

Resolution in Support of Academic Accommodation for International Students

WHEREAS, international students represent 12% of the total student population according to the numbers from 2018-2019¹; and

WHEREAS, the current US government has taken a negative stance towards foreign nationals both in the educational sector and in general, with the recent proclamation as clear evidence²; and

WHEREAS, international students are facing increased levels of stress from both the situation in the US and back in their home countries as loss and uncertainties increase; and

WHEREAS, consular services at US embassies around the globe are continuously canceling and delaying appointments and/or not offering appointments in the near future, in addition to the existence of international travel bans and/or lack of travel options; and

WHEREAS, international students face increased difficulties in balancing all of these additional stress factors in conjunction with maintaining their academic performance, which is further exacerbated if they live in a time zone that requires them to attend classes and/or take exams at late hours especially when not all instructors and departments have been considerate of this fact throughout the past quarter; and

WHEREAS, attending classes and taking exams at late hours have affected international students mental, social, and academic well being.

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on UCLA to advocate on behalf of international students when it comes to immigration issues and hold the next administration accountable to rolling back harmful immigration policies.

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the Academic Senate, individual departments, and UCLA administration to create and enforce a standardized and constant accommodation policy that would ensure students across sections, courses, and majors get fair treatment.

In regard to exam accommodation policy:

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the Academic Senate and departments to ensure that instructors avoid timed or proctored assignments and exams that would require a live internet connection, and instead give students a 24 hour window where they can either utilize it all in completing the assignment (at the same level of hardness compared to normal quarters) or pick the start time of the assignment in that window fitting their time zone.

In regard to class accommodation policy:

¹ <http://www.admission.ucla.edu/campusprofile.htm>

² https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-putting-american-workers-first-restore-economy-greatness/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=wh

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the Academic Senate and departments to further discourage instructors from requiring live participation and resort to other methods of evaluation instead, in addition to recording ALL of their lectures and at least one discussion section (whenever applicable) and upload them in a timely manner.

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls UCLA departments that if live participation is absolutely necessary then provide multiple times for classes and sections that require live participation to accommodate different time zones and that no student is required to attend a live class past midnight their local time

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on Academic Senate Undergraduate Council to give international students who are +/- 3 hours from Los Angeles Time priority enrollment in the case that not all departments refrain from live lectures, or provide a mechanism in which said international students can petition to change their sections if it better fits their time zone, regardless of it being full.

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the Academic Senate and departments to encourage instructors to set their office hours at different times to accommodate possible time zone differences.

In regard to incoming international students:

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the Student Affairs and UCLA departments to provide an in-person option that would deem incoming international students in compliance with immigration policy while adhering to public health guidelines.

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on UCLA Housing to consider the option of housing incoming international students if they are able to come to the U.S.

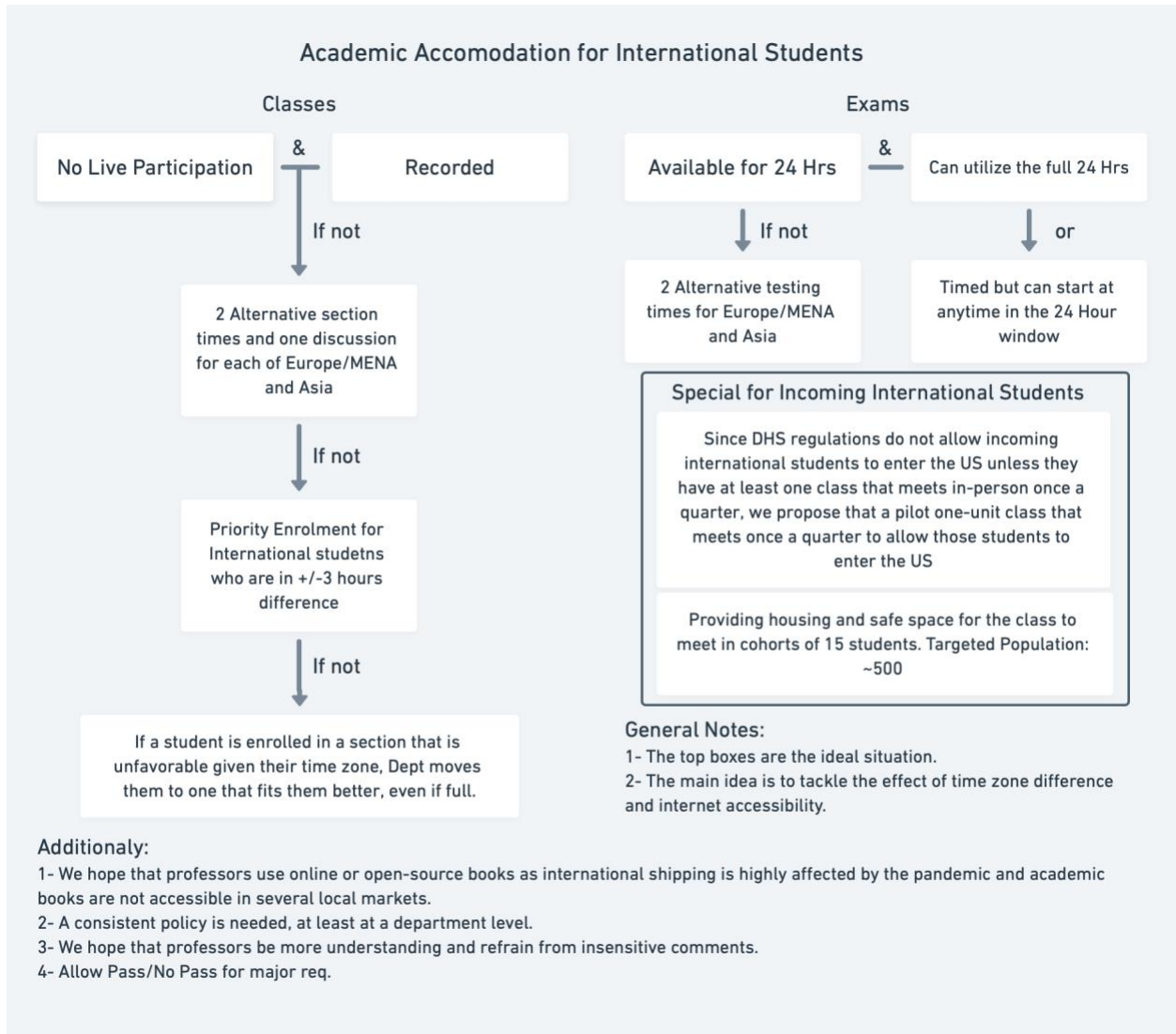
Additionally:

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the Academic Senate and departments to encourage professors to utilize online textbooks due to complications in the ability of international students to acquire physical materials in a timely manner.

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on individual academic departments to allow pass/no pass grading for classes toward pre-major and major requirements until the public health crisis is resolved.

FURTHER LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on the Academic Senate, departments, and Office of the Dean of Students to discourage professors from insensitive remarks and take action when such incidents occur.

FINALLY LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC reaffirms its support for international students and asks other entities and departments at UCLA to do so as well.



Additionally:

- 1- We hope that professors use online or open-source books as international shipping is highly affected by the pandemic and academic books are not accessible in several local markets.
- 2- A consistent policy is needed, at least at a department level.
- 3- We hope that professors be more understanding and refrain from insensitive comments.
- 4- Allow Pass/No Pass for major req.