

## **A Resolution Calling for USAC Implementation of Online Inclusivity and Web Accessibility**

**WHEREAS**, a disability includes but is not limited to persons experiencing: temporary or permanent<sup>1</sup> physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, neurodiversity, physiological conditions, learning disabilities, Deaf and hard of hearing, and blind and low vision<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, 19% of students in colleges across America identify as disabled<sup>3</sup> and approximately 15% of UCLA students identified as students with disabilities<sup>4</sup>, a number largely believed to be an underestimation due to underreporting;

**WHEREAS**, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975 details that all federally-funded institutions must make their materials accessible to students with disabilities<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in the 2020 USAC Elections, a blind student attempted to vote but was barred from doing so due to lack of web accessibility, disenfranchising them and all other blind and low-vision students from participating in student government elections;

**WHEREAS**, students with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, due to heightened health risks, lack of accessibility considerations in online academic and social environments, and more<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, accommodations for online accessibility include, but are not limited to: captioners and/or ASL interpretation for both live and recorded video content, audio descriptions, alternative text on all social media posts, graphics, images, and video content, adequate color contrast and design on all graphics, documents, and other publications, dyslexic-friendly fonts and intelligent text sizing, accessibly designed documents and PDFs, descriptive linking, header structures, accessible HTML best practices<sup>7</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.admission.ucla.edu/Prospect/adm\\_disability.htm](http://www.admission.ucla.edu/Prospect/adm_disability.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sairo.ucla.edu/Portals/54/Documents/Briefs%20and%20Reports/Briefs/UCUES/SAIRO%20brief%20-%20disability%20-%20UCUES%202016%20-%20FINAL%20with%20appendix.pdf>  
<https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pacer.org/transition/resource-library/publications/NPC-42.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/COVID-19\\_response\\_considerations\\_for\\_people\\_with\\_disabilities\\_190320.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/COVID-19_response_considerations_for_people_with_disabilities_190320.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://webaim.org/intro/>

**WHEREAS**, student government should lead by example in ensuring an accessible campus that values the inclusion of all students and strives towards universal designs;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Undergraduate Students Associated Council (USAC) commits to ensuring web accessibility within their online presence, including but not limited to social media, online programming, and digital communications releases;

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every USAC office appoint at least one person from their office to attend one of the four Web Accessibility Trainings held by the UCLA Disability Computing Program (DCP) and the Facilities Commission Access on Board Project to ensure the implementation of online accessibility within the USAC offices;

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every future social media post and event sponsored by a USAC office shall be in compliance with web accessibility standards to ensure equal participation by all students, staff, and faculty at UCLA;

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all registered student groups should aim to implement online accessibility in their communications and programming and can receive guidance and training from the DCP and the USAC Facilities Commission;

**FINALLY, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the implementation of web accessibility within USAC offices is a step in the right direction towards universal design and a campus that values the inclusion of all students in academic and campus life.