

A Resolution to Expand UCLA Off-Campus Housing Resources through College Pads and the Community Housing Office

WHEREAS, UCLA Housing does not currently offer off-campus housing resources tailored to UCLA students, as the Community Housing website¹ links only to Student Legal Services, a student-prepared housing guide, non-endorsed public housing search sites, and social media sites;

WHEREAS, the Community Housing Office, which previously provided an online rental listing database, face-to-face, personal counsel, housing workshops and online publications for students,² was dissolved by the university, removing a central campus resource for student off-campus housing access;

WHEREAS, the Community Housing Office provided administrators and work-study positions for students to provide off-campus housing resources for UCLA students, removing positions at the university made specifically for addressing off-campus housing and therefore there are no students or administrators whose main role is to provide off-campus housing services to the student body;

WHEREAS, UCLA Housing has the capacity for 13,000 students across its' 47 on-campus and 24 off-campus housing complexes³, despite the undergraduate student body size of 31,600 total students⁴, creating an offset of nearly 19,000 students looking for housing off campus and/or commuting;

WHEREAS, 4% of students surveyed in the 2018 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey reported experiencing homelessness since attending a UC, and 4% of students reported having been at risk of not having a safe, regular and adequate housing situation while being on a UC housing waitlist in the Spring 2020 Undergraduate Experience Survey;⁵

WHEREAS, housing insecurity within Los Angeles county has led to over 57,000 people to experience homelessness on any given night, with a further 74% of those people sleeping unsheltered⁶, demonstrating how access to affordable or proper housing is connected to difficulty

¹ Community Housing - <https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/community-housing>

² Student Fee Advisory Committee 2008-2009 Unit Review Questionnaire of the Community Housing Office - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XX3uzl9MCeRdWho1ESYaETj4_H4jTkWm/view?usp=sharing

³ Housing & Hospitality "Quick Facts" - <https://housingandhospitality.ucla.edu/quick-facts/>

⁴ UCLA Facts and Figures - <https://www.ucla.edu/about/facts-and-figures>

⁵ University of California Undergraduate Experience Surveys - <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/student-basic-needs>

⁶ Public Health LA County - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/centerfortheequity/PDF/LAC%20Housing%20Health.pdf>

in obtaining proper nutrition and an overall increased risk of depression, anxiety, and poor physical health, and thus UCLA's Students being without a housing contract and with few resources to obtain off-campus housing puts students at risk of becoming a part of the one in twenty people in LA county that have had to experience homelessness;

WHEREAS, on April 2nd, when UCLA Chancellor Gene Block released the "Planning for a Fall Return to Campus" announcement to the student body,⁷ transfer students were omitted from prioritization for on-campus housing, severely limiting access to housing in light of low access to social and institutional knowledge regarding off-campus housing;

WHEREAS, The Spring 2021 petition titled "Returning Transfers' Housing Petition"⁸ reached a total of over 1300 signatures, demonstrating how deeply the transfer community at UCLA was affected by the possibility of not receiving a housing offer for their first and only year in-person at UCLA;

WHEREAS, College Pads serves over 2.5 million college students a year, with 8 years of history in helping students navigate off-campus housing through providing site development, marketing to students, outreach to landlords, customer service, and day-to-day management of the platform;

WHEREAS, all College Pads costs are funded by the landlords who list on the website, and comes at no cost to the university or students;

WHEREAS, College Pads has the infrastructure and availability to provide customized services specific to UCLA and its student's needs, including but not limited to: Secured access by UCLA logon; Property ratings via student survey integration; Live property reviews; Renter education; video/quiz modules; Renter workshops; Virtual housing fairs; Student-awareness marketing; Custom search filters to help various student segments and/or incentivize certain lease terms or amenities off-campus; Enforcement of landlord accountability standards; Landlord-tenant issue tracking; Property badge programs to incentivize above-and-beyond service to students; Roommate matching portal; Sublease marketplace; Advanced location features such as neighborhood selectors, transit map overlays, commute planning, and street view; Live floorplan availability with property management software integration; Access to the College Pads annual conference, the Off-Campus Summit; Integration with municipal compliance data; Connection to other University resources; Crime mapping; and other custom features as desired.

⁷ Gene Block, "Planning for a Fall Return to Campus" - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NrU4Qwx5KObyIgvqj8lboFBOoO8KABDO/view?usp=sharing>

⁸ Returning Transfers' Housing Petition - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xmhoGI2x8OtWIGMfDjVyctxf5Zi0Ia10dJP-33x0L0/viewanalytics>

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that UCLA Housing and administration adopt a partnership with College Pads as a vital first step to provide UCLA-specific off-campus housing resources;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Transfer Student Representative, Internal Vice President, Facilities Commissioner, and Financial Supports Commissioner of the Undergraduate Students Association Council collaborate with College Pads and UCLA Housing and administration to provide student input, including that of transfer students, during the development process of the UCLA-tailored College Pads website;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that a member of the Undergraduate Students Association Council be identified to monitor the progress and adoption of the College Pads site;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council bylaws be amended for an identified council member to continuously provide College Pads oversight and student input in future years as a function of their regular duties in serving the student body;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that UCLA Housing make concerted efforts with student input to reestablish the Community Housing Office along with the administrative and student worker positions funded by the office;

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports and promotes the ongoing expansion of off-campus housing resources for the UCLA undergraduate student community, acknowledging the adoption of College Pads as the first step towards reestablishing the Community Housing Office as an institutional and funded space for off-campus housing resources.