

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED

A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION (SAFE) ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

WHEREAS, currently, *Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations (SAFE's)*, commonly known as *rape test kits*, are inaccessible to student survivors, especially those from underrepresented and marginalized backgrounds.

WHEREAS, the nearest rape treatment center that students have access to is 4.4 miles away from UCLA's campus at the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center;

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan Medical Center does not treat survivors with a SAFE unless survivors have life-threatening injuries;

WHEREAS, nurses and therapists from the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center are already on-call to the Ronald Reagan Medical Center to provide SAFEs for ICU patients, but will not travel on-call to provide Sexual Assault Forensic Exams for students. ¹

WHEREAS, students face prohibitively expensive travel costs when accessing current SAFE collection sites within a time-sensitive period in the aftermath of sexual violence;

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center is unreliable in offering Ubers or similar rideshare transportation to survivors who need SAFE and cannot afford their own transportation;

WHEREAS, Ubers are not a safe or comfortable resource for survivors given the amount of sexual violence that occurs in rideshares; ²

WHEREAS, student survivors are often improperly instructed by their campuses to interact with law enforcement entities, which discourages survivors who are adverse to engaging with the police from collecting a SAFE and accessing medical resources such as STI testing, emergency contraceptives, and injury treatment.

WHEREAS, information guiding survivors to SAFE collection sites is inconsistent and insufficient. For example, the phone number provided on the back of Bruin Cards for a "Rape Treatment Center" [(310)319-4000] does not send students to the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center, which may discourage students from seeking help. ³

WHEREAS, collecting a SAFE is cost-free and does not have to involve the criminal legal system, per federal law.

¹ Samantha Carvillo, Therapist at Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center

² <https://cutterlaw.com/sexual-assault-ride-sharing-guide/>

³ <https://www.uclahealth.org/medical-services/rtc>

WHEREAS, IGNITE at UCLA is advocating for UCLA policy which mandates UCLA provide Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations for all students at Ronald Reagan Medical Center.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the UCLA USAC recognizes the significance of IGNITE's and other likeminded campus organizations' work in advocating for trauma-informed and equitable resources for survivors of sexual violence.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the UCLA USAC recognizes comprehensive access to reproductive justice resources is necessary to minimize the negative impact of sexual assault on students' livelihoods and to facilitate retention and graduation.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the UCLA USAC asks that the BruinCard Office prints all future Bruin Cards with the correct Rape Treatment Center phone number.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the UCLA USAC will support advocacy initiatives for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and hiring Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners at Ronald Reagan Medical Center.

THEREFORE LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that USAC supports IGNITE at UCLA in demanding *Sexual Assault Forensic Examination* access for all students at Ronald Reagan Medical Center in the form of a clinic similar to SMRTC.