that just creates a huge barrier and a huge disincentive for students to test. Whereas before, I was able to test weekly or even more frequently and just ensure the safety of myself and my community. So I am extremely concerned about this as well. The lack of isolation housing and things like that, meaning if I were to get sick, even though I have my own room, I would not be able to fully isolate and I would still have to use the communal restrooms. I would still have to use communal dining halls and so I just want to echo my support for this resolution again. There are so many student organizations who are behind this and in general throughout history, student organizing has really made it possible for radical change to happen on university campuses and I think this is an opportunity for us to be at the forefront of promoting safety and wellness for students in the county. We might be doing too much but we definitely don’t want to be doing not enough and I think this resolution is just going to keep us on the right side of history. I urge you to support. Thank you.”

- Eliana: “Thank you so much, good to be here. I am currently a student and last year I was Gen Rep 3 and I just want to echo what folks have been saying about how important things are like paid sick time and isolation housing and how you all need to be advocating for that. This is the decision that you will be making today. I also just want to express my appreciation for a lot of awesome people but especially Thuya Cobbs with the work that she has been doing supporting the disabled student community, the Jewish community, and representing us at the UC Regents. I see you, I love you and just want to put that out there because of all the stuff that we are going to be dealing with tonight. Thank you.”

- Layla: “Hi, I spoke at the last meeting so I am thankful that USAC decided to have this emergency meeting. I am a fourth year student and as a worker, we are getting ready for the new school year. I am extremely worried about the lack of Covid safety mandates. It is really just protecting the safety of students and faculty. ASA student workers are working to pay their bills but we do not get sick pay so if we are out sick with Covid or any other illness. We are always understaffed and then we also have to deal with constantly ill customers complaining that we are understaffed and it is horrible and ironic. I am also worried about the lack of accommodations that UCLA has offered to students. Students and faculty are out with Covid and have to worry about whether or not they are going to get incompletes or whether they are going to have to take a class again and it adds on to the stress of what they are supposed to be focusing on their healing and resting while dealing with this illness. I am very much in support of this resolution. Thank you so much.”

- Public comment is closed at 7:15pm.

**V. Funding**

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F. **AAC Travel Mini-Grant Allocations**
   - No allocations.

G. **ARC Allocations**

H. **TGIF**

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**VI. Special Presentation**

**VII. Appointments**

**VIII. Officer Reports**

A. **President**
   - I finished and submitted my welcome speech. My team and I are meeting some collaborators for Week Zero events. We had our first meeting today for the UCLA downtown Programming Charge Meeting Committee. It was mostly intros but planning our visit to the downtown building and discussing the process for proposals. Evan and I had a meeting earlier this week with the campus facilities coordinating commission. It was mostly introductions and hearing about things that are occurring in the Westwood Community.
   - I got to touch base with Mick about a potential event that we will be trying to put on later in the school year. I met with Sonia and Eva last week to discuss something and we will be continuing conversations.
   - I met Lori and Orlando at the recent North Carolina and UCLA football game.
   - I got to interact with Monroe and other amazing black alumni to discuss my vision for this year and potential future collaborations.
   - My office made our reservation for the Kerckhoff 417 and just another reminder for folks that the deep clean will be happening on the 25th and 26th in preparation for our USAC open house.

B. **Internal Vice President**
   - ARC conducted 6 interviews this week, have 9 more in the coming days, and will be scheduling more for our USAC Meeting on Week 0 and Week 1.
   - We will be sending out acceptances for our General Staff and opening out Internship applications soon.
   - We are preparing for EAF and the USAC Open House and preparing to recruit for our office.
   - I had a meeting with Thrya, Transfer Student Representative, on Monday to plan a SOLE workshop for transfer students to learn about transfer student organizations and to create their own organizations on campus.

C. **External Vice President**
   - My team has been pretty busy this week. Our local relations team has been really amazing in discussing more plans for the union collaboration.
   - We are making a survey by tomorrow that should go up on social media to see what renters of Westwood would like to learn and improve their awareness of renters rights and that kind of thing.
   - Our state relations team has been brainstorming legislators to target. We are doing some lobby training this past week and we are also brainstorming ways to support CalFresh and the expansion of that in preparation for a big state district lobbying push.
   - The federal relations team has been mainly focusing on brainstorming a tour that they are trying to organize with Rep Ted. We are planning on having a Q&A with him and taking him on a tour to see various underfunded areas on campus.
   - Our target date is November 30th so circle that in your calendars. This upcoming weekend our EVP Fellowship application is opening up. If you know anyone who is recently admitted to UCLA or has no USAC experience but is interested in advocacy and potentially getting involved in USAC, I highly encourage you to apply to the fellowship.
   - Two days ago was National Voter Day so Bruin’s vote did a big push with that and they are tabling at EAF which I am super excited to build that back up again.
   - Our student relations team had our first Bruin Advocacy Grant intro meeting with that committee. They also have been super busy this week and they met with UCLA housing, ASUCLA upper admin.
   - Some other Transportation folks on campus are working with a bunch of our platforms and I am really excited to see what is made of this conversation.
- I also spoke with someone about discussing the 195CE internship courses. We are continuing to write that sign on and obviously the biggest thing is that the UC Regents meeting was this past week. They ended today and we had our EVP office members every day like at every committee meeting so I was really impressed by our turnout. They will be publishing reports on the committee and any decisions that were made.

IX. Old Business

A. A Resolution to Mandate Masking, Weekly PCR Testing, and COVID-19 Vaccines, and to Improve Ventilation, and Reinstate the COVID-19 Task Force*  

- Naomi: “Now moving forward to the topic of why I called this emergency meeting. We will be talking about a Resolution to Mandate Masking, Weekly PCR testing, and Covid-19 Vaccines and to Improve Ventilation, and Reinstate the Covid-19 Task Force. Before jumping into this discussion, I would just like to remind the Council of just some Community guidelines that have been said throughout the years of USAC. To begin with, freedom of speech does not mean freedom of accountability. That actually came from a Cultural Affairs Commission. Debate ideas not people. Keep professional issues separate from USAC business. Your words have impacts, be mindful about the tone of your voice. You are on public record that exists in perpetuity and that record can follow you where you go in the future. Members should retain their vote and vote yes or no or abstain. Abstaining does not equal voting no. Abstaining is best when you don’t have enough information or if there is a conflict of interests.”

A Resolution to Mandate Masking, Weekly PCR Testing, and COVID-19 Vaccines, and to Improve Ventilation, and Reinstate the COVID-19 Task Force

Sponsors:
Alicia Verdugo, Cultural Affairs Commissioner  
Thyra Cobbs, Transfer Student Representative  
Sujana Sridhar, Academic Affairs Commissioner

Supporting Organizations:
Disabled Student Union  
Afrikan Student Union  
OutWrite Newsmagazine  
Environmentalists of Color Collective  
Disability Peer Mentoring Project  
Students Stop Tech Addiction Together  
UCLA Swipe Out Hunger  
Students for Justice in Palestine  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
Student Labor Advocacy Project  
Students for Socialism at UCLA  
Samahang Pilipino  
FEM Newsmagazine  
Student Wellness Commission’s Student Education and Research of Contemporary Health  
Pacific Island’s Student Association  
M.E.Ch.A. de UCLA

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Association Council’s highest priority is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the students, faculty, and staff, and

WHEREAS, lack of universal masking mandates for indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces at school leads to thousands of student, staff, and faculty absences due to illness, having a significant negative impact on learning, livelihoods, and health, and

WHEREAS, state, local, federal, and global levels of COVID are severely undercounted and underreported due to the dismantling of COVID tracking, testing, and reporting, with wastewater data being the most accurate representation of current COVID population levels, and 2

WHEREAS, the UC system and the state, local, and federal levels of government are denying the severity of the pandemic, while students, faculty, and staff are forced to go to school and work without layered protective mitigation measures in place, and

WHEREAS, UCLA has a “strong recommendation for masks” indoors, 3 but has ordered almost all departments to remove masking signage that clearly states that recommendation, as well as forbidding individual departments and groups from requiring masks in their spaces for the sake of ‘equity’ and the political optics of ‘normal.’ UCLA cannot claim it is prioritizing the health and safety of its constituents when it prevents departments and groups from requiring masks, and certainly not when UCLA isn’t consistent in its own messaging, and

WHEREAS, due to waning immunity from previous COVID vaccines and constant variant mutations, and that immunity provided by vaccine doses wanes quickly, 4 repeated and timely updated COVID vaccinations for the population are vital and call for urgent messaging. On September 12, 2023, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) “is now recommending updated COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 6 months and older to better protect you and your loved ones.” 5 The new vaccine is meant to replace the initial primary series of vaccination for COVID-19, since the immunity provided from the initial primary series has waned enough to be not effective enough against the new variants, and is therefore not a ‘booster.’ 6 However, the University of California has not promoted nor informed its constituents enough about the new XBB 1.5 vaccine, nor mandated its students, faculty, and staff to get the XBB 1.5 new vaccine that is currently approved, and

WHEREAS, the University of California Los Angeles, as well as the UC wide system, already requires an annual influenza vaccination, as well as Tuberculosis screening, Measles, Mumps, Tdap, Rubella and Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccinations for all of its constituents, and the UC system has required COVID-19 vaccinations in the past, along with religious and medical exemption, 7 and

WHEREAS, the University of Southern California (USC) made a “COVID-19 General Update” announcement on September 1, 2023 that was dispersed to the all of its constituents, indicating that USC is still monitoring COVID-19, continuing to provide free Rapid Testing to its constituents at multiple locations, as well as continuing to perform wastewater tracking, alerts, and mandatory testing when COVID-19 is detected in the wastewater, all in addition to reminding its constituents about flu and COVID-19 vaccinations and promising updates on the upcoming XBB 1.5 vaccine, 8 and

WHEREAS, wastewater is very high in Los Angeles, reporting increases in COVID transmission in Los Angeles County, 9,10 which is an undercount according to wastewater data indicating levels higher than 63% of the days of the pandemic thus far, and 11

WHEREAS, wastewater levels of COVID-19 are extremely high in the United States at large, where “U.S. COVID infections are hovering near levels of the pandemic’s first peak in 2020, and approaching the Delta peak of late 2021, according to

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2 https://youtu.be/YkgAmg63ZSs?t=1580
7 https://immunizationrequirement.ucla.edu/
9 http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/phcommon/public/media/mediapubdetail.cfm?unit=media&ou=ph&prog=media&c ur=cur&puid=4497&row=25&start=1
10 http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/data/
11 https://biobot.io/data/
wastewater surveillance and modeling by forecasters. Viral wastewater levels are not far behind all of the pandemic’s 2020 peaks except for one—the initial peak of March 2020, which they’ve already surpassed. And they lag just slightly [behind] levels seen during the deadly Delta peak of late 2021, according to Biobot Analytics, which monitors such data for the federal government. A forecast issued this week by Jay Weiland, a leading COVID modeler, came to the same conclusions. On Thursday, Weiland estimated that 650,000 Americans are becoming infected daily, with 1 in 51 Americans currently infected with COVID. An additional 7% to 10% of the U.S. population will be infected over the next month and a half, Weiland predicted.\(^{12}\) and at the peak of testing and reporting, the CDC still estimated that only ~25% of COVID-19 cases were reported,\(^{13}\) and

**WHEREAS,** “a significant proportion of COVID-19 transmission is asymptomatic or presymptomatic – potentially as high as 60\(^{14,15}\) and “Rapid COVID tests miss 90% of asymptomatic cases” with single administration versus serial testing multiple times over the course of multiple days,\(^{16}\) indicating the need for consistent, accurate testing to be available and administered, as well as universal masking, and

**WHEREAS,** the discontinuation of mandated weekly PCR testing and easily accessible vending machines for PCR test drop-offs is very dangerous to the UCLA community, as well as not processing PCR tests on the weekends or sending out automated isolation instructions and resource information immediately on the processing of the PCR test such that students have had to wait until three days later (“one business day”) to receive instructions if the test returns, which is nowhere near timely enough to reduce transmission, and

**WHEREAS,** there has been high demand for free rapid antigen tests on The Hill and through Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center (ASHE), and UCLA’s response to the high demand for free rapid tests when they were available was to stop distributing rapid tests on The Hill and to create an appointment barrier through ASHE, and

**WHEREAS,** in response to rising cases and transmission, Morris Brown, a historically Black college university in Atlanta, Georgia, is requiring all students and employees to wear face masks, maintain physical distance, fill out symptom monitoring, use contact tracing, and limit large gatherings,\(^{17}\) and UCLA as a supposed “top university” is failing to protect its constituents in comparison to Morris Brown, and

**WHEREAS,** in response to rising cases and transmission, health care company Kaiser Permanente has also reintroduced mask mandates in the Santa Rosa hospital and medical offices for all people, as well as New York’s United Health Services, Auburn Community Hospital, and Upstate Medical’s hospitals in Syracuse,\(^{18}\) but UCLA has decided to remove its mask mandate in healthcare following LACDPH’s August 11th rescindment of the healthcare mask mandate, and

**WHEREAS,** untracked, circulating COVID-19 leads to more viral mutations and immune-evasive variants such as EG.5 and the highly mutated BA.2.86 variant, where the lack of surveillance and mitigations to stop spread has led to the World Health Organization admitting it is deeply concerned that there is not enough rapid information being shared to truly track and respond to COVID-19 in a timely manner, and\(^{19}\)

**WHEREAS,** the long-term risks of reinfection are common, and data shows “a consistent pattern of increased likelihood of hospitalization, cardiovascular effects, clotting and other blood disorders, diabetes, fatigue, gastrointestinal distress, kidney damage, mental health effects such as depression, musculoskeletal damage, neurological deficits, and pulmonary damage with each episode,” and\(^{20}\)

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15. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2774707
16. https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02254-9
17. https://www.instagram.com/p/CwLcj0qAeWZ/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNFIZA==
19. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KkUdFBB5Ac
WHEREAS, anybody who has previously been infected with any strain of COVID-19 is at heightened risk for severe illness from COVID-19 for asymptomatic, mild, moderate, and severe cases, and is therefore encompassed within the heightened risk population that includes those who are immunocompromised, chronically ill, disabled, are a racial or ethnic minority, hold intersectional identity, have mood disorders, and

WHEREAS, BIPOC make up close to 65% of UCLA’s undergraduate population alone, and therefore most of UCLA’s undergraduate population is at heightened risk just based off of demographic data, and

WHEREAS, 27.9% of all American adults who have known to previously had COVID, and 14.9% of all American adults, have Long-COVID, according to the last eight weeks of the U.S Census Bureau’s Phase 3.9 Household Pulse Survey, which has a sample size of hundreds of thousands of people, and as a reminder, 7-10% more of the U.S. population is expected to become infected in the next six weeks, meaning 2% of the entire US population will be permanently disabled, AKA 6.7 million people becoming permanently disabled from COVID-19 and needing longer term care, and

WHEREAS, the Biden administration has amassed over 1.1 million deaths from COVID-19 during its term, which by its own and all reasonable standards is a horrific failure to fulfill the most basic responsibilities of government. The federal government continues to pretend the pandemic is not a threat anymore to the public at large while continuing to take their own internal precautions, and

WHEREAS, wealthy and powerful people are continuing to protect themselves from COVID, while many of them seek to strip away COVID protections from everyone else, especially poor people, working class people, disabled people, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and people of color, and

WHEREAS, student workers counted as ‘Casual/Restricted’ or ‘Per Diem’ do not typically receive sick pay or sick leave for illness and when they do it is based on accrual which suggests someone must earn the right to be able to be sick and also survive, placing extreme hardship on students who depend on their job, and Teaching Assistants (TAs) do not receive adequate sick pay or sick leave either as they are not full-time employees, and

WHEREAS, Residential Assistants in particular are not provided adequate sick leave or sick pay and with UCLA making isolation housing extremely inaccessible, Residential Assistants and other ResLife and Housing workers should not be expected to perform their duties while they themselves are sick, and

WHEREAS, former UC President Janet A. Napolitano issued an executive order March 16, 2020 providing all employees with 128 hours of paid administrative leave specifically for COVID-19 related reasons, but no further sick leave/pay provisions were made for the past three years, and

[23] https://www.census.gov/about/facts-and-figures
[24] https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp/#/?measures=LONCOVID_1
[26] https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status/1319446692236791814
[27] https://covid19.who.int/region/amro/country/us
[31] https://reslife.ucla.edu/employment/resident-assistant-job-description
WHEREAS, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that distributed grants to students that demonstrated financial need through their 2021/2022 FAFSA or Dream Act, although minimal, was extremely beneficial to students who received the grants, but the Fund was not active for the 2022-2023 academic year,33 and

WHEREAS, the University’s COVID-19 denialist Task Force “Infectious Diseases Management Team,” has removed the need for a negative COVID test to end isolation as well as reducing isolation time to 5 days, citing guidelines of that were originally instituted by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) directly after airline companies lobbied to reduce the 10-day quarantine to 5 days, a reduction not supported by infectious disease transmission and health science but rather a push to open the flight industry,34,35 and

WHEREAS, UCLA’s decision to follow the reduced isolation guidelines from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) when noting that LACDPH “strongly recommends”36 testing negative for COVID-19 prior to leaving isolation reflects UCLA’s unwillingness to be proactive in reducing transmission, and

WHEREAS, UCLA’s claim that there are “isolation and quarantine spaces available to students living in on-campus housing… as space permits”37 suggests readily available isolation and quarantine spaces, but isolation housing in the 2022-2023 academic year was frequently overwhelmed, and for the upcoming 2023-2024 academic year there has been word from ResLife meetings that there will only be SIX rooms on the same floor as non-isolating rooms (total occupancy = 18) available in De Neve Birch for over 14,000 Hill-dorming students, with no isolation housing to be made available to off-campus University-owned apartments, and

WHEREAS, ASHE does not provide Paxlovid, Veklury, Lagevrio, or any other antivirals or medications widely used to help treat initial COVID-19 severity, even though it is recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)37 for those who are at risk, and since ‘at-risk’ includes racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA+ identity, individuals with mood disorders, individuals who’ve previously had COVID (including asymptomatic cases which they may not be aware of) and individuals with Attention Hyper Deficit Disorder, ‘at-risk’ encompasses a significant portion of the population,38,39 and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), following CDC guidelines, recommends a MINIMUM of 6 air changes per hour, and “In California, Title 24-2019 Energy Efficiency Standards now require a MERV 13 or higher filter for schools with mechanical ventilation systems.”40 As mentioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “Transmission of COVID-19 from inhalation of virus in the air can occur at distances greater than six feet. Particles from an infected person can move throughout an entire room or indoor space. The particles can also linger in the air after a person has left the room – they can remain airborne for hours in some cases,”41 but UCLA still has poor ventilation in many of the older buildings on our 103-year old campus, on The Hill, and in University-owned off-campus housing,42 and

33 https://financialaid.ucla.edu/higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-heerf3-faq
35 https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-02026-x
39 https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/long-covid.htm
40 https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHLB/IAO/CDPH%20Document%20Library/School_ventilation_and_filtration_ADA.pdf
42 https://adminvc.ucla.edu/building-ventilation-assessment-status
WHEREAS, UCLA claims it provides portable air purifiers for multi-occupancy rooms,\textsuperscript{49} but dorm rooms count as multiple-occupancy rooms, and UCLA does not provide air purification to dorm rooms on or off campus, and

WHEREAS, classic hall dorms do not have individual HVAC systems or private bathrooms, both of which reduce transmission risk but are attainable only at a high economical expense which is an example of another wealth and health inequity,\textsuperscript{44} and

WHEREAS, UCLA has not made clear to students, staff, and faculty the proper usage and placement of the air purifiers they do provide, and when individuals have contacted UCLA multiple times to identify air purifiers that need new filters, UCLA has failed to respond or address the problem, and

WHEREAS, UCLA's Ventilation Systems page does not state it is evaluating, upgrading, or has upgraded any of the off-campus University-owned apartments,\textsuperscript{42} which student transfers occupy the majority of, and for a population that is majority BIPOC and both frequently overlooked and underrepresented, this displays direct neglect of a significant portion of UCLA's population, and

WHEREAS, UCLA is quietly discontinuing its Mask Distribution to departments as of July 1, 2023, and will be liquidating their remaining inventory through December 15, 2023,\textsuperscript{45} when they should be continuing operations and even expanding distributions by making masks such as KN95s and KF94s available in addition to the N95s they offer. This is due to how NIOSH testing is made for white male faces and KN95 and KF94 masks offer better fit for many non-white-male individuals, and protection is maximized when respirators are high quality and well-fitting for the wearer since surgical masks offer some protection but not nearly as much as respirators,\textsuperscript{46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53} and

WHEREAS, the Disabled Students Union, the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC), and Mother Organizations have been advocating for hybrid learning for more than two years, and have demonstrated that hybrid learning is popular with UCLA students by getting more than 30,000 signatures on petitions for hybrid learning\textsuperscript{54} and building a coalition of organizations representing most UCLA students for the Strike For Our Safety which had hybrid learning as a central demand, and\textsuperscript{55}

WHEREAS, UCLA's complete disregard for disabled students' concerns and retention by ignoring the previous USAC resolution calling for the removal of punitive notations and other efforts by disabled and allied student advocates furthers the

\textsuperscript{43} https://adminvc.ucla.edu/ucla-ventilation-systems-faq#~:text=For%20recirculating%20air%20systems%2C%20UCLA%20are%20based%20on%20maximum%20occupancy.
\textsuperscript{44} https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/new-students/classic-residence-hall
\textsuperscript{45} https://ehs.ucla.edu/ucla-mask-distribution
\textsuperscript{46} https://macsphere.mcmaster.ca/bitstream/11375/28032/2/Sheikh_Fatima_202208_MSc.pdf
\textsuperscript{47} https://academic.oup.com/annweh/article/53/3/297/173431?login=true
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\textsuperscript{52} https://www.axiost.com/2022/01/11/p95-mask-protection-covid
\textsuperscript{53} https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/commentary-wear-respirator-not-cloth-or-surgical-mask-protect-against-respiratory-viruses
\textsuperscript{54} https://www.change.org/p/ucla-stop-endangering-us-let-disabled-bruins-learn-remotely
\textsuperscript{55} https://femmagazine.com/strike-for-our-safety-protesting-the-push-for-in-person-classes/ (the Mother Orgs + the DSU represent UCLA's students of color and queer and disabled students, who comprise a majority of the student body, and the Strike For Our Safety received tremendous support from democratically elected USAC officers)
oppression of disabled students, especially those from diverse backgrounds, as well as not acknowledging the continuing mental and physical health of students and the intense emotional and physical burdens of the COVID-19 pandemic, and

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to reintroduce a universal mask mandate for indoor and crowded outdoor spaces, including University affiliated transportation such as BruinBus, Bruin Access, Safe Ride, etc., and display signage at the entryways for every building and transportation vehicle to accurately represent policy, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to resume its Mask Distribution operations for departments and provide N95, KN95, and KF94 respirator masks, as well as make those masks available FOR FREE in high foot traffic areas such as on The Hill, on off-campus University-owned housing, transportation vehicles, etc., including in locations already named by UCLA such as Ackerman Union, John Wooden Center, etc., since it is the University’s duty to ensure that protective respirators are accessible to all its constituents, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC asks the University of California Los Angeles to mandate its students, faculty and staff to acquire their updated COVID-19 vaccinations by November 1st, as UCLA has mandated COVID-19 vaccinations in the past already, and to provide the vaccines to their constituents at little to no cost (significantly less than $150), since vaccination availability is paramount, and that the vaccines options include Moderna, Pfizer, and Novavax, and to mandate and provide subsequent COVID-19 vaccines within the shortest time frame possible after release, while also understanding that there are some individuals that qualify for medical exemption due to chronic illness, disability, and pre-existing health conditions, and to be inclusive of those identities, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC asks the University of California Los Angeles will bring back the COVID-19 Task Force Team, and recognize that the Mother Organizations are advocating for representation for all of us to advocate for our respective communities, and also to ensure that UCLA is being held accountable for all actions it takes that contradict epidemiology, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to reinstate the discontinued PCR vending machines and drop off sites, especially the ones on The Hill and in high foot traffic areas on campus, expand PCR vending machines and drop off sites to be easily accessible to off-campus University-owned housing, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to process PCR tests on the weekends, and to send out automated isolation instructions and resource information immediately on the receipt of positive test as well as multiple different avenues for automated messaging based on the answers to the survey UCLA sends out, such that students do not have to wait a full business day for their individual case to be reviewed to receive timely assistance, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to provide easily accessible Rapid Antigen Tests on-site for all University-owned housing and through Ashe with no appointment barrier, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC urges that University of California Los Angeles should place N95, KN95, and KF94 respirators and PCR and rapid testing kits in identity-based resource centers, including but not limited to, the UCLA LGBTQ CRC, Black Bruins Resource Center, Bruins Resource Center, Veterans Resource Center, Latinx Resource Center, Transfer Students Center, American Indian Studies Center, Hillel, the soon-to-be Disability Cultural Center and Pacific Islands’ Community Center, as well as the Student Activities Center (SAC), and Kerckhoff Hall, as both SAC and Kerckhoff house diverse student groups and organizations, and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to reinstate wastewater tracking and public reporting, as well as building alerts for viral presence in sewage that require residents to get tested within two days as before, as well as publicly reinstating, providing, and regularly updating the UCLA COVID-19 tracking data and graph, and

56 https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution_2022-05-22_Resolution%20For%20The%20Removal%20of%20Punitive%20Notations%20From%20Student%20Transcripts%20.pdf
LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to provide the UCLA COVID-19 On-Site Case Notification with the COVID-19 case location dashboard to ALL of its constituents, not just the bare minimum mandatory notification to only employees, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to reinforce the isolation guidelines for those who test positive for COVID-19 by reinstituting the requirement of a minimum of 1-2 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs/rapids) to end isolation, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to recognize that providing only 6 isolation rooms in De Neve Birch on the same floor as non-isolation rooms for all of The Hill is unacceptable, especially considering that COVID-19 is not the only transmissible virus that would also call for isolation. The University must provide enough isolation and quarantine housing for ALL University-owned housing constituents, with AT LEAST the minimum amount of housing that the previous isolation buildings, De Neve Evergreen, Gayley Heights, etc., provided, and ideally expanding past those capacities since isolation housing was frequently overflowing the past two years, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to establish and maintain CADPH’s ventilation recommendations in all UCLA owned buildings, including all University-owned housing, to get to the recommended 6 minimum air changes per hour in non-healthcare environments (12 recommended for healthcare environments), and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to stay true to their claims of providing and maintaining air filters to supplement clean air delivery rate to multi-occupancy rooms, providing air filters to all university-owned housing where there is no HVAC available and where UCLA has not upgraded their ventilation system to MERV 13 yet, and to educate students, staff, and faculty on the proper usage and placement of provided air purifiers, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to reinstate takeout dining options for main food halls such as De Neve, Epicuria at Covel, and Bruin Plate on The Hill in recognition of the high risk of indoor dining, as COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses are aerosolized, as mentioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to provide a variety of antiviral medications through UCLA ASHE center, including but not limited to, Paxlovid, Veklury, Lagevrio, and more, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for those who are at risk, and since ‘at-risk’ includes racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQIA+ identity, individuals with mood disorders, individuals with previous COVID cases, and individuals with Attention Hyper Deficit Disorder, ‘at-risk’ encompasses a significant portion of the population, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California to provide sick pay, Paid Time Off, and sick leave for illness to student workers, Residential Assistants, Teaching Assistants, and all other University workers who do not currently have those policies in place in their job contract, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will pressure the University of California Los Angeles to work with students, academic workers, lecturers and the Academic Senate to instate universal access for all students in their education and for all academic workers, lecturers and professors in their work, and that includes hybrid access to lectures, discussions, seminars, labs, and every other form of teaching, which includes video recordings that can be accessible through BruinCast and Zoom recordings, etc., and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will pressure the University of California Los Angeles to implement the changes called for in the previous, unanimously passed USAC resolution calling for changes to the usage and removal process of punitive notations, and

https://time.com/6206343/schools-ventilation-covid-19-air-quality/
LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC asks the University of California Los Angeles to recognize that many members of the UCLA community are enduring Long-COVID, will work with UCLA students, workers, and faculty to develop policies and programs upholding the rights and advancing the wellbeing of people at UCLA and beyond who are suffering from Long-COVID, including but not limited to providing good-quality patient-centered care and all necessary accommodations and supports for all UCLA students, workers, and faculty with Long-COVID, as well as engaging in community-based research on Long-COVID, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge the University of California Los Angeles to follow Volume 2 of the United States Department of Education’s COVID-19 Handbook to “plan ahead to avoid disruptions in learning and make the student learning experience as seamless as possible, using the preparation measures and strategies outlined,” as all of UCLA’s mitigation and response strategies should have never been decreased and require additional measures, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC will urge UCLA to follow the U.S. Department of Education’s insistence that “Consistent with CDC guidance, [schools must] prioritize offering in-person learning to all students by implementing layered prevention strategies from the very start of the school year. This includes helping everyone eligible to get vaccinated, universal and correct indoor masking, improving ventilation, physical distancing to the maximum extent possible, implementing screening testing programs, contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, and more.” and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC urges the University of California Los Angeles to not collectively sacrifice the safety and health of their constituents for political and economic means under the guise of a propagandic “normal,” and that USAC will not stand by as UCLA quietly abandons its population, and

FINALLY, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC, in collaboration with the Disabled Students Union, Disability Justice Committee and other advocacy groups, will advocate for COVID protections and accessible learning through measures including but not limited to policy and legal advocacy, campus organizing, and making all of our events as COVID-safe and accessible as possible.

- Gwen: “I hope everybody got a chance to read over it. I just wanted to be here in case people had questions and to directly respond to what people were saying. This resolution is not exactly like the previous one which I hope people have realized after reading it over. There are a couple new things and some language was changed so I just wanted to put that out there.”

- Adam: “Thank you for writing this. I just wanted to ask how feasible this is. Do you think the things in this resolution are feasible and to what extent do you think they will actually be implemented and did that change how you wrote the resolution?”

- Gwen: “I think I am having trouble trying to figure out how to answer that because I am not sure if you mean by like me writing the resolution and wanted to present it kind of is a reflection of what I think UCLA should be able to do but like I’m not sure what or how quickly it would be implemented or what steps we need to get there. I feel like those are separate if that makes sense.”

- Jennis: “What are some notable updates that have been made to the present version?”

- Gwen: “I can try to point some out. I also was hopeful that people were also reading it closely enough, but I can also point it out. Well one of the main things that I wanted to change in language is talking about the upcoming vaccines. The supporting organizations grew quite a lot and we got a lot of them to sign on that so that is one really big change. If you scroll down a bit more there should be a place where it says the new vaccine is meant to replace the initial primary series of vaccination for Covid-19 since the immunity provided from the initial series has waned and it

Jonathan: “I have two comments. First, I would like to go to page nine where it says specifically, “Recognize that the mother organizations are advocating for representation for all of us and advocate for respective communities ….” I do not necessarily appreciate the lack of Latinx representation, specifically with the citation of MEChA, being the only Latinx organization present. Considering that Latinx students make up around 21% of the student population and given that the organization has been called out multiple times by multiple Latinx organizations for its lack of inclusivity, I just wish there would have been a bit more communication with different Latinx organizations with regards to this resolution. Being a Central American and not fully being represented by MEChA, I think that it would be really important to have further reached out to other organizations to spread awareness of this. Second, I would like to delegate back to Adam’s question about the feasibility just because I feel like that question was not adequately answered.”

Gwen: “Thank you for your comments. In terms of what you were talking about not feeling adequately represented by MEChA, I am so sorry that you feel that way. We did have IDEAS on here in the previous resolution and we did try to reach out to them and they did not reach back out to us. We also had a couple other people that we really tried to reach out to but did not respond to them. Part of the challenge that we have been facing in DSU in terms of getting the word out for this revised resolution and then people have to revote on it in their separate organizations. Obviously this is not an excuse, it is more like an explanation of DSU and several posts and announcements about the resolution have been on our page and we are trying to think of people and brainstorm organizations to reach out to. We reached out to a number of people who unfortunately did not respond in time or did not see our messages so I definitely hear you. I would love to have as much support on this as possible. I would love people to be confident and see their identities represented on this resolution and I am sorry that you feel like this is not the case for you. I am open to hearing feedback on how DSU can try to expand their communications even more but of course communication is a two-way street and a lot of it actually relies on Instagram’s algorithm which is something that DSU can’t control. In terms of feasibility, I think that has a lot to do with USAC. I think that each individual USAC member has a lot of responsibility and a lot of power. I am sure that you say in the email that was sent to all of USAC how each member has a different role and they have different things that they can do even outside even if the resolution doesn’t pass or even pass, things
can get set into motion. For example, the Facilities Commission has so many different things that they can do. They have very direct connections to admin. DSU really wants you guys to be proactive in terms of the specific feasibility of these items. I think that a lot of the things that are in this resolution have been present in the past and then UCLA took them away so I know that they can put them back. Correct me if I am wrong, but it seems like people’s questions on feasibility have more to do with the question about masks and vaccines which was brought up in the last meeting. So if anyone wants to offer clarification, I would be happy to respond but for now, I really do believe that all of these things are feasible. I think people just have to be extremely proactive about advocating on behalf of the student body to admin and also being able to directly talk to admin about this and present these demands.”

- Katie: “Hi thank you for coming back with this resolution. In terms of feasibility, I just wanted to ask if you have a cost estimate by any chance because I know that we really want to make sure that if/when it gets brought to administration, we have really thought it through so I was just curious about how much you think this is going to cost UCLA because I think that when you look back at PCR testing the the isolation housing that they also provided as a temporary solution to bring us back to school so I was just wondering if you have a cost estimate by any chance.”

- Gwen: “Quite frankly, I do not have a cost estimate because that is not something that I would ever be able to provide without consulting admin. I don’t think that I would be able to know unless I had direct access to finance and we do have a finance commissioner on USAC. What I am trying to say is USAC has a bunch of people in different roles that direct connections to admin in their roles and I think that if we want to try to build an idea of what the budget will look like for these different items, I am totally down to do that. That is actually something that I do want to do but it is hard for me to present that in the resolution unless I see what UCLA has spent previously. I would be happy to be involved in that conversation but the point is to make sure that the administration and everybody else knows that by passing this resolution, we want these things to happen.”

- Katie: “When I was looking at the resolution, I was also curious about how much it costs and it was definitely difficult to find out everything. I did look at the PCR testing because that is a concern for me. I know that they do offer it already at Pauley and at the ASHE center. I know when I have gotten PCR tests and I had to pay for it, it was like $100 but I think you could still get it discounted to like $34 because it is a campus but then just in general in this one calculation. Hypothetically, if every student at UCLA took a PCR test once a week, it would be over a million dollars per week to do all of those testings and UCLA would have to pay for that and then that would of course come out of the students pockets. I think that is just something to consider and think about in terms of this resolution about how costile it might be. There also just needs to be an acknowledgment to the fact that these funds are coming from somewhere and I don’t know where they would come from.”

- Gwen: “I am not sure if you are aware but I guess you paid out of pocket to get a PCR from the ASHE center but this whole time UCLA has been offering free PCR test through the vending machines on campus and distribution at different drop off sites including the hills that have been free for the students. Another part of the system that UCLA has been doing is giving each student or staff or faculty $2 that specifically only works at these vending machines and they can get two PCR tests a week. There are also baskets of them at the De Neve front desk which I don’t know if many people know about them.”

- Thyra: “I think just to respond to the financial feasibility of all of this. I think that we should keep in mind that UCLA is an institution that handles billions of dollars. Being at the UC Regents this week goes to show that they will say that they don’t have funding for all of these different things but they always do have funding like they have helicopters flying around the sky and they are able to pay for $500,000 raises for people in the UC regents. They have funding for things like this. They just don’t want to fund things like this which is kind of concerning and so that is why DSU is here with this resolution so I don’t think that finances on UCLA’s behalf is a concern especially when UCLA has several donors who are able to donate millions of dollars to the institution. They could find that money or run campaigns to raise money if they don’t have it.”

- Naomi: “I had a question. I was made aware that there was an email sent out to those that voted yes at the last USAC meeting on the resolution and there was supposed to be a meeting scheduled with those folks to go over the resolution and revise it. And then a separate meeting was supposed to be scheduled with those who abstained. Did either of those meetings occur?”
- Gwen: “The meeting with the people who voted yes in an attempt to brainstorm but people did not show up. I kind of just sat there and spent the rest of the time revising the resolution on my own and then I was trying to figure out a way to schedule the meeting with the people who abstained but then the emergency meeting was announced. It is something that I wish I had been able to do but I just wasn’t able to because people did not respond.”

- Naomi: “Thank you for bringing that to light. I was not included in the email so I didn’t know what had occurred. I think that would have been a valid thing to bring up. I just want to say DSU as an organization, especially if you are calling on me to do something such as calling an emergency meeting, I would appreciate a direct email because I had folks telling me from Instagram. I am not on Instagram 24/7. If I had known that you all were trying to schedule a meeting with folks, I could have either helped coordinate efforts or we could have pushed back the meeting till Friday because we had the same amount of quorum. So just keep that in mind for the future.”

- Gwen: “Thank you for letting me know. It is kind of difficult for me to know exactly what permissions people have in terms of what they are supposed to know and I was planning to send out the email the same way as the post but I guess it did not happen. I have been very busy as one of the main organizers for this. I will make sure that the rest of DSU knows though.”

- Jennis: “Regardless of the outcome of the resolution, I will say that I will reach out to the IDMT and ask them for an outline of who funded what and how they were able to fund the vending machine and PCR testing system because I remember from one of the first meetings I was able to sit in on and some of those things stopped not because they wanted it to stop but because the federal government stopped calling it a state of emergency and so then they stopped funding at the local government level. So they lost access to these things because it was no longer funded so that makes me concerned as to how much we would have to pay for the vending machines. I completely see the need for the vending machines being implemented but it might be better for a new system or a new approach.”

- Gwen: “I definitely appreciate you bringing up that you are willing to talk to IDMT because I am sure that they have plenty of insight and as the only undergraduate sitting in on those meetings, it is really hard for the rest of the public to know what is going on. To echo what Thyra was talking about. I think there is an urgency and that UCLA should find those funds for these things.”

- Naomi: “So given the various conversations that I have seen or I have overheard or have been talk about, until we have a conversation which will be happening in the near future on conduct not only as individuals but as students groups and commissioners, we are going to have a different motion for tonight’s vote on the resolution.”

- Sara moves to vote on the ballot for this resolution, Jonathan seconds.
- With a vote of 12-0-0, the motion passes and council agrees to vote on a ballot system for the resolution.

- ON BALLOT:
- By vote of 7-4-1, the motion does not pass and the resolution is not passed.

X. New Business
XI. Adjournment
- Naomi adjourns the meeting at 8:04pm.