

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DECREASING THE VOLUNTARY PLEDGE SYSTEM
AGREEMENT FOR UCLA'S CHAPTER OF CALPIRG

WHEREAS, The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) chapter of California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) is a student organization in good standing.

WHEREAS, CALPIRG advocates for the interests of the public state-wide by protecting consumers, fighting poverty, increasing energy efficiency in our community, advocating for global warming solutions, and working towards more affordable higher education.

WHEREAS, CALPIRG contributed heavily to External Vice President's Student VOTE! Coalition's success in 2008 by registering 4,700 voters out of the coalition's 8,500 voters registered.

WHEREAS, CALPIRG helps fulfill the university mission by teaching civic engagement, providing direct service to the campus and community, and educating students on things ranging from how to make their apartments more energy efficient to how to organize a press event.¹

WHEREAS, over 30,000 UCLA students have signed up to volunteer with CALPIRG since its inception, and over 1350 UCLA students have completed internships with CALPIRG, enhancing their educational experience through practical application of classroom knowledge.

WHEREAS, CALPIRG has an agreement with the university to keep an average of 15% of the student body pledging \$10 a quarter to CALPIRG.²

WHEREAS, CALPIRG has made a good-faith effort to obey the terms of its agreement with the University through proactive pledge drives each quarter and has met the 15% average for two decades.

WHEREAS, due to an unexpected anomaly, in the Fall of 2010 35% of CALPIRG's members graduated or left school from the Spring the Fall instead of the normal 25%.

WHEREAS, based on trends over past years, CALPIRG anticipated that enrollment would be around 36,500 (when in actuality 38,500 students were enrolled) and that approximately 4500 students would have paid the fee.³

WHEREAS, if these projections had played out CALPIRG would have been above the threshold of 15% paid for the three quarters.

WHEREAS, CALPIRG has met this 15% threshold average for every three consecutive quarters up until this point.

WHEREAS, This Fall and Winter alone, 3,130 students, which is an additional 8% of the campus, signed up to pledge CALPIRG for the first time, resulting in over 15% of the students enrolled for Spring term paying the CALPIRG fee, demonstrating overwhelming support for the program on campus.

WHEREAS, Since CALPIRG's first contract was established, UCLA's enrollment has grown

¹ University mission:

http://www.wasc.ucla.edu/cpr_endnotes/Mission_Statement.pdf

² CALPIRG Contract

³ http://www.aim.ucla.edu/enrollment/enrollment_demographics_fall.asp

significantly, by 15%, without the corresponding increase in CALPIRG staff capacity to reach its 15% goal.⁴

WHEREAS, Lowering the pledge threshold to 10% of the student body will enable CALPIRG to devote more staff, intern, and volunteer time to service and advocacy.

WHEREAS, Without the proposed changes to CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System, CALPIRG's uncertain funding will jeopardize the effectiveness of their campaigns with increased time spent fundraising.

WHEREAS, Without the proposed changes to CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System, the student-directed and student-responsive nature inherent to CALPIRG's long history at UCLA would be compromised.

WHEREAS, The proposed changes to CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System are cost-neutral for all parties involved.

WHEREAS, The UC Office of the President (UCOP) policy was updated making 10% of the student body the threshold required by UCOP.⁵

WHEREAS, The University of California at San Diego, Irvine, and Riverside all have 10% thresholds.

WHEREAS, The UC Office of the President policy was updated including new language that states that changing CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System agreement can be done through the concurrence of the Chancellor or Chancellor's designee and a duly adopted resolution of student government.

WHEREAS, The support of USAC is necessary as a representation of a consultation process with students to create concurrence with the Chancellor in creating a new Voluntary Pledge System Agreement.

BE IT RESOLVED, that USAC supports CALPIRG's proposed changes to the Voluntary Pledge System Agreement with the Chancellor, including lowering the threshold of the student body who must be pledged to 10%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USAC supports CALPIRG's ability to fully function under its current contract given the unexpected anomalies that occurred surrounding their pledged members.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the members of the Undergraduate Students Association Council are authorized to write letters which reflect this position of the USAC to the Chancellor and other campus bodies.

⁴ http://www.aim.ucla.edu/enrollment/enrollment_history.asp

⁵ <http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/12-28-92guidelines.html>