

Resolution to Support Fair Trade at UCLA

WHEREAS, in many developing countries producers and farmers often receive wages that cannot sustain a healthy standard of living and are often subject to substandard working conditions due to exploitative trade policies; and (1)

WHEREAS, Fair Trade is a market-based approach which guarantees that farmers receive a fair price for their harvest, experience safe working conditions, receive a decent living wage and retain the right to organize, while selling their harvest for a premium price on the market, the profits of which are reinvested back into the producer communities through education, gender equality, and health initiatives; and (2)

WHEREAS, “Today, Fair Trade benefits more than 1.2 million farming families in 70 developing countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America”; and (3)

WHEREAS, Fair Trade seeks to keep families, local economies, the natural environment, and the larger community health today and for generations to come. This is done by prohibiting harmful agrochemicals and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in favor of socially responsible practices and encouraging sustainable agriculture systems such as shade-grown crops; and (2) (3)

WHEREAS, Fair Trade has received some criticism from select groups and is not a universal fix for the many problems of inequality in the international trade arena, but still maintains that guiding the campus towards a more Fair-Trade-oriented culture is a commendable and worthy goal; and (4)

WHEREAS, Fair Trade bodies such as Fair Trade International (FLO), Fair Trade Federation, Institute for Marketecology (IMO)- Fair for Life, and Fair Trade USA, all certify/guarantee and promote Fair Trade products so that citizens may choose to be more conscious consumers by using their purchasing power to support a more just and equitable international trade framework; and

WHEREAS, Fair Trade USA’s values include Empowerment, Integrity, Sustainability, Innovation, Excellence, Personal development, Community, Fairness and Impact, which complement our own UCLA True Bruin values of Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service and Excellence; and

WHEREAS, Fair Trade USA has been a driving force behind the development of Fair Trade Universities and Towns across the nation motivating thirteen universities to become Fair Trade Universities (including the University of California in San Diego and Pomona College) and motivating others, such as the University of California, Berkeley, to pass resolutions in support of Fair Trade; and (5) (6)

WHEREAS, UCLA has the opportunity to present a model for progressive social change and to

advance sustainable practices; as a globally recognized educational institution, UCLA has the ability to continue to lead by example through such innovations as the Ackerman solar panels, the establishment of The Green Initiative Fund voted by students, and the presence of the Zero Waste by 2020 Initiative; and

WHEREAS, supporting Fair Trade embraces the aforementioned True Bruin values through respecting the rights and dignity of global workers, through holding consumers accountable for their purchases, through promoting personal integrity in one's purchasing decisions, through positively contributing to the global community, and through continuing UCLA's tradition of excellence and leadership regarding human rights, social justice and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, UCLA, as a campus of over 40,000 individuals, possesses a sizeable purchasing power which it uses to promote our socially responsible values; and

WHEREAS, ASUCLA has already made efforts to responsibly utilize this purchasing power by offering Alta Gracia clothing products in the ASUCLA Student Union and by offering Fair Trade coffee, tea, sugar and chocolate at most ASUCLA coffeehouses; and

WHEREAS, while the achievements UCLA has already made in the field of Fair Trade are notable, there remains ample opportunity for the improvement and expansion of Fair Trade options and support of Fair Trade products on campus;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) of University of California, Los Angeles, values the Fair Trade ideology and supports its mission to create more equal opportunities for all global citizens by creating a more globally conscious UCLA consumer community.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the administration to maintain Fair Trade status once attained.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on UCLA Housing and Hospitality Services to provide Fair Trade products whenever possible in their facilities in the categories including but not limited to the following:

1. Chocolate
2. Coffee
3. Tea
4. Sugar
5. Fruit and vegetables
6. Herbs and spices (e.g. vanilla)
7. Apparel
8. Household products

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of University of California, Los Angeles, supports efforts to increase the awareness, consumption and volume of Fair Trade products at UCLA.

- (1) <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/fast-facts/english/FF-Poverty-Reduction.pdf>
- (2) <http://www.fairtradeusa.org/about-fair-trade-usa/mission>
- (3) <http://www.fairtradeusa.org/what-is-fair-trade/faq>
- (4) http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk/uploads/TheFairTradeCupResponsetoAdamSmithD9_1.pdf
- (5) <http://www.fairtradeuniversities.org/colleges/>
- (6) <http://nolanpack.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/SB187.pdf>