

A RESOLUTION TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE BRUINS OF FREEDOM SUMMER

WHEREAS, from the 1880s until the 1960s, Southern states enforced Jim Crow Laws which imposed the political, economic and societal marginalization of African-Americans¹; and,

WHEREAS, Jim Crow Laws affected the public and private lives of African-Americans including but not limited to preventing them access to comparable education and healthcare, freedom of movement and voting rights²;

WHEREAS, the Freedom Summer Project of 1964, was a voter registration campaign sponsored by civil rights organizations to expand African-American voting in the South and an impetus for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965³;

WHEREAS, one of the aforementioned civil rights organizations included the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which was initiated and run by students since 1960⁴;

WHEREAS, Freedom Summer Project workers included more than 1,000 out-of-state, mostly student volunteers, along with local Mississippians⁵;

WHEREAS, Bruins like Ron Javor, Lewis Switzer, Raymond Shonholtz, and others, were among the many students going to Mississippi to volunteer for the Freedom Summer Project;

WHEREAS, three student volunteers, James Chaney, Michael Schwerner Andrew Goodman, went missing June 21, 1964, just one week after volunteer training began at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio⁶;

¹ Wormser, Richard. *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*. St. Martins Griffin, 2004

² Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow (Revised)*. New Press, 2012

³ Watson, Bruce. *Freedom Summer: the Savage Season of 1964 That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy*. Penguin, 2011

⁴ Watson, Bruce. *Freedom Summer: the Savage Season of 1964 That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy*. Penguin, 2011

⁵ Watson, Bruce. *Freedom Summer: the Savage Season of 1964 That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy*. Penguin, 2011

⁶ "Freedom Summer Project Timeline." *Wisconsin Historical Society*, 18 Apr. 2013, www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS3708

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., visited Mississippi, July 22, 1964, to show Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) support for the Freedom Summer Project and to encourage black Mississippians to vote despite acts of violence and intimidation⁷;

WHEREAS, Bruins of Freedom Summer did not waiver in their commitment to volunteer to help empower black Mississippians to participate in local, state and national elections in the face of ongoing violence perpetrated against them by Ku Klux Klan members and their sympathizers;

WHEREAS, the bodies of Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner were found buried in an earthen dam on a farm outside Philadelphia, Mississippi;

WHEREAS, Local police had released the three young men to the Ku Klux Klan, who tortured and murdered Chaney, Schwerner and Goodman, before burning their car and hiding their bodies;

WHEREAS, only seven of the eighteen suspects initially indicted by the FBI indicts 18 suspects in the murders of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner, were eventually found guilty after legal proceedings end in 1967;

WHEREAS, Cal Bears of Freedom Summer returned to their campus and launched the Free Speech Movement;

WHEREAS, Bruins of Freedom Summer returned to UCLA and began working to expand the student role in campus governance i.e. Undergraduate Student Association Council at the same time that CORE, SNCC and SCLC continued campaigning for increased voter registration in the South;

WHEREAS, Dr. King was invited to speak at UCLA on Tuesday, April 27, 1965, to show ongoing UCLA student support for the civil rights movement⁸;

WHEREAS, during his speech, Dr. King invited the UCLA community members to volunteer for the SCLC's Summer Community Organizing and Political Education Project (SCOPE)⁹;

⁷ "Freedom Summer Project Timeline." *Wisconsin Historical Society*, 18 Apr. 2013, www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS3708

⁸ Clark, David L., and Charles E. Young. Received by Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, *The King Center*, 23 Mar. 1965, www.thekingcentre.org

⁹ UCLACommStudies. *Martin Luther King Jr. at UCLA 4/27/1965*, YouTube, 15 Jan. 2015, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny6qP0rb_Ag

WHEREAS, UCLA students and professors also raised several hundred dollars from attendees that day to benefit SCOPE¹⁰;

WHEREAS, several UCLA students and other stakeholders did volunteer with SCOPE¹¹;

WHEREAS, the efforts of Bruins of Freedom Summer to expand the student role in campus governance resulted in the creation of the Community Service Commission, the Academic Affairs Commission, the Cultural Affairs Commission and the Campus Events Commission¹²;

WHEREAS, Ron Javor, one of the Bruins of Freedom Summer, was elected as the first Community Service Commissioner in the spring of 1965¹³;

WHEREAS, Ron Javor was elected again in during the 1966-1967 academic year, to serve a second consecutive term as the Community Service Commissioner¹⁴;

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, eventually signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, on August 6, 1965;

WHEREAS, the ongoing legacy of the Bruins of Freedom Summer is enshrined in the aforementioned Commissions of the Undergraduate Student Association and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council will work with Alumni Affairs to identify the names of all Bruins of Freedom Summer for the purposes of formally acknowledging their volunteer service to expand student and general electorate participation in campus, city, state and national governance;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council will name and honor Bruins of Freedom Summer with a permit plaque similarly styled and located as the plaque for UCLA Freedom Riders;

¹⁰ "SCOPE Veterans Recount Experiences of Civil Rights Movement." *Daily Bruin*, www.dailybruin.com/2015/04/27/scope-veterans-recount-experiences-of-civil-rights-movement

¹¹ "SCOPE Veterans Recount Experiences of Civil Rights Movement." *Daily Bruin*, www.dailybruin.com/2015/04/27/scope-veterans-recount-experiences-of-civil-rights-movement

¹² *UCLA Undergraduate Students Association - Historical Documents*, www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/historical.php

¹³ *UCLA Undergraduate Students Association - Historical Documents*, www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/historical.php

¹⁴ *UCLA Undergraduate Students Association - Historical Documents*, www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/historical.php

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council acknowledges that in light of the prevalent climate of divisiveness and violence within our society, an annual program should be hosted on campus to ensure current general student body members can be made aware of the long history and impact of Freedom Summer, with input from students, faculty, staff and alumni, to highlight the role Bruins of Freedom Summer in fostering what today are True Bruins Values and UCLA Principles of Community¹⁵¹⁶;

FINALLY, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council calls on UCLA Undergraduate Admissions Office to incorporate an explicit reference to the Bruins of Freedom Summer into the script of official campus tours given to the incoming students and visitors reminiscent of what is done to bring attention to and elevate the rich tradition of UCLA students addressing ongoing economic and social disadvantages within our society, from the UCLA Freedom Riders and Jim Crow to the Anti-Apartheid/Divestment campaigns that lead to ASUCLA and the University of California Divestment from South Africa¹⁷.

¹⁵“True Bruin Values.” *True Bruin Values*, www.truebruin.ucla.edu

¹⁶ “UCLA.” *UCLA Missions & Values*, www.ucla.edu/about/mission-and-values

¹⁷ “Anti-Apartheid Actions Recalled.” *Daily Bruin*,
www.dailybruin.com/2004/05/17/anti-apartheid-actions-recalle