

Resolution Condemning Hate Crimes at UCLA and in Support of the Latina/o Community's Demands

WHEREAS, the University of California, Los Angeles has openly stated that all members of its campus community should conduct themselves with integrity and “respect for the rights and dignity of others”; (1)

WHEREAS, UCLA’s Principles of Community states:

“We do not tolerate acts of discrimination, harassment, profiling or other harm to individuals on the basis of expression of race, color, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religious beliefs, political preference, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship, or national origin among other personal characteristics. Such acts are in violation of UCLA’s Principles of Community and subject to sanctions according to campus policies governing the conduct of students, staff and faculty.” (2)

WHEREAS, acts of discrimination, profiling and harassment against marginalized communities have regularly occurred at UCLA’s campus and across the University of California;

WHEREAS, on Monday, February 27, 2012, a hateful act was committed against members of the Latina/o community, when UCLA students’ apartment door was vandalized with racist and misogynistic tagging; (3)

WHEREAS, the aforementioned hate crime is just the most recent reported hate crime, students across the University of California have been protesting against a hostile campus, including (but not limited to) the responses at UC San Diego after the Compton Cookout in 2010, and at UCLA after the “Asians in the Library” in 2011;

WHEREAS, in March 2012 alone, we have seen several incidences of intolerance at UCLA, including anti-Semitic vandalism on a poster of a student organization and the undervaluing of the transfer community in the blog of a UCLA professor; (4)

WHEREAS, these are not isolated incidences; marginalized communities encounter a recurrence of micro-aggressions on the UCLA campus that have contributed to an extremely hostile campus climate;

WHEREAS, underrepresented students attend UCLA hoping to escape the racist, xenophobic, homophobic, and misogynistic discourse that plagues the country’s current political climate;

WHEREAS, it is evident that UCLA is not immune from the political rhetoric that yields a hostile campus climate for underrepresented students;

WHEREAS, the Raza community and allies at UCLA, responded to the hate crimes and hostile campus climate in solidarity on Thursday, March 1, 2012 with the “Brown is Beautiful” event in Bruin Plaza; (5)

WHEREAS, the USAC Office of the President organized a Town Hall scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2012, to discuss the issues of campus climate, but was ultimately postponed ensuring that affected communities are properly contacted and become part of the planning process for the Town Hall;

WHEREAS; the University of California has released several statements ensuring that diversity continues to be a focus of the University; (6)

WHEREAS, ensuring that UCLA continues to prioritize access to students from low-income, under-served communities in order to have a more inclusive and racially diverse student body would help ameliorate the current campus climate;

WHEREAS, the demographics of Latina/os are about 37.6% in California and 47.7% in Los Angeles County; (7)

WHEREAS, the number of Latina/o students applying to UCLA continues to drastically increase, but the number of admitted students has remained stagnant. While 26% of all applicants for the class of 2015 and 28% for the class of 2016 self-identified as Latina/o, Chicana/o, yet only 15.3% of all admitted students were Latina/o, Chicana/o for the class of 2015; (8)

WHEREAS, Proposition 209, which ended affirmative action, curtails the University's ability to admit more qualified underrepresented students, the recently affected communities have developed and sponsored eight different demands from UCLA administration to ensure that administration is working towards creating a safe campus for everyone;

WHEREAS, the demands include the creation of a multicultural center, the adoption of a general education requirement addressing diversity, support for growth in Ethnic Studies, formal apology from ASUCLA, UCPD accountability, and greater Latina/o representation in administration, the accommodation for underrepresented students who participate in Greek life, and a formal response from Chancellor Block;*

WHEREAS, sixteen different organizations, whose missions range from political, cultural, social, and Greek affiliations helped create and sponsor the demands;

WHEREAS, the Associated Students UCLA has issued a formal written apology for the sale of the Billabong "still filthy" shirt. ASUCLA has since removed the shirt and has requested that the apology be printed in the Daily Bruin on Thursday, March 15, 2012;

WHEREAS, in Spring 2011, a student advisory vote passed in favor of Communicating Unity through Education (CUE) to integrate a component that addresses diversity in the General Education curriculum, which has taken the form of the Communities and Conflict in the Modern World general education requirement;

WHEREAS, the Latina/o community and allies staged an "I DEMAND DIVERSITY" rally on Thursday, March 8, 2012, where students peacefully marched to the Chancellor's Office to submit the list of demands; (9)

WHEREAS, in response to these demands, Chancellor Block issued an email to the UCLA campus community entitled "Tolerance, Civility and Respect" on Friday, March 9, 2012 stating one of his priorities as "ensuring an environment of civility and respect" and included a videotaped statement addressing the concerns raised by students about UCLA's campus climate and condemning the recent hate crime directed towards the Latina/o community; (10)

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council stands with undergraduate students against acts of hate and condemns the hate crime committed on Monday, February 27, 2012;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports the demands created by the Latina/o community and allies that will benefit the entire UCLA community and will work to strongly and openly advocate for concrete measures to improve campus climate, starting with a scheduled meeting with student groups on March 14, 2012;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council is committed to working with organizations representing underrepresented communities to advocate for a safe campus climate, especially the Chicana/o, Latina/o community considering there is no self-identified Latina/o council member;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports the adoption of the Communities and Conflict in the Modern World general education requirement as related to the aforementioned demands and urges the Faculty Executive Committee to vote in favor of such a requirement when addressed in the meeting on Friday, March 16, 2012;

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council President will send this resolution to the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Chair of the Academic Senate and any other appropriate administrators for the purpose of addressing the hostile campus climate.

CITATION:

- (1) <http://www.truebruin.ucla.edu/>
- (2) <http://www.ucla.edu/campusvalues/>
- (3) http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/article/2012/02/westwood_apartment_vandalized_with_racial_sexist_slurs
- (4) http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/article/2012/03/ucla_students_administrators_condemn_professors_blog_post_criticizing_transfers
- (5) http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/blog/timestamp/2012/03/mecha_of_ucla_demonstrates_against_racial_discrimination_on_campus
- (6) <http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/PP063006DiversityStatement.pdf>
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/03/hispanics-population-approaching-that-of-whites-in-california-census-data-shows.html>
- (7) <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06037.html>
- (8) http://www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/2012/fall_2012_applications_table3.2.pdf
- (9) http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/blog/timestamp/2012/03/students_march_about_headline_here
- (10) <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/chancellor-block-statement-on-230225.aspx>

*The detailed language regarding the demands can be found following the resolution on the USAC Website.

Demands referenced in the resolution above, as sent to UCLA administrators:

To: UCLA Administration

From: Latina/o, Chicana/o Students, and allies

Date: Thursday March 8, 2012

Subject: Campus Climate and Response to Hate Crimes

Ensuing the hate crime that occurred on February 27, 2012 on students' private residence in Westwood, members and allies of the communities affected met to discuss the current campus climate at the University of California, Los Angeles. It was evident, per our discussions, that students of color, queer students, and female students do not completely feel safe on this campus.

We addressed our current community conditions and experiences at this University. The University has a moral obligation to protect students, and to create a safe and nurturing environment that encourages dialogue, growth, civic engagement, and academic excellence. However, as a community, we are unable to benefit thoroughly from the University and its resources, when we constantly doubt our own safety.

Collectively, as students, we demand the following from the University:

CREATION OF A CAMPUS MULTICULTURAL CENTER managed by students.

In order for UCLA to be a truly diverse campus welcoming of all cultures, we call for the creation of a multicultural center in which we can learn about the different cultures and lifestyles embodied by students within the UCLA community.

By creating a multicultural center on campus, students will become more conscious and sensitive to different ethnic/racial groups.

Furthermore, it would provide a space to educate students on the community conditions that different groups are subjugated to, historically and presently.

The center will strive to increase awareness to lessen the likelihood that hateful acts like these will take place in the future and will promote an inclusive campus culture.

This multicultural center would be in conjunction with SAC BOG, as we want students to fully manage this entity.

ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNITIES AND CONFLICT IN THE MODERN WORLD REQUIREMENT.

Hate crimes exist because there is a lack of understanding amongst different communities on campus.

If students are taking courses that challenge them to understand the power of diversity, we can then hope for a better and more just world--one in which we can all live and work in peace.

We invite faculty and administration to work with students in order to ensure that the Communities and Conflict in the Modern World Requirement is implemented immediately.

It is important that students learn to work and interact with people from different backgrounds, especially considering how globalized our society has become. The Communities and Conflict in the Modern World Requirement will encourage students to understand cultural differences, and how we can work in the midst of those differences.

The passage of the Communities and Conflict in the Modern World Requirement is overdue. We urge the Academic Senate to vote on behalf of the integrating diversity in the general education curriculum, so a hostile campus climate does not become the norm.

We demand that Dean/Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Judith Smith, vocalize her support for the Community and Conflict in the Modern World Requirement and do all within her power to make sure it passes and implemented swiftly.

SUPPORT FOR GROWTH IN ETHNIC STUDIES AT UCLA.

As most Ethnic Studies Research Centers at UCLA were celebrating their 40th Year Anniversary, Chancellor Block dubbed the 2009-2010 academic year The Year of Ethnic Studies.

UCLA is one of the few Universities to house four different Ethnic Studies Research Centers, as well as individualized interdisciplinary programs and majors.

Even though UCLA continues to boast all of these diverse and vital resources to preserve and educate the histories of marginalized communities, they are usually the first programs to get cut during difficult economic times.

With the attacks on Ethnic Studies, such as in Arizona, it is not only important, but also necessary, that UCLA strengthen its Ethnic Studies programs and Research Centers. We demand the University increase its support to Ethnic Studies programs and Research Centers; and suggest that the Vice Provost for the Institute of American Cultures, Belinda Tucker, contract a Development Director to research avenues so that the programs and Research Centers grow further.

FORMAL APOLOGY FROM Bob Williams to the student body in response to the “Still Filthy” shirt that was sold at ASUCLA store.

For UCLA to support and sell the Billabong t-shirt with the image of an eagle and serpent, which is a respected cultural icon, is opportunistic and socially irresponsible.

Whether ASUCLA wishes to acknowledge or not, the mere thought of selling this shirt, is a direct attack on the Mexican/Mexican-American community.

We are aware that Patrick Healy, the UCLA Store’s director of general merchandise, wrote and submitted a Letter to the Editor piece on the Daily Bruin, “‘Still Fitly’ T-Shirt not intended to be offensive.” Although, we appreciate the kind and generous sentiments, we are not fully convinced that ASUCLA really understands how offensive the image is.

We demand a formal apology from ASUCLA Executive Director, Bob Williams, to the Student Body for approving and allowing ASUCLA to sell racially offensive merchandise in the Ackerman Student Store.

UCPD ACCOUNTABILITY TO STUDENTS

As students, we expect for UCPD to be available to help and protect us. This protection should not stop once outside the official UCLA boundaries.

When actions of discrimination occur, whether on or off campus, we hope that UCPD will respond immediately and assure us our safety.

Given the UCPD’s history of criminalizing students of color, we demand that racial profiling of students of color cease, so students feel welcomed to seek help from the University police department. Far too many hostile situations go unreported for fear the police might not take students seriously.

In addition, we demand that the UCPD stop using the terms “illegal” or “alien” when talking about students or communities. Those terms are inhumane and contribute to a hostile campus climate.

The University and UCPD can no longer turn a blind eye to these issues and must respond effectively to student

GREATER LATINO/A REPRESENTATION IN ADMINISTRATION.

As a University that prides itself on the diversity of its student body, we demand that UCLA administration reflect the Latino/a community's demographics.

We demand that Administration be held accountable to student needs, and be sensitive to issues of diversity, campus climate, and be familiar with our community conditions.

As a marginalized community that has, for far too long, been neglected by the University, we feel it is imperative that UCLA recruit and hire administrators with similar experiences who can voice our concerns during decision-making meetings.

We will be paying close attention to the University's personnel decisions, considering the current vacant Director position for Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools. We demand transparency and urge that students who represent historically marginalized communities, especially underrepresented communities as considered in admissions, are included in the hiring process. We believe that Rosa Pimentel, the current Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools, is an extremely qualified candidate for the position, and we want to ensure that she is being considered.

THE ACCOMMODATION AND RECOGNITION OF UNDERREPRESENTED GREEK ORGANIZATIONS

We demand the reevaluation of the methods and approaches taken by the UCLA Greek Life office when incorporating underrepresented Greek organizations with the overall Greek population.

The racial diversity of the Greek body should be utilized as tool to bridge gaps and more importantly introduce diverse perspectives where they may have once never existed. Due to such diversity, every voice must be addressed and respected, for what they can contribute towards the growth of a unique Greek identity.

FORMAL RESPONSE FROM CHANCELLOR NOT CONDONING THESE ACTIONS by Friday

As students of color, we feel unrecognized, unsupported and underrepresented within the University.

The permittance of these actions without repercussions furthers our isolation as a community on this campus by administration and members of the student body.

Although the Chancellor and several members of the UCLA administration have vocalized their disappointment with the recent hate crimes, we have yet to see any specific plans to ensure that this does not happen again.

We want a formal response from the Chancellor addressing the hate crimes, the current hostile campus climate, and his plans to ensure that we all feel safe. We expect that Chancellor Block deem such hateful and insensitive actions as intolerable on this campus and also from the larger UCLA community. We demand that response no later than Friday March 9, 2012.

We hope that ALL of the demands are acted upon and completed swiftly. It is our duty as affected students and allies to hold this Administration accountable to these demands, our safety, and our overall well being.