

## **A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A TRANSFER STUDENT CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, in the 13-14 academic year, transfer students made up 33% of UCLA’s new undergraduates and 25% of the entire UCLA undergraduate student population<sup>1</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, the UCLA undergraduate student body overwhelmingly supported the creation of the Transfer Student Representative position on USAC by a nearly three-to-one ratio in the Spring 2014 elections to help address transfer student issues on campus<sup>2</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, increasing numbers of students are choosing to transfer from community colleges to four-year universities as tuition fees continue to increase<sup>3</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, an increasing proportion of low – income students have turned to community colleges for a college education in recent years<sup>4</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, one in four University of California (“UC”) transfer students identified with historically underrepresented backgrounds in higher education<sup>5</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, the UC Office of Research found that a majority of UC transfer students are the first in their families to attend college<sup>6</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, most transfer students feel socially isolated, and place a high value on being actively engaged in the academic and social life of their new institutions<sup>7</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.aim.ucla.edu/pdf/UGProfile13-14.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://dailybruin.com/usac-elections-2014/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://search.proquest.com/docview/807600875?accountid=14512>

<sup>4</sup> [http://tcf.org/assets/downloads/20130523-Bridging\\_the\\_Higher\\_Education\\_Divide-REPORT-ONLY.pdf](http://tcf.org/assets/downloads/20130523-Bridging_the_Higher_Education_Divide-REPORT-ONLY.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED529493.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED529493.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://search.proquest.com/docview/870290030?accountid=14512>

**WHEREAS**, transfer students must complete post-graduation goals, such as completing graduate school applications and finding jobs and internships, on a substantially more constrained timeframe than students who entered as freshmen<sup>8</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, most new transfer students typically find it difficult to adjust to their new academic environments, excel academically, and become socially involved outside of the classroom as much as native students, a phenomenon commonly referred to in student affairs literature as “transfer shock”<sup>9</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, transfer students are inherently disadvantaged in academics and career development relative to native four-year students because they do not have the wide peer networks that their traditional peers have<sup>10</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, the University of California, Berkeley, a UC flagship campus, has already established a Transfer, Re-Entry, and Student Parent Center that promotes transfer student retention and community engagement through programming and specialized services, including the publication of a transfer student guide, a one-unit transition course specifically designed to help first semester transfers adjust, and a mentorship program for prospective community college transfers to the University<sup>11</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, community college and transfer students nationwide find their community college identity stigmatizing, particularly due to myths that a community college education is inferior to a four-year university’s lower-division education<sup>12</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, eighty percent of community college students nationwide aspire to transfer to four-year universities, but only 15 percent of them transfer successfully and graduate within six years<sup>13</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, UCLA students and campus administrators, including the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, expressed support for the creation of a dedicated transfer center, and voiced concerns that the existing Bruin Resource Center was insufficient to fully meet transfer students’

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<sup>8</sup> <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1038574120?accountid=14512>

<sup>9</sup> <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1038574120?accountid=14512>

<sup>10</sup> [http://tcf.org/assets/downloads/20130523-Bridging\\_the\\_Higher\\_Education\\_Divide-REPORT-ONLY.pdf](http://tcf.org/assets/downloads/20130523-Bridging_the_Higher_Education_Divide-REPORT-ONLY.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <http://transfer.berkeley.edu/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1520653251?accountid=14512>

needs, at a town hall event hosted by the USAC Office of the Transfer Student Representative on Thursday, February 16, 2015<sup>14</sup>,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that transfer students and the transfer admissions system are crucial means for improving access to and diversity in higher education, thus adding value to the University community,

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the UCLA community has a strong interest in improving the transfer condition on campus,

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that facilitating transfer adjustment and retention at an institutional level is essential for transfer student success, and that more support is necessary to assess and to meet transfer students' unique needs,

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the creation of a dedicated transfer center on campus will allow the campus community to expand and to improve transfer resources, and therefore to make lasting and substantial improvements to the UCLA transfer experience,

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that UCLA must make a dedicated transfer center available as a resource to its students so as to convince more transfer admits to commit to UCLA, and to equal the strength of transfer resources offered by other UC campuses, including our fellow flagship campus UC Berkeley,

**LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Undergraduate Students' Association Council supports and promotes the creation of a Transfer Student Center on campus to facilitate much-awaited improvements and resources that will benefit the transfer community at UCLA, and in turn, the UCLA community as a whole.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://dailybruin.com/2015/02/27/students-discuss-funding-options-for-transfer-center/>