



AGENDA
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
February 20, 2024
7 PM PST

Zoom: <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/98686577744?pwd=Zm5TeGNIVG5PcTxO3MzckNlZ0lXZz09>

Password: 245694

I. Call to Order

Hammonds

- Naomi calls the meeting to order at 7:06pm

A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet

- Present:
- Naomi
- Katie
- Megan
- Sara
- Sujana
- Chia Ying
- Adam
- Gabby
- Alicia
- Eva
- Nilaya
- Jennis
- Mason

II. Approval of Agenda*

Law

- Strike BAG allocations
- Strike GROWS Allocations
- Strike ARC Allocations
- Strike BOD Allocations
- Strike Campus Sustainability Committee Appointment
- Strike ASRF Allocations
- Strike TGMF Allocations
- Add Special Presentation on Textbook Affordability
- Strike Capital Contingency
- Add Special Presentation on Elections Board Update
- Add Executive Session for Personnel Matter

- Megan moves to approve the agenda as amended, Sara seconds.
- By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and the agenda is approved as amended.

III. Approval of the Minutes*

Law

- Eva moves to approve the minutes from 2/13/24, Nilaya seconds.
- By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and the minutes from 2/13/24 are approved.

IV. Public Comment

Hammonds

- Tai-Ge Min: "My name is Tai and I am a second year RA on the hill. I am here because for the last 137 days I have witnessed the most horrific attacks on human beings that I have ever witnessed in my life and it has changed me completely. My mom was raised in Jericho, Indiana and when she was our age she traveled to Palestine as part of a delegation of Americans from biblically named towns in the US to see the holy land. There she saw the horrors that the IOF committed against the Palestinians. She described tanks rolling through the town square at curfew everynight and shots being fired 24/7. Things she never imagined as a suburban American. The people there showed her an

unexploded bomb that read Made in the USA and she was forever changed by seeing this land being decimated by her own taxes. This was almost 40 years ago and to this day the genocide continues and we are still unwillingly paying for it. How shameful that even forty years later, her child attends the number one public university in the country and instead of the money going to a strong education and professional development, the money is going to the very same bombs that she encountered, to kill the people who changed her life forever. I personally do not know if individual people of council care about a free Palestine or not, but regardless you have a responsibility to your constituents today, your student constituents, specifically the most marginalized among us, to make decisions that reflect our will as a student body and I please urge you to vote yes on the BDS resolution tonight, make history, and keep the blood off of our hands.”

- Ananya Visweswaran: “I am sure that you guys have all received hundreds of emails from all sorts of people. I have heard that a hundred were sent as spam from people who were not UCLA students. I really urge USAC to consider the student body that has consistently shown up to rally and otherwise advocate for an equitable world for Palestinians who are currently facing a genocide. Over a hundred students have sent you emails with their ucla email asking you to vote yes on tonight's BDS resolution. I know that hundreds of non-students have spammed your emails to vote no on the resolution. I am imploring you to listen to the students who have elected you to represent and the push to divest. I hope that you have read the email explaining why the resolution is effective and necessary so I will not repeat it yet again. I will reassert that anti-Zionism is not anti-semitic and the movement for BDS is not anti-semitic. Instead, I want to point out the forty plus UCLA organizations that are sponsoring the resolution representing thousands of students. If this doesn't represent the pluralistic, diverse, and committed student body, what does? University of California undertook one of the largest divestment in the country in 1986 at the time when they divested \$3.1 billion dollars from the apartheid in South Africa. This came after years of pressure from students and violent oppression from university admin and police. Nelson Madela and other anti-apartheid leaders have pointed out the connections between South Africa and Palestine and the need to divest from both. I encourage you not to be afraid of progress or leadership and help us continue the legacy of the student movement for a better world. It is long past the time for divestment. It is time for USAC to be at the forefront of the student movement. It is time for USAC to help Palestine, end the genocide and do what is right.”
- Afnan Khawaja: “I am a fourth year student here. I am currently here before you today to discuss this ethical imperative. As you read the emails, the situation unfolding in Gaza is not just a distance crisis. It is a litmus test for our values and integrity of our institution. Reports from the United Nations, more than 28,000 Palestinians have lost their lives including over 11,000 children. The fabric of the entire society is being torn apart with educational institutions destroyed and the futures of students thrown into jeopardy and we are paying for it. Today I address you on this matter of great urgency. As USAC council members you have the power to influence change of the responsible allocation of the ten million dollars of student fees under your control. The proposed BDS resolution is a moral stance against complicity in human rights violation reflecting our commitment to human dignity and justice. Concerns that adopting BDS might divide student equality overlook historical lessons. Significant strives towards justice such as the abolition of slavery and the divestment from apartheid. Peace can not be separated from justice. Justice is a prerequisite for peace. Supporting the BDS resolution, you can affirm your dedication to principles and setting a precedent for leadership in these challenging times. It is not just a political statement, it is a commitment to standing on the right side of history, promoting human rights and equality. I urge you to support the BDS resolution, demonstrating our collective refusal to be complicit in the face of human suffering. Let us choose the path of justice and integrity.”
- Jayna Howard: “I am a Zionist. Anti-semitism has risen by 400% since October 7th. According to the FBI, Jewish people are 2.5% of the US population, yet they are the target of 55% of religious hate crimes. Jewish students have been harassed and their harassment has been justified because they are Zionists. For four generations, my family has endured anti-semitic hatred. This hostility has been a constant presence in my life and frankly the aforementioned statistics on campus sadden me but do not surprise me. For me, anti-semitism is a norm, but being Jewish is my greatest honor and my pride is my honor. For some that represent wearing a simple Star of David around their neck or fasting for Kappur. For me, it is a community that comes together for Shabbat dinner, in memory for the family that I lost in the Holocaust. For me, it is believing that Israel has a right to exist and most importantly being a Zionist. Despite the negative rhetoric, I am here to explain and reclaim what Zionism is. Zionism is the movement for self-determination and statehood of the Jewish people in the land of Israel. Zionism is not the exclusion of a Palestinian state. It is not a call for an apartheid state. How can it lead to an apartheid state when Arabs living in Israel have the same legal rights

as Jewish citizens? How can it lead to an apartheid where there are Arabs sitting on the supreme court? How can it lead to an apartheid when Arab children attend the same schools and Arab university students make up 20% of university students? Zionism is a new term for a very old concept. It is deeply connected to every aspect of Jewish life. It is the concept that calls for the return of the Jewish culture to Israel over two thousand years. Zionism is also not supporting Israel blindly. I recognize its flaws. Israel is a country that I criticize, however, I still believe in the right for Israel to exist. Just the same, there are many US policies that I do not support, yet I do not question the existence of the United States. Zionism is not the exclusion of one group, but rather the inclusion of a marginalized group that has suffered over a thousand years of exclusion an genocide to have a home. I urge you to vote no on BDS.”

- Nicole Fenyes: “I am a third year Political Science student and I have a question for those who are introducing and supporting this resolution. Did you know that roughly 150,000 Palestinians from the west bank work in Israel? Did you know that prior October 7th, 2023 about 17,000 Palestinians also held legal work permits in Israel? On average, they earn about double what Palestians who work in Palestine and they financially support other Palestians. Meaning that when you boycott, divest, and sanction Israel, you are actively taking money out of the pocket of Palestians. Even one of the harshest critics of Israel has said, “If you really hate the Palestians, BDS is a good step because it is going to harm them.” And none of that matters at all because UCLA, like all other UC campuses, has already made a written commitment not to divest from Israel meaning that passing BDS on this campus will have no bearing on the financial activities of this school and will fail to accomplish its stated goals. What it will accomplish, according to Professor Leila Beckwith, a professor at UCLA, is creating a school 7 times more likely to play host to anti-semitic attacks. Her research has found that academic BDS behavior is linked to 86% of Israel-related attacks of anti-semitic and 92% of expressions for support of BDS were accompanied with anti-semitic rhetoric. My freshman year, the 2021-2022 school year, threats to Jewish identity doubled on campus while bullying and intimidation of Jewish students tripled. There were 254 anti-semitic attacks, 10 of which occurred at UCLA. AS far as this year, the first few weeks of the 2023 school year, 76% of Jewish students had witnessed anti-semitism and 44% had personally experienced it. If you argue that passing BDS is purely a symbolic gesture of solidarity with Palestinian cause, I respond that it is a tangible act communicating that you do not care about Jewish students on campus. You claim to be pre-ceasefire or pro-peace yet you oppose the fundamental building blocks for Israeli Palestinian peace building and reconciliation. BDS is not a peaceful means of opposing perceived injustices, it is a means of actively fueling hate and contention among students on campus. Criticizing Israel is not anti-semitic, calling for its destruction is. Beyond that, passing a resolution that is statically proven to increase anti-semitism holds no bearing on UCLA’s financial relationship with ISrael and does increase anti-semitism on campus.”
- Mikayla Weinhouse: “I am a member of the student board of Hillel at UCLA. I am here representing over 150 students and allies who strongly oppose this resolution and the rise of unchecked anti-semitism on our campus. These 150 Bruins have signed the following statement, “The Jewish community at UCLA is strong and united. We are proud, pluralistic, and we are diverse. For too long, students and faculty have demonized what it means to be a Zionist. For most Zionism is an essential fabric of being Jewish. It is an ideal that has maintained a religion and our people who have lived thousands of years in the diaspora. Following expulsions, pilgrims and the Holocaust. On this campus, ill intention and ignorance have created an unjust norm that have portrayed Zionists as the worst kind of oppressors. We fully reject this hateful systemization. Like other minorities and marginalized groups, and as we confront the most anti-semitism in modern history, we assert our agency in defining the discrimination that we face. The BDS movement intentionally manipulates our history to turn people against Israel’s existence and the Jewish people’s right to self-determination. BDS is not about social boycotts, not financial divestment, nor about political sanctions. It has proven to be an anti-semitic movement because its attackers aim to intimidate, harass and isolate the Jews. Exactly what we have witnessed recently on this campus. 75% of all Jewish college students including us here tonight, have experienced anti semitism in this context. A ceasefire between Israel and the Palestians existed on October 6th. On October 7th, Hamas launched the worst terrorist attack against Jewish civilians since the Holocaust. How can anyone dare to contextualize since October 7th, without acknowledging that the Jewish people are victims to such a cataclysmic attack? BDS seeks to divide a community. Its supporters paint a complex and century old conflict as a simplified narrative that inspires hate rather than advocating for a solution. In doing so, BDS supporters on this campus have gotten away with their strategy with non-normalization of Zionism,.It is a violation of our community. We will not be marginalized and we will continue to stand up against all forms of hate including the BDS resolution. We demand you, our student government leaders at UCLA, stand with us and vote against the BDS resolution.”

- Lailah Bezan: “Good evening, I am a fourth year here at UCLA. I am here today to ask that you pass the proposed BDS resolution encouraging ethical and morally based spending within our student government. The last few months have been devastating, not just because of the brutal massive hurt against the student population but because of the pure apathy that this school has responded with under the guise that this is too complicated of an issue. What is complicated is actually having dozens of your family members killed in an air strike. Your entire home land is reduced to rubble while the entire world goes on unaffected around you. This is the reality of the Palestinian students on campus. I know people personally who have lost dozens of family members at once. Little cousins, nieces, or nephews are leaving Gaza only this time without parents. This is the norm now. You can go up to any Palestinian student and have family there and ask. There are now thousands of children that now know what it is like to have their skin melted out and amputated limbs without anesthesia. People have told me that this is just war and it does not involve us. This is not war and has everything to do with everyone in this country. We normalize and are complacent with this complete disregard for human sanctity which has led to this point where 30,000 people have been killed without remorse with our taxes and tuition. The more we allow this normalization in the very educational institutions that claim to be teaching ethics, the more these violations will go unchecked. The ICJ has ruled in favor of South Africa genocide case against Israel based off its explicit and shameful genocidal actions and statements of Israeli officials and soldiers. We must act accordingly. I believe that BDS is physically more effective and non-violent to pressure the Israeli government to follow international humanitarian rights law where diplomacy doesn't work. It would have symbolic significance with the student body that we stand with the oppressed regardless of who they are and what we may lose. I ask that when you vote today, you think now about what the backlash you might face but about the people whose biggest fear is losing everything and everyone that they have ever known.”

- Mohammad Aljoudi: “I am a Palestinian/American student here at UCLA. AS a child here in the US, I grew up learning a lot about apartheid South Africa which was justified by the oppressors who enforced them at the time. Everytime we were asked why we learned history, there was an obvious answer, to prevent history from repeating itself. I am here to tell you that history is being repeated. For almost 5 months, I have watched in horror as the world stands still with a genocide unfolding in front of it. The Palestinian people are enduring a genocide and a ethnic cleansing campaign that has not only killed 30,000 most of whom are women and children but wounded many more, destroyed more than 50% of the buildings in Gaza, many of which were essential infrastructure and displaced 1.7 million. All in the name of Zionis. It is unbelievable that we even need to debate whether or not to pass this resolution. This is important because as a UCLA student, I have been consistently pushed aside with the university turning a blind eye to the massacre of my people. At a time like this, it is integral to divest from the same tech companies that supply Israel with the technology to continue its genocide and occupation of Palestians like me. The same companies supplying Israeli soldiers with the necessary resources as they dance over our dead naked bodies. They hunt and torture Palestians as if we are hunting game. The Israeli prime minister and many other top Israeli leaders called me and millions of other Palestians like me, “children of darkness” and even “animals”. One Israeli leader even suggested dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza. So my question to you is, when we look back on history, will you have taken a step towards ending the genocide and ethnic cleansing of my people by voting yes on the BDS resolution or will you have allowed history to repeat itself once again?”

- Syaal Sharifzad: “I am here on behalf of the Muslim Student Association here at UCLA. First of all, I want to thank USAC for allowing us to even bring up this resolution. This is the third time that I am making a public comment here and honestly the third time that I am asking USAC members to reflect our values as students for once. I just wanted to emphasize that it is our moral imperative to vote for the BDS bill. I wanted to address some of the points made earlier. I want to say that anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism. This is a tired and exhausted claim. We are not here to debate what Zionism means or whether Israel is an apartheid state. It is, that is the facts. You can look up the Amnesty International decision on it. You can look at the Court of Justices decision on it. This is just something that is true. As such, I am asking and urging you to please vote on what your conscience rests on and not on what will lead to backlash or what will negatively affect you. I am just asking you to vote in the name of justice, in the name of divesting from companies that provide weapons to kill children, innocent children, innocent women, innocent families. I just wanted to also mention the fact that just because this is something that is happening overseas does not mean that it is not within our reach. Honestly, overall, I want to say that the quote that was mentioned before, he has also stated, “While I have differences with the BDS movement, I strongly support their actions and continue to participate in them.” All I am saying is that the BDS resolution is clear. I am asking you to read through it yourself and make the decision for yourself and stand on the right side of justice.”

- Batyah Jasper: “I am a second year here at UCLA. I thought that my world was ending as I watched the news on October 7th. I never expected to feel support on campus as I finally had the strength to attend class again. Instead, I felt not only an intangible difference but an excitement for the atrocities being committed by Hamas. My peers knew nothing about the complexities of Israel/Palestine politics before October 7th. Instead, they marched cheerfully in protests while I was left alone mourning the loss of loved ones. Since October 7th, life for a Jewish college student has taken a drastic turn for the worst and have experienced more anti-semitism in the past couple months than I have in my entire life. The safety of all students and faculty should be the number one priority. I know I speak for many when I say that we feel unsafe on campus. The Holocaust did not happen in an instant but through deep seeded indifference to Jewish suffering. The indifference that I see from my peers too closely resembles the indifference and tragedy of the Holocaust. I want to call attention to several incidents that have happened on UCLA’s campus in the last four months that showcase the explicit anti-semitism occurring and being tolerated on campus. On October 12th, Students for Justice in Palestine held a walkout for Palestine that featured vivid celebrations of the massacre of Jews 5 days earlier. The protestors were heard chanting, “slaughter the jews” in arabic. At this same event, protestors photographed a Jewish faculty member while threatening them by saying, “We will find you, we will take care of you.” The next day one of the demonstrators showed up at the faculty member’s husband’s workplace to take photos of him. Two weeks later someone left a pile of trash with a swastika on the top on the doorstep of the faculty member’s home. There was a piece of paper that said, “Loud mouth Jew.” On November 9th, a swastika was found engraved on a table on campus between Moore and Kerckhoff. On November 12th, a graduate students office chalkboard was covered in anti-semitic comments even after this conduct was asked to be stopped. On November 30th, students were wearing keffiyehs and carrying large knives and holding Palestine flags and walking around campus tearing down posters.” (Time cut off speaker).

- Megan Freeman: “I am a third year Jewish student at UCLA. I have never felt so compelled as to publicly comment on anything but I am here now because I urge you all to vote against the BDS resolution. Ever since October 7th, campus has become a minefield for Jewish students. Many of us feel unsafe and while we try to avoid the protests accusing Israel of genocide and the RevComs calling Jews Nazis, it is impossible to avoid anti-semitism on this campus. Many of my Jewish friends are terrified to publicly identify as Jewish and my mom texts me every morning worried that I have received hate messages or been attacked for wearing a star of David on my way to class. TO be honest, I am scared too. I am scared to exist in spaces that aren’t primarily Jewish and I am scared my non-Jewish friends will exclude me because of my religious beliefs and my choice to affiliate with Israel. While I am grieving the lives lost in Israel, I also feel immense sadness for the innocent Palestinians that have been killed as a result of this terrible war. However, we must acknowledge that this is not the fault of Israel or the IDF. This war is entirely instigated by Hamas. I can say with absolute certainty that if Hamas surrenders today and lays down their weapons, the war and violence on both sides would end entirely. What is going on now is a response to the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. A day that the BDS movement is praising Hamas for. I could never have imagined that anyone would side with a terrorist organization especially after they murdered, raped, dismembered, burned, and kidnapped so many people. However, unsurprisingly, Hamas is actually included in the coalition that leads the global BDS campaign. The truth of the matter is it is very likely that this resolution will pass tonight but it is not because anyone who is voting yes is helping Palestiians but because you have been convinced to take an extreme position on an issue that I know you would acknowledge you know very little about. Instead of using the leadership position you have earned from the students that you are supposed to represent, you are making the choice to let those responsible for intimidating others, likely including yourselves on this campus, continue and increase the division and hate. This resolution may be the end point of your involvement and probably there is a sense of relief for you but our community will continue to suffer.”

- Carly Sheinfeld: “I am a sophomore here at UCLA. Tonight USAC is voting on a resolution to boycott and divest from apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. The title itself is full of falsehoods. Because I only have two minutes I will start with apartheid. So it is completely necessary to condemn oppressive states around the world, classifying Israel as an apartheid regime is incorrect by definition. Apartheid is a specific instance in history by which a white minority in South Africa imposed discrimination and segregation against a non-white population. There are 7 million Jews and 2 million Arabs who hold Israel citizenship and are under control of Israeli law. The Palestinian authority is the official government of the 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank. Hamas is the recognized government of the 2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip not Israel. So it is factually incorrect to say that Israel is an apartheid regime over that especially considering that Israel fully disengaged from the Gaza strip in 2005 even though Jews and Israel are

indigenous to the land, far from occupying it. In Israel, Arab citizens remain completely integrated into society including multiple Palestinians holding positions in the supreme court. Jews and Arabs follow the same laws and are considered equal under the law. Due to these circumstances, the definition of apartheid in Israel is inaccurate and inappropriately applied. The loss of life regardless of ethnicity, race, or religion have been unimaginable and unjust, however using this jargon is dangerous, misinformative, and blatantly disvalues the heart of those who were genuinely victims of apartheid. I hope we can work together to eliminate dangerous rhetoric on this campus that brings this conflict beyond the blatant humanitarian crisis that it is so that we can make a positive, inclusive, and safe community here on this campus. Vote no on the resolution.”

- Jamie Griffith: “I am a fourth year here at UCLA. You have heard from a lot of students. I am asking you to vote yes on the BDS resolution. Frankly we have heard from students, the human rights people, from the UN, from so many other people for years about the actions of the state of Israel, about apartheid, more recently about genocide, ethnic cleansing, WE need to take a stand. At the start of public comment you asked that we uphold our true Bruin values. Looking at that list, respect, accountability, integrity, service, excellence. So many organizations have come forward, well known organizations. Things like the UN Human Rights Watch, and all the rest can be read in the resolution. I strongly urge you to read it. All of them have come forward to condemn the actions of the state of Israel. We have been condemning it for years. Israel’s current wars only heightens that condemnation as you can see and I believe that we must follow this BDS resolution. We must vote yes on it because currently the state of Israel does not uphold our values. It does not stand for us. We must vote yes on this resolution and Israel needs to take other actions. We have had hundreds of students come forward demonstrating this and as council members it falls to you to enforce those students will’s to uphold BDS as our sister campus UC Davis already has.”
- Alicia moves to extend public comment by 15 min, Gabby seconds.
- By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and public comment is extended for 15 min until 7:58pm.
- Kelly Tran: “I would like to affirm the BDS movement is not anti-semitic in any way. Instead, the conflation of Zionism and the state of Israel with Judaism is anti-semitic which implies that all Jews are political monoliths plus there are over 28,000 Palestinians including more than 11,000 children. Unlike what Zionists in this very meeting are claiming, Palestinitains do not have the same legal rights as Israelis, such as the right to move around freely, to marry, the right to build houses, the right to collect rain water and much more. It is also not true that as previously stated, the chants during the protest did not mean, “slaughter the Jews.” That is completely dishonest and inflammatory. As an anti-Zionist, I support this resolution wholeheartedly, just as many other anti-Zionist Jews. I feel extremely disappointed by members of the Jewish community who push Jews who are anti-Zionist to the side and silenced. Israel is categorically an apartheid state and considered as an occupier under international law. I refuse to accept that UCLA money is being used to support an apartheid state. And just like we divested from South Africa in 1987 we should divest in Israel now. What is happening in Palestine is not just a war, it is a genocide. As 1.9 million, which is 85% of the population, has been forcibly displaced and has nowhere to go as Israel bombs the supposed safe places, we have to act now. The UC’s must cut ties with companies complicit with Israel’s violation of Paletians human rights such as ongoing blockade, intentional targeting of civilian infrastructure, use of white phosphorus ammunition, deliberately inducing famine, targeting of journalists..” (Time cut public comment)
- Mona Tavassoli: “I am a third year student here studying political science. I am a transfer student and one of the reasons why I came to UCLA was because I saw the referendum that ended up giving us the U-Pass that we use today. USAC has a responsibility to support our students which is why I ask each and every one of you to vote yes on the BDS resolution presented today. BDS is an effective method to end human rights violations. We can see this historically in the case of South Africa and apartheid there. It is important to do as we say and put out money where our mouths are. Diplomacy is not enough. Money makes the world go around. We have so many sayings that highlight the importance of finances and economy which is why it is important for us to do something as simple as making sure where our student fees go can make a difference. It is important for USAC to make a stand and follow in UC Davis footsteps to become one of the first UC’s to show support for equity and human life through our schools funding. AS a individual I have taken my own step to follow BDS and make sure my money is not going to companies that don’t support ideals that support human life and human rights. But it is not enough. It is important for us to come together and make collective action through this resolution. We can see this is in the numerous student organizations that have sponsored this resolution who are from various communities who mostly all support various causes for justice,

communities for marginalized people. Tonight I ask USAC and each council member to vote yes on the BDS resolution.”

- Arielle Zvingler: “Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our concerns. I am a senior here at UCLA> Growing up in America as a Jewish/Israeli citizen, I am intimately familiar with the realities of anti-semitism yet I have never in my life experienced in my life anti-semitism as intensely as I have in these last few months especially on campus. In my classes, educators and students alike make comments justifying and celebrating the October 7th massacre and I just have to sit there knowing that I have lost friends and family in this massacre and ensuing war. I have not been able to mourn properly. This is not normal. My classmates ask me where I am from and when I say Israel, they suddenly don’t speak to me anymore. This is not normal. I walk on campus and I hear chants calling for the eradication of Israel. This is not normal. I should not have to feel like I have to think three times before I reveal aspects of my identity in fear of being treated differently on campus. The scapegoating of Jews is a tale as old as time and it is very easy for students to blindly accept blatant anti-semitism. BDS fuels this fire. The reality is that the atmosphere on campus has been hostile towards Jewish and Israeli students. One thing has been made very very clear to me. Israelis are not welcome on campus and what if you are an Israeli student. That’s too bad. BDS response to the October 7th massacre being to blame Israel and call for its destruction is morally reprehensible. The economic impact is not my concern. The climate on campus is. BDS aims to exploit the war to further demonize and blame Jews, which again, as I have mentioned is not a new concept. BDS does not advocate for the best interest of Jews or Palestinians but rather oppress, oppose progress and peace for both sides. There is no place on campus for an organization or movement that calls the October 7th massacre, including the brutal rape, torture, massacre, and kidnapping of innocent civilians as “powerful armed reaction.” I implore you to vote no on a resolution that is anti-semitic at its core and fuels more hate and conflict.”
- Liza Shlimovich: “I am the daughter of Soviet Jewish refugees. My family suffered the pogroms of Moldova, state sponsored massacres of Russian empire Jewish communities. Nazi death squads slaughtered a quarter of my family in Ukraine. My great grandmother was the only survivor. My other great grandmother hid underground in a cellar under the forts of Belarus. A few decades later my father was called a “fucking Jew” everyday at school. My family’s apartment was vandalized, rocks thrown at the windows. Why? Because we are Jewish. Anti-Semitism has always shapeshifted into whatever society hated the most. In the middle ages, Jews were accused of killing Jesus, poisoning the wells ,spreading the Black Plague, and using Christian children’s blood in our matzah. Later Jews were feared for being communists, capitalists, war mongers, pacifists. Today Jewish hatred has a new form. We are hated for a nation. There are 22 Arab states, around 50 Muslims ones but only one Jewish nation the size of New Jersey that we share with our Arab cousins. For some this is too much. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free. From the Jordan river, to the Mediterranean free, the land will be free of Jews. A call to wipe Jews off the map because we have no other land. Though I hope many chant this without knowing the meaning, it sparks fear in the Jewish conscience as we were called phrases with the same meaning used less than 80 years ago to describe an area cleansed of Jews. After years of persecution, a certain Jewish instinct tells us the early signs of oncoming danger. This BDS proposal sets off every alarm bell known to us. Boycotting Jewish businesses and those with ties to the only Jewish state today is only different from the Nazi boycott of Jewish businesses, it is not against state law and you have the chance to stop it before it is too late. After the Holocaust, our people said never again. With every day Israel exists, we reinforce this promise. We are an indigenous people that are finally home. Those bother some who wish to see us gone. BDS does not debate, criticize, or amend the policies of the Israeli government. You can agree with these policies or not. Legitimate criticism is necessary but it is one thing to criticize policy and another to deny the right of a country to exist, boycott its business, hurt its people, and call for its destruction. This is the ultimate goal of BDS. The annihilation of Israel and everyone in it.
- Mia Waksman: “On Thursday, January 25th, I was walking to the Anderson school to get food where there happened to be a pro-Palestinian protest of about 20 people. As I reached for the door of the building, a protester that I had met at freshman orientation called out my name yelling, “Hey, it’s Mia right?” My heart dropped and I continued to the door to avoid any contact or conflict. When I began to walk back to campus with my food, my ears started ringing with chants. Shame on you Mia, Shame on you Mia. My heart was beating so fast and all the blood rushed to my face. I sped walked as fast I could away from the Anderson Starbucks and sat on a bench to cry. I was totally humiliated, belittled, and dehumanized for my ethnicity and religion. I have not talked to that girl since freshman orientation which was over a year and half ago. She knew of my Jewish/Israeli identity because we discussed our identity with the cohort during the orientation. All she and the 20 protestors knew about me was my Jewish/Israeli identity and that was enough to

publicly target me and harass me as I walked completely by myself vulnerable to the mass of 20 protestors chanting my name. The three security guards stayed silent and did nothing to protect me. Since this incident, my heart races as I walk through campus in fear of my safety and peace. I constantly am looking left and right to see if those same protestors are around. Since the October 7th massacre, I have felt isolated and neglected by the UCLA Community as anti-semitic slurs have been chanted and written across campus. Armed guards have had to walk my fellow Jewish peers and I to and from Hillel due to safety concerns and I have to hide my Jewish star necklace due to fear of being assaulted. Passing a BDS resolution will not bring peace to the middle east and will only further propagate the growing anti-semitism happening throughout the world and throughout UCLA. I trust USAC to protect me and my well-being and make that a priority before a collective making a stance on a centuries, complicated, and long war that unfortunately many of us are directly connected to and affected by. I hope that in a time of great strife, pain, and heartache for many, USAC can contribute to making UCLA a tolerant, welcoming, and peaceful home and continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of welfare for all students.

- Jana Abulaban: “Hello members of USAC, I am a first generation Palestinian American undergraduate student at UCLA. First of all, I would like to recognize how disheartening and shocking it is that we are still discussing the passing of such a resolution. It has been over 4 months of the ongoing genocide in Gaza and let’s call it what it is, a genocide, unlike what other people have trying to frame it as a war. It is really sad that we are still trying to considering whether to pass a resolution that helps defund this genocide. I urge you to vote yes and pass the resolution to boycott and divest from apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. According to PBS News, as of yesterday, more than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israelis Defense Forces in the past 4 months. One out of every 100 children in Gaza have been killed by Israeli attacks since October 7th and almost the entire population of Gaza, 1 million people, have been displaced. These are not just numbers, these are humans who have stories who once had dreams, amongst them were my own family. So to know that I and my university, UCLA, have contributed to the killing of my own family as well as other families is absolutely horrifying. We need to realize that we are complicit in this genocide. We are complicit in the killing of tens of thousands of people and we are able to not allow this to keep going. Together, we can stop our money as students for aiding and abetting an apartheid state as recognized by Amnesty International Human Rights Watch and other human rights organizations as well. We can stop aiding and genociding and ethnic cleansing native population and voting yes on this resolution today. Voting yes is the first step.”
- Layla Allen: “I am a fourth year student at UCLA and I would like you all to vote yes on the BDS resolution. Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism. BDS is not anti-semitic. It’s not complicated at all. 30,000 Palestinians being killed is not complicated. This is a genocide. 11,000 children have been born and killed during this besiegement. ON social media, I have seen children crying for their parents and siblings. Mothers crying and hugging their martyred babies and fathers kissing the eyelids of passed sons and daughters. 2 million Palesinains have been displaced and there have been investigations that have found sexual assaults of Palestinian women by IDF soldiers. Universities in Palestine have been bombed and destroyed all while we have continued the school year. We have classmates who have lost family members and friends while being under constant harassment and fear. USAC needs to vote yes on this resolution because we can not have our student fees fund a genocide. There is no excuse for USAC to not do this. Genocide is genocide. If we say never again, we mean never again for all races, ethnicities, and religions. Justice is not 30,000 Palestinians being killed. It is not complicated. This resolution established strong guidelines. Please vote yes on this resolution.”
- Aliica moves to extend public comment by 15 min, Megan seconds.
- By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and public comment is extended for 15 min until 8:15pm.
- Dylan Nilsson: “Hello I am Dylan, I am an anti-zionist Jewish student on campus speaking on behalf of Jewish Voice for Peace. My great-great-great grandfather was a victim of pogroms in Russia and it is because of this family history, I reject the Zionist ethnic cleansing of Palestine. Speaking of on campus violence, our own peoples, Jews, have been violently attacked by Zionists claiming to defend Israel when they are attacking their own people when we stand with Palestinians. I want to voice support on behalf of the yes vote for the BDS resolution. BDS doesn’t target me because I am Jewish, it takes a hard ethical stand in response to the actions of the state of Israel and there have always been Jews who have said no to the Zionist ethnos state project. Because it is wrong, Because ethnic cleansing is wrong, Because colonialism in reparations of the Holocaust is wrong. There is a long and painful history of Jewish businesses and institutions being targeted by anti-semitics across Europe. Those who lobby on Israel’s behalf currently weaponize this

trauma. They frame any campaign that challenges Israel's violence and discriminatory policies as a tax on Jewish safety and identity. However, as Jewish student, I can confirm that BDS is not anti-semitic. It is a call for accountability. It is a call for accountability to end complicity in an ongoing genocide. Nationalism is seductive. Jewish trauma is vulnerable to the hateful ideology that oppresses others. Zionism is a system built on the disgusting oppression in denial of the freedom of other people. I know this to be deeply contrary to my Jewish values that I was brought up with. Such as the Jewish idea of "healing the world." The Zionist state demographically engineers a Jewish majority that of course foundation and settlement into Palestinian land through the maintenance of an apartheid state, BDS is the bare minimum we can do to change that. I denounce settler colonialism. I denounce imperialism. I stand by Palestinians and their desire to live in peace and in dignity in their own land."

- Eli Tsives: "I am a freshman at UCLA. On October 7th of 2023, Hamas, the internationally recognized terrorist organization that rules Gaza invaded Israel and murdered over 1,200 people while injuring thousands of others and kidnapping over 250 people including children, the elderly. Holocaust civilians and survivors worldwide. Over 135 hostages remain in Hamas captivity today. The Hamas massacre was barbaric. Hamas terrorists raped, burned alive, mutilate, and dismembered innocent people including over 360 at a music festival. They lit homes on fire and forced families to flee outside to be kidnapped and murdered. They filmed and posted on social media for the world to see. After reviewing the evidence, the US Secretary of Defense said, "I know a lot about ISIS and the Hamas massacre is worse with what I saw with ISIS." Even worse, the BDS resolution, which we are debating aligning ourselves with tonight, has described the attack as a powerful armed reaction. They endorsed it. What we are seeing now is Israel's response. A war against Hamas aimed at dismantling their infrastructure and freeing 135 hostages that remain in their activity. Tonight I am speaking for them. This resolution is filled with misinformation aimed at vilifying Israel and undermining its right to defend itself and its citizens from Hamas explicitly genocidal aims. Instead of UCLA calling out Hamas, this resolution would have us support them. Passing this resolution which targets Israel's for defending its citizens, in attempts to vilify it while ignoring Hamas's atrocities will only serve to cover the genocidal terrorist organization. Vote no out of respect for the innocent Israelis and Palestinians who are suffering from Hamas's cruelty and prevent our school from aligning with it."
- Joseph Sarvian: "I am a Jewish student here at UCLA with countless family members in Israel. I would like to clear up a term that has been thrown around recently. Genocide is a legal term meaning a crime committed with intent to destroy a national ethnic, racial, or religious group, in whole or in part. Sensationalists have been using the term genocide to describe the conflict in Israel and that is inaccurate. They aim to vilify the state of Israel and downplay the instances of genocide that actually occur. The fact is that Israel has engaged in no action to exterminate the people of Palestine. Quite the opposite. Unlike any other military in the world, Israel engages in tactics that save lives warning people of operations and strikes that are about to occur by dropping warning leaflets. Hamas tries to prevent Palestinians civilians from evacuating the area, using them as human shields. There are countless videos of the Israeli Defense Forces protecting Gazans from Hamas allowing them to evacuate. Almost everyday new evidence comes to light of Hamas using homes, hospitals, mosques, schools, and other buildings for their terrorism to maximize civilian casualties. The Hamas interior minister said, "Death has become an industry at which women excel and so do all the people in this land. The elderly excel at this and so do the children. This is why we have formed human shields of the women, the children, the elderly." It is like they are saying to the Zionist enemy, we desire death like you desire life. Passing a resolution like this which vilifies Israel for its war to protect its civilians and trying to minimize casualties of innocent Gazans and instead of calling out Hamas whose goal is to maximize civilian casualties is exactly what Hamas wants. BDS has praised Hamas's attack which started this horrific war, calling a powerful armed reaction. I urge you to vote no on this resolution and reject Hamas's manipulation. Doing so out of respect for the victims."
- Akiva Brookler: "I am a third year CS major. Two summers ago I spent the summer in Jerusalem. One day on my commute to work, I passed by a Palestinian shopkeeper who needed my help to move some heavy boxes into his store. After I lent him a hand, we started chatting. This became a picture of my morning commute, stopping by his shop to chat for a few minutes. During one of our talks, I asked him what his thoughts were on BDS and how it benefits him. His response, it doesn't. BDS gets rid of jobs which provide income to families of Palestinian workers who work in Israel. He made it abundantly clear, BDS does absolutely nothing to help Palestinians. So what does BDS do? It brings anti-semitism to campus as several other students have mentioned. It should absolutely not be considered here at UCLA. The BDS movement also has connections to Hamas. Right now there is a statement on BDS website from October 8th, praising Hamas's October 7th attack in which they violently murdered, maimed, tortured, burned, and

raped thousands of people. And this act, they call powerful. USAC has a responsibility to represent and protect the moral character of our student body. Aligning ourselves with BDS would be detrimental to our moral integrity and the true Bruin values. There is a better way forward. Instead of fueling more hate and conflict, vote no and use your positions of leadership to bring us together and help promote dialogue.”

- Sabrina Ellia: “I am a third year student here at UCLA and I am part of Jewish Voice of Peace and I am speaking on behalf of many of our members. As a Jewish student I would like to affirm that the BDS movement is not anti-semitic in any way. Instead the conflation of Zionism and the state of Israel with Judaism is the true anti-semitism because it implies that all Jews are all political monoliths that support the murder of 28,000 Palestinians and more than 11,000 children. Unlike what other Zionists in this very meeting are claiming, Palestinians do not have the same legal rights as Israelis including the right to move around freely, the right to marry Palestinians that are separated by operation checkpoints, the right to build houses, the right to collect rainwater and much much more. As an anti-zionist Jew, I support this resolution wholeheartedly and feel extremely disappointed in my community who attempt to silence and shut down these anti-occupation actions with baseless accusations of anti-semitism. Israel is categorically an apartheid state and defined as an occupier under international law. I refuse to accept that our UCLA money is being used to support an apartheid regime and just like we divested from South Africa, we should divest from Israel now. What is happening in Gaza right now is not a war, it is a genocide. As 1.9 million people which is near 85% of the total population have been forcibly displaced and have nowhere to go if Israel bombs the supposed safe places. We must act now. UCLA must break ties with companies complicit in Israel’s violation of Palestinians human rights such as the ongoing blockade, international targeting of civilian infrastructure, killing of surrendered people, deliberately inducing famine, targeting of journalists, targeting of hospitals, and committing genocide. This resolution has concrete and material impact. USAC has direct financial control of 10 million in student fees.”
- Ryan Factora: “I currently serve as co-president of Samahang Filipino. We are the largest Filipino American organization and one of the ten mother organizations at UCLA. I am here today to express my organization and communities unequivocal support for a resolution to boycott and divest from apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. It is an abomination that the so-called number 1 public university would rather invest in the death of innocent civilians than the uplifting of its students. As FilipinoX students, my community members are struggling to meet basic needs during a global economic crisis, the UC is funneling billions of dollars into war. It is an important thing to recognize that BlackRock is not only funding the bombs being dropped in Gaza but the bullets killing indigenous people in the Philippines. The UC is propping up dictators and warlords instead of supporting its students but right now USAC has a chance to make history. A chance to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian community and say that we will not stand for war puppeteering and we will not stand for needless death or genocide. UC Davis successfully voted to divest and they showed us that it is possible to reimagine and actualize a world where our tuition money does not fund a genocide. A world where our communities are cared for and supported. I implore you all today to make the same choice. Today the Filipino community stands in firm solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters as we call on USAC to join us and call for the divest from Blackrock now and a reinvestment in our communities.
- Karma Rappleye: “It is so hard being Palestinian because how am I expected to reach academic excellence when every university in Gaza has been destroyed? How am I expected to attend my classes when even the safe zones in Gaza are no longer livable? How am I expected to study for my midterms when I am constantly drifting into the sounds of Palestinian children crying out in agony for their mothers? How can I be expected to be proud of attending the number one public university in the country when in reality it is the number one university complicit in genocide? How am I expected to exist as a Palestinian when I am harassed, taken pictures of, called racial slurs, and are constantly on edge about any person who stares at my keffiyeh a little too long? How am I expected to learn in an environment when I am constantly being targeted on the basis of my existence? I want to ask you all how your Valentines were. Was it filled with love? Because Palestine was my valentine this year and it was a damn shame I didn’t see her. Because how heartbreaking it is to not be with the one who created you. The one who completes you on that declared day of love. But it has been 136 days of hate. 136 days of my genocide being globalized and not a single thing has been changed. 136 days for holding child remains in body bags while pleading with the world to give a fuck. 136 days of saying goodbye. 136 of praying that true martyrdom is not in vain. 136 days of starvation and dehydration. But I wish you could see the beauty that Palestine holds and the most resilient people that she has created. I wish you could see the food she nourished and the strength she has in preserving herself until all her children return. Palestine was my

valentine this year and it was a damn shame I couldn't see her. But you can make that happen. You can allow me to reunite with my motherland by voting yes to BDS."

- Ellie Cohen: "I am a junior here at UCLA. I would like to address our student wellness commissioner, Jennis, who co-sponsored this BDS resolution. Jennis approached Jewish students through Hillel asking for feedback on a resolution to create academic leniency for struggling Jewish/Israeli/Palestinian/Muslim students. You tried to bring leadership from diverse opinions including SJP and Hillel together to build a wonderful resolution supporting us all. I hope that resolution will come to the council but it is unfortunate that your co-sponsorship of the BDS resolution has taken priority. This BDS resolution isn't supporting students, nor is it bringing diverse opinions together to create interactive conversations. Instead, the anti-normalization policies of the BDS movement creates a statement that Jewish students who support Israel are not to be collaborated with. Over 80% of Jewish view ISrael as an integral part of our identities, including myself. The BDS resolution is anti-Israel and I think that we have created a false narrative on this campus that that means it is inherently pro-Palestine. A solution for peace requires us to dignify and support the same community of life for all and in my opinion, we must be pro-peace, pro-Israelis, pro-Palestinians and it is not mutually exclusive. BDS is one of the most textbook tactics used to polarize campuses and that is what it is doing here. This resolution is going to bring Jreewish and Israeli students more feelings of otherness and exclusion. We don't feel safe. We don't feel supported in this community and I am disappointed that our wellbeing does not seem to be a priority for you. SUpport conversations that lead to peace not an extremist resolution that calls for the destruction of the Jewish state. I don't believe this resolution will do what you believe it will accomplish. It is blocking dialogues and blindly demonizing Israel and pushing us even farther apart. This is a symbolic gesture making real harm to my community. Jennis, I want to make it clear that Hillel will support resolutions that work to support Jewish students but I urge you and the council to vote no on BDS and let's work together as a Bruin community to make tangible solutions that have a positive impact on our communities and beyond. We need your support right now and with this extremist resolution we are not getting it."
- Sara moves to extend public comment by 15 min, Gabby seconds
- By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and public comment is extended until 8:31 pm.
- J Street U @ UCLA: "I am an undergraduate senior here at UCLA. The past four months have been absolutely horrific with 1,400 Israelis killed in the October 7th massacre and over 30,000 Palestinians killed in the 137 days since. 130 Israelis are still being held hostage in Gaza and 2 million Palestiains in Gaza, more than half who are children, are starving. With the majority trapped in Gaza with no safe space left to flee. Many students on our campus have friends and families in Israel and Palestine that have been killed, severely injured, held hostage but much discussion around this issue is incredibly hostile, polarizing, and unproductive. The introduction of this resolution and the reactions that have followed from this and is a clear symbol of this. This resolution gives no room for our students to grieve nor does it address the rise of anti-semitism and Palestinian racism. Instead, it relies on buzzwords without actually unpacking the meaning. Passing this resolution will cause harm and isolation to Israeli and Jewish students who should not be held responsible for the actions of the Israeli government. We should use our immense privilege for good, we must put strategy over symbolism. We must educate and activate the student body to increase support for the end to the war and a political horizon that would ensure Palestinians equality.
- Alexander Harris: "As a first year, first generation student at UCLA and the son of Persian Jewish immigrants, my understanding of the need for ISrael is deeply personal. After facing extreme religious persecution post 1979 Islamic revolution, my family found sanctity in Israel. The only beacon of safety in the Middle East for Jews. Israel is not just a country, it is a testament of democracy, progressiveness, and a safe haven for hundreds of thousands of Jews who without it would face uncertainty and danger. In times where anti-semitism is rising, Israel's role to refuge is more crucial than ever. However, the BDS movement poses a significant threat aiming to isolate Israel under the guise of advocating for Palestinain's rights. It overlooks Israel's commitment to democracy where diverse voices including Arabs, jews, Chrstians, and Muslims partake in its democratic processes. Supporting Bds not only undermines others democratic achievements but also field anti-semitism pushing us away from dialogue and peace. It applies unfair standards to Israelis, ignoring the complexities between the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the efforts towards peaceful resolution. USAC members I urge you to see behind the divisive narrative of BDS. Rather than shutting out one side, let's create a space for dialogue and mutual respect, focusing on initiatives that encourage peace and understanding. This boycott will only sow division."

- Alexander Harris: “The first thing I want to ask everybody, I want everybody to think critically about what is going on here. Including the people who are against this resolution. So far around 30,000 people have been killed and of them over 11,000 of them have been children. Just think about that. Did those children and their family and the ambulance drivers, were they terrorists? Did they do anything in any way that is threatening Israel at all? Are you protecting anybody and protecting anybody by forcing more than a million people into an area where they literally don’t have anything to eat or shelter? When members of the Israeli government use words like amilech, it is a reference to a part of the bible where with the help of God, the kingdom of Israel destroys another group of people. Completely destroys them. It is very clear cut genocide. And to use that language, it is a genocidal language. It is genocidal to bomb churches, hospitals, schools, ambulances. It is genocidal to wipe out the actual people, their culture. That is genocidal. Point blank period. We need to use our critical thinking skills and understand what is happening here. And when we talk about what we are trying to divest from. We are not talking about Jewish people. We are talking about Raytheon, BlackRock. We are talking about companies and think about this for a second, for most of its history, until around 40-50 years ago, more recently than you think about it, people could go here for free. But now that money is going towards killing children and people in hospitals. I would urge everybody to vote in favor of the resolution.”
- Ryan McGurk: “I am a fourth year English major at UCLA and I want to call in to support the BDS resolution. I wanted to change my statements slightly because I have been hearing a lot of people talk about Israel as a democracy, Israel supports peace with the Palestinian people, and I have to say that this is categorically and empirically false. By the way, I am Jewish. Zionism from its inception has been colonialist, fascist, and hateful. I am going to take a moment to read some quotes from notable Zionist leaders, people who are still looked up to within the state of Israel and this is shameful stuff. “It must be clear that there is no room in the country for both peoples. If the Arabs leave it, the country will become wide and spacious for us. The only solution is the land of Israel without Arabs. There is no way but to transfer the Arabs all of them perhaps with the exception of Bethlem, Nazareth, and the old Jerusalem. Not one village must be left, not one tribe.”- Joseph White. “We shall try to spirit the penniless Arab population across the board by procuring employment for an intrinsic country while denying employment in our own country. Both the process of expropriation and the removal of the poor must be taken out discreetly and circumspectly.”- Theodor Herzl. I would like to highlight that ever since its inception, it has not been a benevolent idea. It is rooted in racism, in Jewish supremacy, and the persecution of people. Israel still demographically engineers its majority to its apartheid system by denying rights to Palestinians and we are denying the right of return for the 6 million Palestinians all around the world.”
- Imran Siraj: “I am a first year Muslim student at UCLA. Today the UN voted on a resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and every single country voted in favor except the United States who vetoed the resolution and the UK who abstained. The entirety of the world is with Palestine and our student government needs to do the same and acknowledge the situation in Palestine for what it is, a genocide. Right now, Israel is bombing the densest populated area on earth, the quote on quote safe zone where over a million Palestinians reside. Unless USAC is waiting for every single Palestinian to be killed in order to do something, passing the BDS resolution is the most urgent thing that needs to be done right now. But the only thing that our institution can do to make material effort in stopping this genocide, is passing this resolution which calls for the boycott and divestment of companies that are complicit in financially supporting this genocide. The reason why this is so important is because even after the judicial measure, the Zionist state continues to ruthlessly continue its genocide. The only way we can actually get the attention for a ceasefire is to target their pockets filled with blood money. Through divesting from the companies that financially support the Israel state, there will be serious urgency in calling for a ceasefire because they are being financially impacted. This is not something new to this particular moment in history. South African apartheid was only moved through the move to divestment and in the world, the only language that our oppressors understand is money. We need to pass this resolution and elevate our voices to be heard and to have an actual impact. I want to empathize again, this resolution is not something that can be lightheartedly taken. It is something that can actually turn things around and shock the Zionist state in this act of genocide. If this is not convincing enough, I want to remind USAC that it is your purpose to represent the student body. We have 40 organizations that signed into this resolution including several mother organizations with thousands of students.”
- Isaac Paulo: “I would like to strongly urge all council members to vote against this resolution. The complexity and history of this region and conflict is immense. While I am concerned about the support this council has given this resolution and the revisionism inside of it, I am not surprised by it. Outsiders, those who have only begun learning

about this history in the recent past, are prone to misunderstand the roots and motivations of this conflict as well as the forces preventing it from concluding peacefully which includes BDS. This war is fundamentally between the state of Israel and Hamas, the terrorist organization that controls Gaza, whose mission is the eradication of all Jewish people world wide and that peace will never be possible. To quote the covenant of Hamas itself, "The day of judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them." A mission reflected in the intentional slaughter of civilian Israelis on October 7th. But setting aside the deep historical and factual revisions in that resolution, the actual motivation of the primary sponsors, in particular Alicia Verdugo, one of the most incompetent members of this council, is not peace between Israel and Palestine and the end of what they claim to be a genocide, is the opposite. Alicia and SJP have made it clear that what they really wish for is the eradication of Jews. That they want a genocide against the Jewish people in Israel and Jewish people worldwide. The same people who claim to support "peace" call for a "revolutionary antifade" where Palestine returns to their home. Their message is not peace but a war against Israel with the intent of its destruction and eradication. This resolution does not advance the cause for peace between Israel and Palestine and directly inflames campus tensions and Jewish hate on this campus. I want to urge all council members, both on the grounds of principle and for the sake of their reputations to vote against this resolution."

- Alexandra Zysman: "I am Jewish student here at UCLA. Being connected to the Jewish community isn't just about supporting the Jewish people to existence. On October 7th, 2023, Hamas, an international terrorist organization launched a ruthless terrorist attack against thousands of men, women, and children. They murdered, raped, burned, tortured, and ruthlessly slaughtered thousands of individuals deviating from any sense of humanity, acting without conscience and with the intent to do harm. This resolution explicitly references the BDS national committee. According to the New York Times, terrorist organizations including Hamas sit on the BDS national committee. To align ourselves with the movement, is to align ourselves with a terrorist organization who just committed a massacre so brutal that members of the US government are describing it as worse than ISIS. At UCLA, I hear everyday from friends about how they have been physically or verbally attacked, excluded from academic spaces, and made to feel unsafe because of their Jewish or Israeli identity. I have been constantly harassed and on the internet even prior to October 7th. I have been called slurs and insults and accused of various crimes simply because I am an outspoken and proud Jewish Israeli. Hamas is not a resistance movement, it is a racist and genocidal terrorist organization whose leaders have promised massacres of Israel over and over again until Israel is destroyed. Vote no. First out of basic respect for the Israeli civilians who were slaughtered by Hamas and the innocent Palestinians who Hamas intentionally put in harm's way. Second, keep UCLA on the right side of history. USAC has the responsibility to represent and protect the moral character of our student body. Aligning ourselves with BDS who is tied to Hamas and has promised to slaughter, rape, mutilate, and kidnap innocent people will harm everyone at this university. There is a better way forward. Instead of fueling more hate and conflict, vote no, and use your leadership to bring us together."
- Alicia moves to extend public comment by 15 min, Mason seconds.
- By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and public comment is extended 15 min.
- Priel Nikoo: "I am a fourth year at UCLA. What happened on October 7th in Israel is a blatant act of terrorism. There is nothing controversial about calling what happened a terrorist attack. Hamas is an internationally recognized terrorist organization. Members of Hamas invaded Israeli towns, shooting everyone and everything in sight. They broke into the homes of innocent civilians, shooting, raping, dismembering bodies and burning the people that they found. Baby carriers and crumbs were found bloody and families were found hugging each other while dead. Hamas terrorists recorded these atrocities for the whole world to see. But what did the BDS movement have to say about this atrocity? They glorified it. Right now, on the BDS organization website, they have an October 7th statement that refers to them as a "powerful armed reaction." I personally don't think that rape is any kind of powerful resistance. At a music festival promoting peace, hundreds of young adults were brutally murdered. Young Jewish women were raped and tortured right next to the dead bodies of their friends, their dead bodies paraded on the streets of Gaza. Several of them were taken hostage. The corpses were danced on and thrown into body piles. Their naked bodies were taken and paraded proudly through the streets of Gaza. These are scenes that we haven't seen since the Holocaust. Nothing can justify the barbarity and cruelty. We can not align ourselves with the movement that believes that the brutal massacre of innocent people, the kidnapping of children, the elderly, the disabled, holocaust survivors and more and the barbaric rape of women can be justified or worse described as "powerful." We can not align ourselves with Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization that has publicly stated their intent to repeat days such as October 7th, until Israel is destroyed, the only Jewish place for Jews to be safe. USAC has a responsibility to protect the moral character of our student body.

Aligning ourselves with BDS which praises Hamas for its slaughter, rape, mutilation, and kidnapping of innocent people would harm everybody at this university. I would also like to add that any anti-zionist Jew who is voting for this to pass....” (time cut off)

- Anna Kawachi: “I am a senior studying psychology. I ask that the USAC please pass this resolution because not only do we need to stop indirect harming children and adults with our money, it also directly affects the well-being of the students in our community. You guys represent us and my Palestinian classmates and friends are being hurt right now. Imagine coming to class each day having to cope with the fact that your money is indirectly murdering your own people. It is already difficult enough that our school has not acknowledged the genocide or reached out to show care for their well-being. Moreover as someone who has ties to Hiroshima, I can not stand that we are indirectly financing the same atrocities to happen in 2024. Innocent civilians and children being murdered in the most horrifying ways. Losing families, families losing everything they have. The same imaginable destruction that happened in my country in 1945 is happening again and my people taught me that we need to do everything we can to stop that kind of violence from ever happening to anybody again. Lastly, we know from history that college students and ordinary people boycotting and pushing for divestment from apartheid South Africa worked. Divesting is the first move in bringing justice to members of our own community and I believe in you all to do that. We are not free until all of us are free.”
- LiQian Shog: “I am a Jewish student at UCLA, I am here as a member for Jewish Voice for Peace and I am here to give our unequivocal support for the BDS resolution. I would like to use my time to address and counter one aspect of BDS in particular. The criticism being that BDS manipulates Jewish history in order to turn public opinion against the state of Israel. This simply isn’t true.. The history of zionism is not difficult to understand. Zionism began as any other form of settler colonialism with the selfish extraction of resources from a land that was already occupied. Of the first and second wave of immigrants from eastern Europe, only a tiny fraction actually ended up in Palestine while it was decryed by a small subsect that nationhood was the solution to anti-semitism. A propaganda film was made in 1913 that showed Palestine as empty and ready for settlements. As a result, many were frustrated to discover this deception and turn to a morally reprehensible expulsion of Palestinians to render the lie in reality. The land of the people, the Palestinians, and Zionsist removed them for the sake of exclusivity, Jewish settler communes. Zionism functions in the same form today placing the expulsion of Palestinans over everything else. It functions to stimulate this historical falsehood that the land was empty when they arrived. This results in the sectioning away of Palestinains of border walls and the explicit ethnic cleansing of Palestinans. BDS tells the story of Zionism exactly as it happened. It described how Zionism began as a hateful ideology only supported by a fraction of Jews. As such, I urge others to support the BDS resolution as it is the first step in dismantling the settler....” (time cut off)
- Yama B: “I am urging the council members to vote yes on the BDS resolution. We have a choice here today. We can choose to vote no and allow our money to continue providing material support for a siege and occupation, an indiscriminate bombing campaign. Or we can choose as a community to support people and life. If we are to take care of our students and better our community we need to start making decisions like this. We need to start to vote yes and commit to BDS.”
- Daniela Dayen: “I am a fourth year student at UCLA. This year I am serving on the student board and I have been involved in Jewish life on campus for my entire four years here. I have come to public comment today to urge the council to vote no on the resolution. Following the October 7th massacre, we have experienced a rise in hatred towards my community. Many of us don’t feel comfortable walking around campus with our star of david. Tensions are already high on campus and this resolution will only cause this division and prejudice to increase if it passes without causing any form of substantial change. Up until this point, the council has ignored the needs for the Jewish community repeatedly. Over the past few months, campus climate has only gotten worse without any action or response for Jewish students. We feel isolated and come here today to urge the council not to ignore the needs of our community. While it is definitely possible to stand with the people of Palestine, it should not come to the detriment of Jewish students. As USAC, it is your responsibility to represent all students at UCLA and foster a campus environment that is safe for everyone so please I urge you to vote no on this resolution.”
- Rachel Lasry: “I feel like I have to start with addressing that someone on this very call, said the words referring to Jews that, “we have pockets lined with blood money,” and I just want to say that someone at our university went out of their way to say that on a call full of Jewish students which is rhetoric that was said in Nazi Germany shows how powerful

anti-semitism is on our very campus. I want people to really put themselves in our shoes and imagine what it is like to get on a call and hear a rhetoric that was said to our great grandparents before they were put into gas chambers being said to us on this very day. I want people to really think about what that feels like for a student getting on a call at a school that claims to support all minorities and then have people saying that your pockets are lined with blood money. My heart was racing just hearing that. Honestly, hearing people after that go on and say about Jewish supremacy which is a marginalized group, a minority that is being told all of their rhetoric right now as we are speaking and then to have people say Jewish supremacy in the same sentence, is so sickening to hear and I just really want to urge USAC to think about their Jewish students and approach this from a point of view of how we are going to feel walking around that campus. A recorded call with our student government, we are being called this rhetoric, imagine what we are being called behind closed doors. I am honestly so distraught even hearing this and I just threw my whole speech out the window and said this instead because I can't even believe the things that I am hearing on that call today. I am urging our student government to stand with us and vote no on this resolution. If the anti-semitism is this bad, imagine how much worse it is going to get. Please vote no."

- Salma Eldifrawy: "I am a senior at UCLA. I would like to acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on stolen land and I don't want to be a part of repeating history. It is our duty as UCLA students to ensure that we do our part to combat genocide. I am here to ask USAC to vote yes on the BDS resolution. BDS has been met with furious opposition, it is because it is morally against Zionism, advocating for boycotts, divestments, and sanctions is a form of nonviolent advocacy and a free expression that must be protected especially as we are supporting Palestinians that are enduring a genocide. This vote is not one of division, this is a vote that shows that we will not sit by while we watch more than 30,000 people die. This should put it into perspective because this is the entire undergraduate UCLA student population. We will not sit by while more than 1.5 million are displaced from their homes which is 1 of 3 people in LA. We should not become numb to the rising death toll. They are people. As we are lucky enough to sit here in warm homes, sheltered from the rain, Palestinians are living in makeshift tents in the middle of winter getting bombed with nowhere to go. Help us not to repeat history and create a better one. Vote yes on this resolution."
- Public comment is closed at 8:50pm.

V. Funding

- | | |
|---|---------|
| A. <u>Capital Contingency*</u> | Yin |
| B. <u>Contingency Programming*</u> | Yin |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requested: \$28,277.00 - Recommended: \$7,218.43 for 27 non USAC entities and 1 USAC entity - Sara moves to approve \$7,218.43 to 27 non USAC entities and 1 USAC entity, Eva seconds. - By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and Contingency Programming is approved for this week. | |
| C. <u>SFS Allocations#</u> | Wong |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation: \$3,125.00 to 2 USAC entities and 3 non USAC entities - No opposition, passes as a consent item. | |
| D. <u>SWC Programming Fund Allocations#</u> | Kang |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation: \$1,153.97 for 2 non USAC entities - No opposition, passes as a consent item. | |
| E. <u>Bruin Advocacy Grant Allocations#</u> | Jussim |
| F. <u>Grassroots Organizers for Working Students Grant Allocations#</u> | Jussim |
| G. <u>ASRF Allocations#</u> | Sridhar |
| H. <u>AAC Travel Mini-Grant Allocations#</u> | Sridhar |
| I. <u>ARC Allocations#</u> | Verdugo |
| J. <u>TGIF</u> | Kanuri |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation: \$52,708.00 to 9 non USAC entities and 7 USAC entities - No opposition, passes as a consent item. | |

VI. Special Presentation

A. [Textbook Affordability Presentation](#)

Sridhar

B. [Elections Board Update](#)

Le

- My-Lan:
 - Trouble getting into website and social media
 - Looking for staff members
 - Elections Calendar Revisions
 - Need approval from myUCLA and will hopefully be back next week to present the calendar
 - Received USAC petition for a repoll, office is looking into it. Moved forward with a petition that is following the UCLA guidelines. Here to notify the council that this petition went live tonight.

VII. Appointments

A. [Campus Sustainability Committee#](#)

~~Kanuri~~

~~a. Erica Huang~~

VIII. Officer Reports

A. [President](#)

Hammonds

- Hosted Cuffin' a Muffin event on Valentine's Day
 - Handed out 900 Costco muffins and ~300 cans of Yerba Mate
- Filmed "Good Morning UCLA" video for President's Day
 - 643 likes
- Posted a collaboration with UC Berkeley's President Sydney Roberts
 - 1800 likes
- Helping to finalize details ABTS Big Ten on the Hill lobbying
- Invited to UCLA Black Alumni Association Gala as an honorary guest
- Invited to speak for Bruin Admit Day
- Reserved room for CORO training
- Closed TSR application
 - In the process of reviewing applications, will then check eligibility, and then will be sending a few candidates to ARC
- Hosted townhall for cultural, ethnic, and religious organizations
 - Talked to the Armenian Student Association about upcoming collaborations
- Posting upcoming collaboration with UCLA's School of Public Health for a Black Health Seminar Series
- Met with several councilmembers over the past few days
- Spoken with USAC/SOLE advisors
- Prepared a submitted a BOD application

B. [Internal Vice President](#)

Law

- The Appointments Review Committee has conducted 0 interviews since this last USAC Meeting. We are preparing for the upcoming Transfer Student Representative interviews.
- Last week, Josh (AIVP) attended the UC Student Regent Meeting and discussed matters of housing, sustainability, and our Housing Rent Relief Fund with the current UC Student Regent.
- Last week, Josh (AIVP) also attended a True Bruin Raise Awards Ceremony planning meeting. We are finalizing details at the moment.
- Last Thursday, Megan met with SWC and FAC to discuss matters regarding CAE and its inefficiency to serve students. We are currently coauthoring two resolutions to urge CAE to meet the needs of students better in regards to accommodations and services. If you are interested in co-sponsoring, please reach out!
- Last week, Megan met with the ASUCLA Board of Directors Ad-hoc Committee to discuss the upcoming Student Union Referendum.
- Yesterday, Megan had an interview with the Daily Bruin regarding the recent appointment of the Facilities Commissioner.
- The IVP Office's Administrative Relations Committee is hosting another Administrative Meet n' Greet event on Wednesday, February 21st at 11am to 1pm. Please send someone from your office to attend if you are not

able to.

- C. [External Vice President](#) Jussim
- Planning trips to sacramento 3/12 and 3/19 to give public comment to the asm committee on budget sub 3 on edu finance in support of edu asks in the governor's FY 24-25 budget
 - Planning student lobby conference 3/7 - 3/11 in Sacramento
 - Lobby Corps orientation is this friday, 2/23 6-8. Mandatory.
 - This past weekend was the UCSA BOD meeting at UCSD. discussed collegiate recovery programs (CRP) amongst other things.
 - Rolling out support for Measure HLA with BruinsVote x FAC.
 - BruinsVote is still on bruin walk every Wednesday signing folks up to vote!
 - DB Op-ed for the armory shelter to be submitted soon.
 - Continuing STC work
- D. [General Representative 1](#) Pool
- E. [General Representative 2](#) Lasry
- Prepping for tabling next week with the goal of raising mental health awareness.
 - Working on graphics for commuter tips.
- F. [General Representative 3](#) Valenzuela Mejia
-
- G. [Academic Affairs Commissioner](#) Srihar
- H. [Campus Events Commission](#) Miller
- **Melnitz Movies x CEC "Problemista" Screening**
 - February 23rd, 7pm in James Bridges Theater
 - **"HOEGRAM GIVEAWAY ON INSTAGRAM @uclacec**
 - sponsored by Maude
 - also check out our new **PRINTS IN PROGRESS** series on Instagram!
 - **Breakfast on Pluto (Irish Screening)**
 - March 12th, 7pm in Ackerman Grand Ballroom
 - **INDIE ROCK CONCERT MARCH 8th**
 - details coming soon...
 - finalizing another sponsorship,, big things coming
- I. [Community Service Commissioner](#) Wong
- CSC is leading a 15-member delegation to the IMPACT Conference this weekend. Our service education directors will also be leading a workshop at the conference.
 - The IMPACT Conference is historically the largest annual conference focused on the civic engagement of college students in community service, service-learning, community-based research, advocacy and other forms of social action. Building on the rich tradition of the COOL Conference and the Idealist Campus Conference, IMPACT is the one time during the year when students, administrators, faculty, AmeriCorps members and VISTAs, and nonprofit professionals gather together to learn and share effective practices, improve personal skills and organizational strategies, discover opportunities and resources, exchange stories, be inspired and challenged to sustain our efforts.
 - Sourcing venues and preliminary ideas for our Spring Programming efforts: Project Bruin, Service Impact Summit
 - Continuing planning on Black History Month Book Drive
 - Revising the CSC Community Assessments for Projects to make it more concise and beneficial for service groups
 - Meeting with Doug and Andrea from Center for Community Engagement to input service activities into UCLA's Collaboratory
 - Met with interns to explore possibility of a UCLA CSC x LYFT initiative
 - Supporting Bruin Shelter on setting up a Housing Basic Needs Grant

J. [Cultural Affairs Commissioner](#)

Verdugo

K. [Facilities Commissioner](#)

Kanuri

- **COUNTDOWN TO [03/05/2024 ELECTIONS](#): 14 days!**
 - Here's [where and how to vote](#)! TODAY IS THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE!
 - **Make sure to register and vote YES on the [HLA measure](#)!**

| | |
|---|---|
| Los Angeles City (1) | |
| Vote Passage-Majority Vote (50% + 1) | |
| HLA | <p>CITY MOBILITY PLAN STREET IMPROVEMENT MEASURES. INITIATIVE ORDINANCE HLA. Shall an ordinance providing that when the City of Los Angeles makes a qualifying improvement to a City-owned street (e.g., a paving project), the City must also install certain street enhancements described in the City's Mobility Plan network of pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicle routes; and requiring the City to provide publicly accessible information regarding street improvements; be adopted?</p> <p>Supporters: Sierra Club; LA County Labor Fed; LA County Business Fed; Move LA; Streets For All; SEIU Local 721; UNITE HERE 11; TreePeople</p> <p>Opponents: John Russo; Jay Beeber; Peggy Huang; Lauren Matthews</p> |

- Bruin Bazaar is having its 100x Hotter Upcycling Event tonight from 6-9 pm at the MakerSpace on the Hill! Check it out for “no-sew” and beginner-level t-shirt upcycling activities to make your closet 100x hotter! (This event is bring-your-own-tee!)
- Bruin Bazaar will be having a clothing swap on Kerckhoff Patio on Wednesday of Week 9 (03/06)! Stay tuned for more information.
- **Office/Storage space [applications](#) and [guidelines](#) for the 2024-2026 period have been released and are due March 15th!** Please email osac@usac.ucla.edu and/or fac@usac.ucla.edu with any questions!

Access & Infrastructure:

- Our Transportation, Equity, and Access (TEA) team is continuing to plan a Universal Basic Mobility event slated for April 2024.
- TEA and the Bruins 4 Better Transit team posted a UPASS wrapped to share updated statistics on usage.
- TEA has also been brainstorming ideas for future Westwood Connected projects and providing suggestions for infrastructure improvements.
- TEA will be attending the STC Government & Community Relations STC working group meeting tomorrow, 2/21 at 3 pm.

Sustainability:

- The Environmental Justice Now! team began tabling last week to encourage students to vote YES! on measure HLA in the March primaries. You must be registered to vote in LA County to do this! (today's the last day!) @students4saferstreets is still going strong <3
 - They will also be tabling at the Westwood Farmers' Market on February 29th to increase awareness.
 - They are also looking into neighborhood canvassing methods to increase awareness of HLA and voter turnout.
- Sustainagoals had a very successful event last Wednesday, where they promoted the Kerckhoff Coffeehouse Reuzzi mug and gave away free jewelry and crafts from local vendors.
- Sustainagoals will be focusing on their project to improve waste signage in the Court of Sciences for the rest of the quarter. (Pizza boxes are compostable, in case you didn't know!)

Appointments/Committees:

- OSAC contacted SOLE advisors to release office space and storage applications and is working on advertising open positions to the OSAC committee.
- The TGIF committee met to discuss pending applications for various sustainability-focused projects and allocate funds.

Internal/Administrative/Miscellaneous:

- I met with Mary Romo last week to discuss potentially collaborating on a climate change program with ASUCLA for Spring Quarter.
- I met with Daniel from the Buy Your Values team to discuss their work for the past two years and a potential plan to partner with TGIF on implementing ethically sourced clothing in ASUCLA stores.

L. [Financial Supports Commissioner](#) Broukhim

M. [Student Wellness Commissioner](#) Kang

- Commissioner Updates
 - Check your emails: proposing a resolution advocating for academic leniency and campus safety in light of Israel Palestine; will be introduced next week
- SWC Updates
 - [Weekly SWC E-Board & Committees' Updates Sheet](#)
 - Active Minds upcoming events:
 - Music in Mind: Sunday, March 3rd in Ackerman Ballroom (vendors, performers, food)
 - Mental Health Networking Night: Friday March 8th, 5pm-7pm
 - De-stressing Workshop: Friday, February 23rd, 5-6:50pm Ackerman 2408
 - Annual Conference: Sunday, April 14th, 10am-2pm (spring quarter)
 - HNF x Girl Gains Movement Clinic on Feb. 25th (this Sunday) @ 1-2pm in Wooden Legacy Room
 - Bruin Run/Walk [registration has now opened!](#)
 - Join us at the 24th Annual Bruin Run/Walk, a 5K race benefitting the Painted Turtle on April 21st, 2024! You can run it, walk it, dance it! Create a team and bring your friends and family! For a limited time, we are currently doing FREE UCLA student registration with promo code: "uclastudent2024" — Sea you at the finish!
 - Peer Support Lounge open through week 10!
 - Kerckhoff 308 open to all students for snacks, coffee, tea, lounge space
 - Tuesdays through Thursdays weekly from 10am-5pm
 - UCLA Radio collabs
 - Sexperts: Mondays 11pm
 - Active Minds: Sundays 12pm-1pm

N. [Transfer Student Representative](#) Cobbs

O. [International Student Representative](#) Tfayli

- Began expanding the director team. Hired exchange student director, and career development director
- Working with UCLA career center on job/internship fair for UCLA international students
- Re-launching bruin buddies, along with GR3

P. [Administrative Representatives](#) Luna, Alexander, Moran, Klimoski, Wisner

- Orlando: "Just one quick update. We are currently accepting applications for the UC Student Regent position. If you are interested, please reach out to me, I will drop a link in the chat with the application. The application is due March 11th."
- Jonathan: "Two really quick. First, as a reminder that your 21 days to replace your TSR is March 5th which is Tuesday of Week 9 and that your BOD representatives will be coming to council next week so I have asked them to send me some written updates prior to Friday so that you all can come prepared with questions and concerns."

IX. Old Business

A. [Resolution to Boycott and Divest from Apartheid, Ethnic Cleansing, and Genocide*](#) Verdugo

- Discussion about BSD Resolution:
- Alicia: "I am very grateful that the GSA was able to pass this resolution last week. By passing it this week, my hope is that we create history today and I also want to bring light to the fact that many of us council members were spammed by external non-students and that was very scary. I also just want to re-emphasize that we serve undergraduate students and we also serve the outside community but at the end of the day we

should know our place in prioritizing students and so I did not appreciate the external individuals contacting us and mass spamming. It was very intimidating to receive these. Thank you so much for your support Jonathan, Mason, Jennis, and Adam for cosponsoring with me.”

- Gabby: “Firstly I just want to thank every single person that came to public comment. I know it is a long night and that this is a serious contentious issue, so I seriously applaud everyone for their bravery and courage to come tonight and share their view point. Something a view people mentioned during public comment that I did want to reiterate is that anti-zionism is most definitely anti-semitism. The definition of zionism is simply the Jewish’s people’s right to self-determination. You can definitely be anti the Israeli government which is not anti-semitic but believing in another’s group of self-determination and then not the Jewish people’s right to self-determination is anti-semitic. That is just a difference that we do need to acknowledge and make sure that we understand. Something that I also noticed is that most students for/against the resolution expressed that they don’t feel safe on campus and I think that is exactly what we should be focusing on if a group of students that is part of our constituency is telling us that they don’t feel safe because of this resolution and they have experienced Jewish hatred because of this resolution, then I think it is our job and our duty to make sure that all students feel safe and I think that by passing this resolution, we are just alienating an entire group of students. I agree with Alicia, I do think that we do need to prioritize students but this resolution isn’t doing that. And a very similar resolution passed in 2021 and the next day, I personally as a Jewish woman have experienced anti-semitism by multiple different people and entities. So, I do understand the gravity of this bill and of this situation and I am hoping that maybe we can talk this out tonight and find alternative solutions.”
- Sara: “I wanted to start by also thanking everyone who came to public comment. I know that it is a very scary thing especially putting your name out there. I was listening, we were listening and we take your thoughts very seriously. I also wanted to thank council members for listening. There are a few things that I wanted to clear up and then also propose a couple of various solutions. One, I think it is important to acknowledge that the Jewish community is not monolithic. We definitely have pro and anti zionists Jews, but for the most part, the organization that represents most Jews on campus is Hillel which and most Jews identify with the Jewish state and with the need to have a Jewish state. First, it is important to clear up for the record. Second, I think this resolution, I want to start by saying that I can’t even imagine the pain of the Palestinian students and I don’t want to delegitimize that at all, but I do think that this resolution will do very little to help Palestinians but will have very real implications for students on campus and that should be our number one priority as council members to make sure that we are putting forward actionable solutions to make sure that students are being heard but we are also not jeopardizing an entire student group. Which is why, I want to second a resolution brought forward by Jennis which has not come to the council table yet which brings actionable change like academic leniency but if our Jewish students are not feeling safe that should not be ignored. There are also other solutions that I was thinking of but I think that the main priority should be something with actionable change.”
- Katie: “I just wanted to thank everyone that came to public comment. It seems even intimidating for us to speak so I really applaud you all. I just have four comments that I want to make on this resolution tonight. The first issue that I have with the resolution is the broad generalizations in the resolution and perhaps subjecting USAC to some legal issues. There is some incorrect language and assertions on the resolution. For example, “Whereas the USAC recognizes its duty to uphold the True Bruin values of integrity, excellence, accountability, and ethicality.” Ethicality is not a true Bruin value. The True Bruin values are respect, accountability, integrity, service, and excellence. Another example is the unsubstantiated statement that scholars and practitioners claim certain things but not exactly naming them. The second issue is letting an outside organization dictate whom USAC is and its supposed organizations can and do business with. This seems out of scope of our consumption and bylaws and possibly discriminatory because we are depending on an outside organization to find these groups and maintain a correct list that we have to regularly distribute to all student groups. “Let it be further resolved, in furtherance of the affirmative policy, the USAC cabinet should maintain an updated list of boycotted vendors and corporations including vendors and corporations targeted by the BDS committee that should regularly provide it to all student groups.” I think that this could be subjecting USAC to some legal issues and I would be open to amending that part of the resolution. The

main issue that I think of this resolution comes from the USAC constitution. Our focus as Alicia pointed out, we should be prioritizing students. Since we have a variety of opinions expressed by our students here and no clear majority from what we have heard tonight, I think we need to focus on campus unity and things we can actively do on campus to help our students. I just think that in general this resolution doesn't seem to be unifying us at the end of the day. It seems to be very divisive and we have multiple different perspectives and we don't have one thing that our whole undergraduate community can agree on and I just think that if this resolution passes it says something really negative about one community and if it fails it says something really negative about one community. This is not what USAC is here to do. We are here to unite people and focus on unity on campus."

- Jonathan: "Thank you so much and I really want to talk to the students in particular. Thank you for your public comment and your perspectives and your opinions and your thoughts. I use this as a guiding foundation for my decisions as a council member. And I have been updated by my chief of staff about what was said and mentioned. I currently am on the other side of the world but I am here actively because I think that it is very important. More than anything I am going to speak to council members directly. You may not face the consequences of this today in days, weeks, months, years, or even decades. But I know that many of us want to pursue active careers that involve public showing and public spaces as well as understanding certain positions and their nuances with them. That being said, I urge you to think about this very carefully when voting for this resolution. Just because the consequences might not be immediate but they will be in the near future. So that is just something that I want to point out to council members in particular. And to keep in mind as we vote because our votes do have power and we do have the power to really impact our university and the world so again I really urge let's think about this."
- Gabby: "I do have a few alternative solutions that I would like to propose to council and specifically for the sponsor and co-sponsors of the resolution. If you could respond I would love to gauge your thoughts. I think it is really important to do education training. I think this is an incredibly contentious issue. It is very controversial and it is something that has been brought up to council more than once. I do understand that a lot of us haven't quite learned about this issue until October 7th so I do think it is really important for us to commit to education training. I also do really love the resolution about supporting students academically and providing academic leniency. I think those are two solutions that will help the student body. I don't think these issues are divisive. The most important thing that we need to worry about is student safety on both sides and that is exactly what education training is going to help us with and that is exactly what an academic leniency resolution is going to help us with. I do have a list of other alternative solutions but I do think those are the two most important ones and I would love to hear other council members' thoughts on those."
- Eva: "So, as Sara mentioned, Jewish students are very diverse. I am a Jewish student but I am an anti-zionist and I am for this resolution. I have not shared that I am Jewish to you all because it is very personal to me. But as a Jewish student, elected by other students, to this USAC, I find this resolution to be non-violent, not anti-semitic, and the way to take an ethical stance that does not target Jewish or Israeli individuals. I also think it is actually divisive to isolate a single organization that is not in support of this resolution as the mouthpiece for all Jewish students. I think in emphasizing that the Jewish student body here at UCLA is diverse, I really think we have to commit to that wholeheartedly. Furthermore I think we have a fiduciary responsibility as an entity under ASUCLA to advise it on its work. I don't think that this is subjecting us to discriminatory legal issues. However, I am open to amending this resolution to properly quote the True Bruin values as Katie mentioned and really finding a solution here because I think so many people have come, we had public comment for two hours today. I would really love to see a vote on this."
- Jonathan: "I would definitely say that the amendment is important and I agree with it. I would like to hear from my other co-sponsors as well. I would also like to mention that the idea of not being educated is inherently classist and frankly, it feels a little coded in particular as someone coming in from a low-income background that I am being told by a council member and a peer that I may not be educated and in particular as a Guatemalan. My country went through genocide. My family died in the Guatemalan/Mayan genocide. I understand and very well know what genocide looks like. I refuse to be "educated" about issues that directly, I know about, in personal experience. I just want to make it well known that I find that a little coded."

- Gabby: “First of all Jontahn, no one was coming at you, I just think that education training is important in general. I myself am also low-income and my family has also, the Jewish community, has experienced a Holocaust, a genocide, so I am very familiar with both of those topics too. I still think it is really important for all of us to be educated on an extremely controversial issue. I don’t think there is anything wrong in saying that, especially because people devote their entire lives to studying this conflict. Aside from that, I do want to state that the BDS movement itself isn’t inherently anti-semitic and embedded with Jewish hatred, there are leading BDS activists that said the real aim of BDS is to bring down the state of Israel, justice for Palestinians is incompatible with the existence of the state of Israel. Another leading BDS activist said, “BDS does mean the end of the Jewish state.” Just to clarify there is only one Jewish state in the entire world. According to the NYT, terrorist organizations including Hamas, which again started the October 7th massacre are part of the BDS committee which leads the BDS movement globally so the leading activists themselves admit that this movement is anti-semitic and I think that we should definitely listen to them.”
- Sara: “I want to bring up a few points. I want to start with and second the importance of education training both on this conflict, both on specifically anti-semitism and Jew hatred. In this body alone, we have had multiple charged rhetoric towards Jewish students. One student as many of you remember was told that, “that fucking Jew is turning off the mic.” In this very meeting, “blood libel” was quoted. In both of those moments, nothing was done. And the fact that we have rampant islamophobia on this campus as well shows the need for education training so I don’t know why we would be opposed to that. I definitely can learn more. I think it important to acknowledge that we can always learn more about how to treat other people about the nuances of this topic. I also think it is important to realize that yes, we hope not to single out a specific community, many members of one specific community have come to us about this resolution and have shared their problems with this resolution and they are very concerned. Which I hope this council addresses. For going to the BDS movement of BDS, I want to second what Gabby said. While it may appear, and I think it is misquoted in the resolution, that it is antiwar, the BDS movement is aimed at cutting Israel off economically and destroying the only Jewish state. While I assume a lot of council members are just getting into this issue post October 7th more passionately, the history of the movement is much longer than October 7th.”
- Alicia: “I will keep it clear and concise. First of all, this is not a conflict. I don’t know why it has taken this long for people to bring up education training. I don’t know why it would take 30,000 people to be murdered by a state, for people to continue educating themselves. As Sara has said, this has been going on for more than 75 years now. I myself, am not a stranger to this. Prior to October 7th, I have been following what has been happening in Palestine when I was in high school in 2018. It has been clear since then, since now, this is genocide, this is an occupation of a people. I don’t know if it is because I’m also a person who has been colonized in their home land many many years ago by Spain. I don’t know if it is because I am an immigrant and I had to flee my own country. It doesn’t take that though for me to tell you that this is an occupation. This is oppression. This is colonialism. This is settler colonialism. It is not a conflict. It quite literally isn’t. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the UN, the International Court of Justice, all of them. Nelson Mandela was considered a terrorist up until 2008. This is classic. US imperialism and colonialism is backing this state. As many of my Jewish peers here have said, both in public comment and in this room, anti-zionism is not anti-semitism and the creation of Israel has nothing to do with Judaism. It literally has everything to do with the creation of a place to displace people. I just want to reiterate what Jonathan had said. What Eva had said. This step towards BDS is only going to help lessen the amount of funding that Israel would give to Israeli occupation forces, bombs, and just more violence towards Palestinians. I literally cannot see another Palestinian die, I literally can not do that. I can’t. I am so close to my peers and my community.”
- Jennis: “Sara I can not believe that you are sitting there laughing right now. I have seen you turn your camera on and off in the last 5 minutes. I saw you during public comment. I tried not to say anything. Anyway, so in response to the other stuff. Education training, that is a great idea. No one here is opposing that but I just want to say where was that suggestion in the last four months. Why is that coming out of the woodwork now that this resolution is presented? Where was that energy? I don’t understand. In light of that, I applaud Alicia for doing the work on behalf of all the people who couldn’t in this hard time and on behalf of all the communities that don’t have the platform that we have and can’t advocate for themselves. As mentioned

multiple times throughout the meeting tonight, my office, SWC, have been attempting to create and get support from council members and from student organizations particularly ones that have direct ties to this topic. For the last several weeks I am still pursuing that resolution. I don't think that resolution is mutually exclusive with the one that is being presented right now. When this one was presented by Alicia, I felt that it would be a disservice to this resolution to not let it have its dedicated night and especially because I feel that although I am still all for academic leniency. I am still all for campus safety, this resolution in particular has the power to create tangible change in the distribution of power in the world and this deserves the light right now. I also noticed that some other council members want to focus on our scope of the job being about our campus but our campus does not exist in a bubble and we are the people who make up this campus. These are people who are going out into the world. We exist in multitudes. There has been a precedent that USAC resolutions have commented on global issues. They have set precedents for other campuses and seeing UC Davis make history, I was motivated to be vocal in supporting this resolution at our UCLA campus. I hope that we can make history tonight. Focusing what we can do on our campus and only that, diminished the influence that we have in our positions and the influence that UCLA has. I also think it was ridiculous that we are pointing out the True Bruin values being the issue with the resolution. That just detracts the point of the resolution and that is an easy fix. I hope that we can roll out those kinks and get moving."

- Sujana: "I just wanted to add to the conversation first by thanking everyone who has spoken at public comment and who is still here to see the outcome of the resolution. Affirming again that all of us here really do value your opinions. I also really wanted to affirm that I stand against anti-semitism. I can't think of a person on this council who would not very proudly and firmly say that. I hope that its inclusion in the resolution stands out to you all as very intentional as it is. I would not feel supportive of any text that does not mention our resolution against anti-semitism. I also want to affirm that my decision tonight is going to be a very well educated, very carefully thought out decision. I have been aware of this my whole life, this issue, as it has existed for decades. It is not one that I would make lightly and not one that I think anyone would make lightly. It has been very thought out and considered."
- Mason: "Just like a couple things. In terms of the first thing that was said about amending the resolution to make it safer legally, I think I would be open to that if that is something that we need to do but after looking over it, I don't necessarily think there is unless it is something that we can change today. On that note, after we have heard the public comments, I mean obviously I wish we could extend it longer to hear more, but just from the ones that we did hear today, I think obviously this is very passionate to many people and it is very urgent to many people. I think to me the general tone of what this conversation is right now is that we want to table this until another week which I don't think is going to be useful and I think that at least voting on it now and seeing what we need to do after that is at least more conscious and respectful of the people's time who did come today. Also in terms of what Jennis said about the other resolution that she has proposed, I am in full support of that resolution and I don't think it is mutually exclusive of the resolution that we are doing today. I think that is a good option to look forward to in the future. It is not something that we should use to detract from what is happening right now."
- Eva moves to vote on the resolution by voting by ballot, Jonathan seconds.
- By vote of 10-3-0, the motion passes and voting will be done by ballot for this resolution.
- Katie: "So, I guess the last thing that I want to say is that our constitution and I would love to read it out but it is pretty long. The purpose of USAC is to initiate student activities and coordinate student life. A part of the constitution in Section D says that USAC shall not participate or affiliate in any organization that discriminates as discrimination is legally defined. I think that we as USAC should be representing our constitution and I think that there are many hundreds of students that come here and feel that this resolution discriminates against them and I again want to reiterate that maybe the True Bruin values, although I think it is important because USAC is focused on student activities at UCLA campus and represent student interests. I think the point I want to make clear is that we need to be unifying our campus and this resolution just divides us. You can see here tonight there is so much division and so much hurt going on right now, among

our students but even on our council and this is not what USAC is about. USAC is about supporting, promoting leadership, fairly representing student interests and that is just not what we have here tonight.”

- Gabby: “First, I want to reiterate that I find the ad hominem arguments incredibly distasteful. I think attacking people personally is absolutely ridiculous and further proving to me that this resolution is only going to cause alienation. Second, I don’t think that we should be putting things into binary categories, I think that is where the whole issue stems from. This issue is a lot more nuanced than that which is why again, I am pushing for the education training whether this passes or not. I think it is incredibly important and is something that the council should undergo regardless of this resolution. Also, just regardless of your individual stances on the conflict, I don’t actually think it matters in this case. Our focus at the end of the day should be to help all students. We are not going to stop the conflict, we are students. Our goal should be to unify the student body as Katie mentioned before. Throughout this entire public comment session, students have recounted to us that they will feel alienated and experience anti-semitism with the passing of BDS and I feel that if it passes, we are honestly just ignoring them. I just wanted to reiterate that this is going to actively hurt Jewish students.”
- Sara: “One, I want to also second what Gabby said. I do not appreciate the ad hominem attacks and I don’t think it was relevant. I am taking this very seriously and as a result was trying to keep my camera on. More importantly, it is not really about that, but more importantly, I think every council member should be looking at how this resolution is going to play out on campus. It is going to make it more divisive for students on campus. It is not going to lead to lasting change. I also wanted to point out that out of the solution proposed, I think Gabby and I were the only ones who proposed that would be actionable not just because we are trying to avoid this resolution but because we want to help all students and make sure they are all feeling safe.
- Alicia moves to approve the Resolution to Boycott and Divest from Apartheid, Ethnic Cleansing, and Genocide, Eva seconds.
- By vote of 10-3-0 , the motion passes and the Resolution to Boycott and Divest from Apartheid, Ethnic Cleansing, and Genocide is approved.

X. New Business

- A. [Proposal of SWC Programming Fund Application 2023-2024 Guidelines*](#) Kang
 - Jennis moves to approve the SWC Programming Fund Application Guidelines for 2023-2024, Nilaya seconds.
 - By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and the SWC Programming Fund Application Guidelines for 2023-2024 are approved.
- B. [SFS Guidelines 23-24*](#) Wong
 - Chia Ying moves to approve SFS Guidelines for 23-24, Jennis seconds.
 - By vote of 11-0-0, the motion passes and the SFS Guidelines are approved for 23-24.
- C. [Discussion on Constitutional Review Committee*](#) Law
- D. [Personnel Matter@](#) Hammonds
 - Sujana moves to enter into the executive session, Nilaya seconds.
 - By vote of 12-0-0, the motion passes and the meeting is moved into executive session.

 - Sujana moves to exit executive session, Jonathan seconds.
 - By vote of 12-0-0, the motion passes and the executive session is closed.

 - Executive session closed at 10:10pm. No action taken.

XI. Adjournment

- Naomi adjourns the meeting at 10:12pm.

Good and Welfare;

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