

# A Resolution In Support Of The Election Board's Engagement Initiative

**WHEREAS**, voter turnout at USAC elections has been low for a long time, with 40.3% in 2016<sup>1</sup>, 27.5% in 2017<sup>2</sup>, 26.5% in 2018<sup>3</sup>, 16.8% in 2019<sup>4</sup>, and 30.6% in 2020<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, voter turnout had increased from 2019 with a low percentage of 16.8% to a recent high of 30.6% in 2020, but still needs increasing given that this is less than a third of the student body and only half of the 60% averaged over the previous several (2004-2016) US Presidential elections<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in the environment of COVID-19, increasing voter turnout is more vital than ever so that the student government can be better informed about what students want and provide the support they need;

**WHEREAS**, increasing turnout safely will require reaching out to students online and collecting electronic signatures in a completely virtual environment;

**WHEREAS**, this will require the support of UCLA's departments to email their students, and the support of the IT department to securely collect electronic signatures from all students;

**WHEREAS**, this has been challenging given the lack of support from departmental counselors, despite the Election Board's repeated attempts to engage them;

**WHEREAS**, the online academic environment, as a result of COVID-19, has made engaging with the student body even more essential so that students can

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dailybruin.com/2020/05/13/usac-election-voter-turnout-increases-with-referendums-on-ballot-online-format>

<sup>2</sup> <https://dailybruin.com/2019/05/03/usac-sees-first-independent-president-lowest-voter-turnout-in-years>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> <https://dailybruin.com/2020/05/13/usac-election-voter-turnout-increases-with-referendums-on-ballot-online-format>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.fairvote.org/voter\\_turnout#voter\\_turnout\\_101](https://www.fairvote.org/voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101)

remain connected with student affairs and get the resources they need to have a voice in the actions of their student government in navigating the challenges of online learning during the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, UCLA Departments remain an essential and effective medium of communication with the student body, and that the Elections Board is in need of their cooperation to engage with the students;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that we call upon the Deans of the schools of UCLA to urge their departmental counselors to work with the Undergraduate Student Association Elections Board in support of its voter engagement initiative by providing the email contacts of Department counselors, actively responding to Elections Board's engagement initiatives through email ([electionsboard@ucla.edu](mailto:electionsboard@ucla.edu)) and communicating important information about Candidate Application Packets, Elections Board official events, and all relevant student election voting resources to students associated with its listservs with priority visibility;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that we call upon the IT Department of UCLA to work with the Undergraduate Student Association Elections Board to provide necessary support in its voter engagement initiative, including but not limited to providing means to collect electronic signatures for candidate packets and redesigning the myUCLA ballots to improve accessibility for the student body;

**THEREFORE LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, that the Elections Board needs the support of various bodies at UCLA to improve voter turnout, engagement, and accessibility to elections.