

A Resolution in Recognition of Students Experiencing Homelessness and in Support of Safe Parking

WHEREAS, UCLA has a significant population of unhoused students, both undergraduate and graduate, many of whom cannot afford either campus housing rents or off-campus housing rents; and

WHEREAS, for the 2020 Fall quarter, a maximum of only 1,500 students will be offered housing on the Hill. While housing eligibility prioritizes certain groups, including those at risk of homelessness, as UCLA has not attempted a comprehensive count of housing insecure students, the university cannot be sure that the 1,500 spots will be enough to house all at-risk students; and

WHEREAS, 5% of surveyed UCLA students report having experienced homelessness, and 14% report having experienced non-traditional homelessness, such as temporarily staying with friends. Additionally, 42% of UCLA student commuters who drive over 60 minutes to campus each way reported sleeping overnight on or near campus instead of returning home because of their long commutes, and 64% of long commuters reported interest in safe places to nap or sleep on campus¹; and

WHEREAS, Bruin Shelter only has the capacity to house 18 to 27 individuals per academic semester.² Additionally, Bruin Shelter, while offering essential remote social services, is physically closed indefinitely due to COVID-19, further limiting students' options for safe shelter³; and,

WHEREAS, the UC has failed to be transparent with the student body about how tuition and fees are being spent when most students are living off-campus; and,

WHEREAS, 18% of community college students report homelessness, and 60% reported being housing insecure.⁴ As homelessness is not solved by transferring to a four-year institution, transfer students who were housing insecure before transferring to UCLA will likely continue to be housing insecure after they have transferred; and,

¹ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5d8bb03f597be3780c8542bd/1569435766654/19-0924+MCiH_Final_Update.pdf

² <https://www.businessinsider.com/ucla-shelter-college-student-homelessness-2017-4>

³ <https://bruinshelter.org/resident-application>

⁴ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/06/10/homelessness-among-college-students-growing-crisis/3747117002/>

WHEREAS, Safe Parking LA estimates the cost for establishing and maintaining a year-long safe parking lot at \$130,000 to \$140,000. This cost includes security guards, bathroom maintenance, and more⁵; and,

WHEREAS, utilizing UCLA's existing parking lots and infrastructure would be more affordable and more feasible than building a new shelter for unhoused students; and,

WHEREAS, Safe Parking programs have been launched in various cities, including Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, etc; and,

WHEREAS, other UC campuses, including UC Santa Cruz, have passed resolutions in support of safe parking programs on their campuses; and,

WHEREAS, the North Westwood Neighborhood Council passed a resolution urging UCLA to establish safe parking for its students⁶; and,

WHEREAS, Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz encouraged UCLA to allow unhoused students to park and sleep on campus lots overnight⁷; and,

WHEREAS, A limited-duration pilot program will allow UCLA to determine how safe parking could potentially benefit students facing homelessness. Experimenting with safe parking with less students on campus will also allow the university to test out the program on a smaller scale before committing to an expanded safe parking program; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize that safe parking is only a short-term solution to homelessness and housing insecurity in the UCLA population, but it is an important step towards providing safety, hygiene, and other material needs for students; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC recognizes the complexity of housing insecurity and homelessness among college students, especially as it is affected by COVID-19; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USAC calls upon UCLA to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of its most at-risk students, including those that are newly

⁵ <https://dailybruin.com/2019/11/26/ucla-should-implement-safe-parking-spaces-to-alleviate-housing-insecurity>

⁶ <https://dailybruin.com/2019/11/14/nwwnc-asks-ucla-to-offer-safe-parking-to-students-experiencing-homelessness>

⁷ <https://dailybruin.com/2019/09/20/city-council-extends-restrictions-on-car-dwelling-potentially-harming-students/>

facing housing insecurity and homelessness due to the effects of COVID-19, and to both provide and promote resources for these students.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USAC calls for UCLA to establish Parking Lot 7 as a safe parking lot for students who sleep in their cars overnight, with a security guard and access to restrooms. This lot is central to campus and offers proximity to additional resources like the Community Programs Office Food Closet, UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services, the Ashe Student Health Center, etc. for post-COVID-19 in-person use.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USAC calls upon UCLA to establish a quarter-long pilot program for safe parking during the 2020 Winter quarter and determine whether to continue the program by the end of the 2020 Spring quarter.

THEREFORE LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the USAC acknowledges that safe parking is only a short-term solution to homelessness and housing insecurity in the UCLA population, but is an important step towards providing essential safety and basic needs measures that all students deserve access to.