**A Resolution in Support of Reusable Dining Ware at UCLA**

**WHEREAS,** UCLA dining, during normal operations, provides approximately 15,978 meals a day specifically in their takeout locations and these takeout boxes generate 212,967 pounds of waste per year and cost the university approximately $179,400 dollars per year[1]

**WHEREAS** the UC Office of the President released a UC Policy on August 24th, 2020, for all universities a part of the UC system to replace single-use plastic dining accessories (e.g., straws, utensils, stirrers) by July 1st, 2021 and for dine-in facilities to provide reusable food service items (e.g., plates, cups, clamshell containers) for food consumed on-site while to-go facilities provide reusable or locally compostable alternatives by July 1st, 2022[2].

**WHEREAS** UCLA Policy 809: Single-Use Plastics effective date October 13th, 2020, which applies to Foodservice Facilities, Retail Stores, and vending machines on University Property, mandates the university to replace single-use plastic food ware items with reusable or locally compostable alternatives for to-go facilities by January 1st, 2021[3].

**WHEREAS** students and staff have created and presented a proposal to UCLA Housing and Hospitality regarding switching from compostable to reusable dining ware and utensils with estimated cost calculations[4]

**WHEREAS** the proposed system would save the university money after the first year, since UCLA Dining will no longer need to be purchasing single use compostable containers and utensils. Students and staff have estimated that switching completely to a tracked reusable container system would save the university approximately $56,845 dollars in the first year and 113,764 dollars in years subsequently, as seen in the presentation linked above.

**WHEREAS** the proposed system would reduce the waste that is produced by 212,967 pounds per year, which aligns with the UC Sustainable Practices Policy that aims for 50% waste reduction by 2030

**WHEREAS,** Evidence from a life cycle assessment produced by UC Berkeley reveals that reusable clamshell systems have a lower environmental impact (in terms of greenhouse gas

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[1] FINANCIAL ANALYSIS - Reusable Utensils

[2] https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-moves-scrap-single-use-plastics

[3] http://www.adminpolicies.ucla.edu/APP/Number/809.0

[4] https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GatnI4SwT8HZ2hLig99EzK_FRkOE5Xma/edit#gid=1620947979

emissions, energy consumption, and material waste) than compostable clamshells when containers average at least 15 uses[5].

**WHEREAS** other universities such as UC San Diego, Dartmouth University, and UW Madison have implemented these programs successfully by using a tracking system to ensure the return of reusable containers

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that UCLA Housing and Hospitality recommit to supporting student projects and student-led initiatives and recommit to its sustainability goals

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** that UCLA Housing and Hospitality commit to funding a reusable dining ware and utensils program as proposed by students and staff, and to not increase student fees to fund said program.

[5] https://nature.berkeley.edu/classes/es196/projects/2013final/HarnotoM_2013.pdf