

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE BRUINHUB
COMMUTER STUDENT PROJECT**

Primary Sponsors:

Aidan Arasasingham, External Vice President

Co-Sponsors:

Zuleika Bravo, Transfer Student Representative

Sachi Cooper, Facilities Commissioner

WHEREAS, there is a true need for commuter student and houseless student support from the university;

WHEREAS, Westwood, the closest living community to the UCLA campus, has the highest average rent prices in California, forcing many students to live further from campus to save money;¹

WHEREAS, a super-commute (defined as a 90+ minute one-way commute) is a constant reality for at least 18% of students who live off-campus;²

WHEREAS, almost half of students experience housing insecurity and 15% of students face houselessness during their undergraduate career;³

WHEREAS, these issues are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as many students face increasing care responsibilities, higher costs of living, and difficulty accessing public transportation;⁴

WHEREAS, UCLA has committed to returning to predominantly in-person instruction, so most students will need to report to campus to receive and excel at their education;⁵

¹<https://www.latimes.com/business/real-estate/story/2019-10-09/westwood-california-highest-rents#:~:text=In%20Westwood%2C%20the%20average%20apartment,the%20highest%20rate%20in%20California.&text=For%20the%20second%20straight%20year,place%20to%20rent%20an%20apartment.>

²https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5f174899f7eeee5f87c9a1a3/1595361446786/cityLAB+BruinHub+Update+July+21_2020.pdf

³https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5f174899f7eeee5f87c9a1a3/1595361446786/cityLAB+BruinHub+Update+July+21_2020.pdf

⁴https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5f174899f7eeee5f87c9a1a3/1595361446786/cityLAB+BruinHub+Update+July+21_2020.pdf

⁵<https://dailybruin.com/2021/04/02/ucla-announces-preliminary-plans-for-fall-return-to-campus-in-person-instruction>

WHEREAS, the issues of long commutes and houselessness disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) UCLA students;⁶

WHEREAS, the BruinHub project is an innovative support system intended to be installed in the Wooden Center that will address the growing super-commute problem by providing a space for commuter students to safely study, relax, and sleep;

WHEREAS, the school will provide students with individual ‘study beans’ as a prototype, with plans to expand based on student responses to the project. These ‘beans’ provide private individual space for students to sleep and work;

WHEREAS, the BruinHub project is just one of many necessary initiatives that UCLA can and should implement to support commuter students, particularly those facing housing insecurity. Other important initiatives that deserve funding and recognition include the Safe Parking at UCLA initiative, rent relief grants, transportation support grants, and increased affordable housing provision;

WHEREAS, the ability for the University to expand the BruinHub project would be augmented upon the receipt of Community Program Fund (CPF) support from Senator Alex Padilla or Senator Dianne Feinstein, and the University is in the process of applying for said funding;

WHEREAS, additional university, state, and federal support is needed to combat UCLA student housing insecurity, with additional interventions such as rent relief, housing grants, and new university and private affordable housing construction needed to address systemic housing unaffordability for students in Los Angeles;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the UCLA USAC supports the BruinHub Project and joins in UCLA’s effort to secure CPF support from the federal government for addressing student housing insecurity.

⁶https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5d8bb03f597be3780c8542bd/1569435766654/19-0924+MCiH_Final_Update.pdf