

A Resolution to Commemorate the Signing of the ADA and to Push UCLA Towards Further Accessibility

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on this day, July 26, in 1990 and is an equal opportunity law for people with disabilities and prevents discrimination based on disability.¹

WHEREAS, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits organizations, employers, and educational institutions from excluding or denying individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to receive program benefits and services.²

WHEREAS, the UCLA ADA/504 Compliance Office monitors and implements compliance with state and federal laws including the ADA and Section 504; advises the campus community regarding making services, programs and activities accessible; and investigates ADA/504 related issues and reports of disability-based discrimination.³

WHEREAS, the UCLA ADA/504 Compliance Officer must be knowledgeable about the requirements under state and federal disability discrimination laws, regulations, and guidance to advise the University about its policies, procedures, and practices and to investigate complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA, discrimination based on disability, and disability harassment.

WHEREAS, the ADA/504 Compliance Officer is currently hired under the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) and has been an interim position for the past two years, which poses a direct conflict of interest regarding ADA/504 related issues and reports of disability-based discrimination within the CAE.

WHEREAS, there continues to be an alarming shortage of Disability Specialists hired under the CAE, resulting in an approximate 1:685 student/counselor ratio, whereas the national recommendation by AHEAD is 1:115 for a university of our size.⁴

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the UCLA USAC supports the ADA and long term inclusive design at the university.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the USAC recognizes that they themselves and the university at large has a long way to go in implementing basic accessibility standards to

¹ <https://beta.ada.gov/>

² <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/504.pdf>

³ <https://ada.ucla.edu/>

⁴ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1280981.pdf>

promote the inclusion of all students regardless of disability status, understanding that they must continue to listen to and amplify the voices of the Disabled Student Union as well as other disabled students.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the USAC supports past, current, and future activism from the disabled community at UCLA through tangible advocacy and support in their capacity as council members;

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on university administration to recommit support to the ADA by taking tangible steps such as prioritizing hiring an ADA/504 compliance officer housed under the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, hiring more Disability Specialists under the Center for Accessible Education, and providing anti-ableism trainings for their staff and faculty.