

Resolution to Improve Intergroup Understanding and Dynamics on the UCLA Campus

Whereas, the university should be a safe place for students to broaden their worldview and perspectives, including perspectives on race, ethnicity, religion, class, gender, ability, citizenship status, and sexual orientation; and

Whereas, UCLA has shown a strong commitment to diversity, its fifth hallmark [1]; and

Whereas, members of the UCLA community are respectful of and open to diverse perspectives, and partake in thoughtful reflection and ethical decision-making in the face of adversity, in line with the True Bruin values [2]; and

Whereas, UCLA issued a statement, entitled the Principles of Community, committed to ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment and that guides the personal and collective behavior of UCLA affiliates, students, faculty, administration, and staff [3]; and

Whereas, 2009-2010 marked UCLA's 40th year of Ethnic Studies, demonstrating the university's commitment to an educational avenue that aims to enrich the campus with groundbreaking research and awareness of ethnic identities and relations in America [4]; and

Whereas, the academic studies at UCLA, Ethnic Studies Centers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies, and Women's Studies, offer courses relevant to bridging intergroup dynamics, but are not required to be taken by all UCLA undergraduate students; and

Whereas, campus climate has become hostile for some students as a result of a lack of understanding amongst communities and identities; and

Whereas, individuals and communities have been harassed at this university based on ethnicity, race, religion, sexuality, and others; some examples include the pulling of a Muslim's hijab and the vandalization of Queer Alliance's A-board during National Coming Out Week; and

Whereas, insensitive and intolerant remarks against the Asian population were made by an individual in a Youtube video and widely disseminated on the Internet [5]; and

Whereas, University of California students have been at the forefront of demanding real action to address these issues and have been successful in different ways, such as in pressuring the U.C. Board of Regents to pass a resolution in support of holistic admissions system-wide [6]; and

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council does not tolerate or accept the behaviors of students, staff, faculty, or administration that

infringe upon the safety of another person and/or develop a hostile and unsafe environment.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges Student Affairs and Orientation to address specifically intergroup dynamics awareness, tolerance of other people's identities, and fostering of a culture that positively deals with conflict.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports service learning and restorative justice as avenues for students to learn about communities outside their own through meaningful community work and dialogue.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council encourages students to attend the General Representative 1's Diversity Dinner: "Disaggregating the Asian Identity and fostering Community at UCLA" on April 20th, which will provide students a space for cross-community dialogue and understanding.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council encourages students to support each other and hold each other to the high standard of respect and understanding which is expected of the Bruin community as outlined by the True Bruin Values.

Let it be further resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges the Academic Senate and faculty to support incorporating a general education requirement grounded in the Principles of Community.

Let it be finally resolved, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges a town hall with students, faculty, and administration that will discuss the university's academic responsibility to the Principles of Community.

Sponsored by:

Jamie Yao, USAC Community Service Commissioner

Suza Khy, USAC Academic Affairs Commissioner

Cris Santos, USAC External Vice President

Linda Phi, USAC Student Welfare Commissioner

[1] http://www.diversity.ucla.edu/strategicplan/docs/UndergradDiv_Report.pdf

[2] <http://www.truebruin.ucla.edu/>

[3] http://www.diversity.ucla.edu/strategicplan/docs/Principles_of_Community.pdf

[4] <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/exhibition-explores-ethnic-studies-151414.aspx>

[5] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg3tIERI-D4&feature=related>

[6] <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/aar/jane.pdf>