



**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT
ASSOCIATION**

**Resolution on the Current State of Campus and the Undergraduate Students Association Council
Commitment to Relevant Goals**

Whereas, the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) is the governing body of the Undergraduate Students Association (USA) at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Whereas, the USA's membership is comprised of every UCLA undergraduate student who annually elect the Council's thirteen (13) student officers and commissioners.¹

Whereas, the mission of the USAC is to be the official representative of UCLA students to administration.²

Whereas, a recent campus-wide survey indicated that many students feel that the USAC may be inaccessible and don't understand its role on campus.

Whereas, the USAC has a responsibility not only to respond to these student concerns but work towards the betterment of the undergraduate experience at UCLA.

Whereas, the academic year of 2010-2011 holds many challenges for the undergraduate student as described below.

Whereas, campus climate is at the forefront of the agenda of the USAC, administration, and Chancellor Gene Block for the 2010-2011 academic year.³

Whereas, this focus on climate derives from a sense of decreasing inclusivity and safety within the University of California system.

Whereas, UCLA recently celebrated the 40th year of ethnic studies, still with no general education requirement to support learning of other cultures or marginalized groups.⁴

Whereas, the University has promoted a diverse and safe campus but does not create the aggressive solutions to solve or support the inherent issues students face.⁵

Whereas, overall UCLA still experiences a lack of racial and socio-economic diversity relevant to the diverse population within the state of California.

Whereas, concurrently, the 32% fee increase has affected all students' experience and impacts accessibility to public university for generations to come.

Whereas, in the month of September 2010, the California budget still was at a gridlock, leaving funding for higher education and related support programs undecided.

Whereas, the California budget recently signed by the governor does nothing more than accept the current deteriorating status of our university.

¹ USAC Constitution, Art. I

² USAC Constitution, Art. I §B.3.C

³ <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/diversity.aspx>

⁴ <http://www.ethnicstudies40th.ucla.edu/about/index.asp>

⁵ UCLA Campus Strategic Plan For Diversity

Whereas, there is a direct correlation from the cost of education to the rates of undergraduate graduation and retention within the UC.

Whereas, the lack of financial aid support or eligibility to said aid for middle class students create financial difficulty for a high percentage of UCLA students seeking an education.

Whereas, the three pillars of UC education are teaching, service, and research and the role of students is to ensure that these promises are being met.⁶

Whereas, the priority on education has become focused on the recitation of facts as opposed to the committed understanding and expertise in the subject area.

Whereas, state budget cuts for higher education have endangered the quality of education with larger class sizes, cuts to core majors through challenge 45, and fewer opportunities for engagement with staff and faculty.

Whereas, while these issues are great, with only a one-year term the USAC 2010-2011 must engage students on all fronts to continue advocacy and initiative within these concerns.

Let it be resolved that to address the most relevant concerns and conditions of students, the Undergraduate Students Association Council of 2010-2011 will advocate for affordability, promote a holistic education, empower students, and cultivate diverse, unified, and safe open spaces.⁷

Let it be resolved that the USAC will cultivate diverse, unified, and safe open spaces through (but not limited to),

- a. Addressing health and safety concerns
- b. Exposing UCLA students to diverse populations and experiences both on and off –campus
- c. Advocating for marginalized communities, for example, through the promotion of gender neutral spaces

Let it be resolved that the USAC will advocate for affordability through (but not limited to),

- d. Scholarships
- e. Subsidizing the costs of student services
- f. Pushing for new revenues for higher education in the state legislature

Let it be resolved that the USAC will promote a holistic education by (but not limited to),

- g. Increasing awareness on social and political issues
- h. Addressing enrollment concerns
- i. Promoting community service

Let it be resolved that the USAC will empower students to hold the university accountable by (but not limited to),

- j. Connecting students to on-campus, state-wide, and national decision-makers
- k. Ensuring the visibility and accessibility of student government

⁶ Commission Recommendation from the Academic Council, UCSF Senate , 7-26-10

⁷ http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/article/2010/09/brought_to_you_by_usac