

## **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PARENTING STUDENTS AND AFFIRMING THEIR DEMANDS**

**WHEREAS**, undergraduate parenting students experience financial hardships, and basic need scarcity such as, housing and food insecurities at disproportionate rates to their peers;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, pre-COVID-19, 61% of undergraduate parenting students reported obstacles meeting basic needs,<sup>2</sup> over two thirds (68%) of student parents live at or near poverty levels, in addition to nearly 9 out of 10 single mother students;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in a 2018 UCLA SAIRO study, 72% of participating undergraduate parenting students classified as being food insecure, 68.6% increased student loan and credit card debt and 31% worked over 21 hours per week;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, childcare centers throughout the Los Angeles area continue to raise their annual tuition and bill parents during the current pandemic, including UCLA's Early Care and Education Program, whose annual tuition ranges between \$1650 and \$2795 a month depending on the child's age;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has acutely exacerbated stressors of parenting students by inhibiting their ability to pay housing rent, meet childcare demands, and remain food secure without additional financial support from their university;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order N-33-20, issued on March 19, 2020,<sup>6</sup> and discussed by UCLA University Village residents, required non-essential workers to shelter in place resulting in loss of wages and termination of employment for many students with families prompting a rent strike;

**WHEREAS**, UCLA University Village Apartments, as the sole housing community for student families consistently raises rent annually<sup>7</sup> while dismissing tenant grievances of structural and security concerns;

**WHEREAS**, UCLA Housing has remained indifferent to the consequences of the global pandemic, COVID-19 by responding to tenants simply reiterating standing payment

<sup>1</sup> <https://iwpr.org/publications/student-parents-in-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/\\_files/uc-parenting-students.pdf](https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/uc-parenting-students.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID19-Student-Parents-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mCEcAoZwSwuG9Bb-PFbBVC6J2XmU5zw/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ece.ucla.edu/enrollment-tuition/applicant-pool-forms-tuition-assistance>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.19.20-attested-EO-N-33-20-COVID-19-HEALTH-ORDER.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/my-housing/rates-contracts-rules/2020-2021-family-housing-rates>

arrangements options, and waived late fees without postponing annual rental increases or initiating a freeze;<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, a March 27, 2020 letter from UCOP President Janet Napolitano acknowledged that COVID-19 *may prove to be one of the most disruptive and threatening developments of our lifetimes* while praising students for adjusting to remote instruction and *navigating the complexities of campus shutdowns* yet dismissed the inequities of students by failing to provide financial relief measures;<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, an April 14, 2020 letter from UCLA Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck restated UCLA's *full commit[ment] to the health and well-being of every member of the campus community* concurrently as parenting students suffer disproportionate rates of basic need insecurities;<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on May 4, 2020 letter from UCLA Assistant Vice Chancellor of Housing & Hospitality, Peter Angeles and Assistance Vice Chancellor of Student Development & Health/Academic Partnerships Suzanne Seplow<sup>11</sup> failed to provide substantive support to students in need;

**WHEREAS**, UCLA Tenants Union and University Apartments/South Residents Association (UASRA) responded to the Angeles/Seplow communication with a letter reiterating residents' demands and addressing claims made that also included several pages of testimony from residents who are struggling through this pandemic;<sup>12</sup>

**WHEREAS**, a June 23, 2020 letter<sup>13</sup> from UCOP Parenting Student Taskforce members listed urgent demands of need to President Napolitano;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that UCLA and the UC recognize that parenting student hardships linked to the current pandemic are multifaceted, and must be addressed from various positions that intersect housing, academic support, basic needs, and wellness;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that UCLA and the UC recognize that parenthood is a Title IX protected class and acknowledge that it has failed parenting students in equitable resources and must take corrective actions;

<sup>8</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GwPe7rg5gEcmLDQWu7iz-Uakc6xqhbXVW6369ShX2Pc/edit?usp=sharing>

<sup>9</sup> <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2020/03/a-letter-of-thanks-from-president-janet-napolitano.html>

<sup>10</sup> "Safer at home" Order Extended - Michael Beck - April 14, 2020 sent via email"

<sup>11</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_pYZUnKKR4BX3kgsF6FHxKJYNVUHtPCg/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_pYZUnKKR4BX3kgsF6FHxKJYNVUHtPCg/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>12</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-iUmxcD0Vt-9Kuo6n\\_XkvygEM7hqSUyy04p9GUiw7Fc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-iUmxcD0Vt-9Kuo6n_XkvygEM7hqSUyy04p9GUiw7Fc/edit?usp=sharing)

<sup>13</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G5eUdpXQkEm7M\\_K08jrcjaBIgcemzGjZA6doZ\\_P33do/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G5eUdpXQkEm7M_K08jrcjaBIgcemzGjZA6doZ_P33do/edit?usp=sharing)

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that UCLA and the UC provide housing aid for all parenting students in University-owned properties; implement and enforce a systemwide rent freeze on all University-owned family housing units for the next academic year; approve the cessation of any rental delinquency email notifications from University housing; waive caps on the total allowable time parenting students can stay in family housing, and allow parenting students who have recently graduated or withdrawn the option of continuing to stay in University family housing for up to six months after the date of their withdrawal/graduation;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the UC establish a fund to provide 2.5 months (half a semester or a full quarter worth) of rent support for parenting students to provide immediate housing security and homelessness relief;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that academic support for parenting students include waiving all registration holds on student accounts due to outstanding balances (i.e inability to pay rent/medical bills), and the non-attendance policy requirement which will allow students to take leave of absence for more than one quarter/semester without having mandating they reapply;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the UC set aside a childcare support fund from the CARES Act financial aid dollars on each campus to support parents who must home school and/or provide in-home childcare as a result of a department deemed immunocompromised or highly vulnerable and unable to participate in traditional education settings;

**LET IF FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the UC address the basic needs of parenting students by immediately adjusting the UC cost of attendance formula to include childcare costs, dependent healthcare costs, added technology costs, and increased book and supply costs;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that UCLA and the UC establish a targeted basic needs fund matching EBT limits for families to support parenting students who are compliant with social distancing laws and unable to access campus resources (eg. \$355/month for a family of 2, \$504/month for a family of 3, etc.); use institutional aid to provide matching basic needs funding for undocumented and international families to reflect what P-EBT, stimulus funding, and other federally-funded programs are providing for other families (at minimum \$865 per dependent);

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that UCLA and the UC will support parenting student wellness and access to COVID-19 testing by prioritizing a provision of COVID-19 testing for parenting students, and ensure that parenting students and their families receive free tests at campuses' testing locations;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the UC ensure all campus health centers ship medication at no costs for students and their families who are in need of medication but unable to

travel to campus; extend disability resource accommodations for parenting students and dependents who may be considered immunocompromised or highly vulnerable; and expand telehealth Counseling and Psychological Services access to support family units rather than just the enrolled students for the duration of the pandemic;

**FINALLY LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the UCLA USAC stands in solidarity with, and reaffirms its unconditional support for parenting students, and implores UCLA and the University of California to reflect their accountability pledges and equity centered mission by providing outcome oriented support for all parenting students.