



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



WHEREAS 118 historically underrepresented graduate students and their allies authored, circulated, and signed a petition expressing an analysis of the current university campus climate and a means to move forward with deep structural changes necessary to make this campus more equitable and inclusive (See Appendix 1);

WHEREAS the UC San Diego Graduate Student Association (UCSDGSA) generally supports the sentiments expressed by historically underrepresented graduate students and their allies in the recently circulated petition, dated 11/26/2015;

WHEREAS UCSDGSA is currently undergoing its own introspective process of acknowledging inequity and exclusivity within the body and taking strides toward eradicating that;

BE IT RESOLVED that UCSDGSA supports the creation of a committee of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty from historically underrepresented backgrounds that will investigate the implementation of demands made by the campus community in 2010 and will allocate resources accordingly[1];

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UCSDGSA VP Diversity and Community Outreach Coordinator will field such a committee to be initiated in Winter 2015 quarter.

[1] Black Student Union (BSU) Demands <http://complex-systems.ucsd.edu/antiracism/node/10>

Voted and Passed in GSA Council Meeting #5: 11/30/15 (Y/N/A - 17/6/2)

Certified: Lindsay M. Freeman, 12/01/15

Appendix I:

November 26, 2015

Dear GSA Executive Officers,



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



We write to request your endorsement of the following statement as a representative body of graduate students, and future graduate students, on this campus. We ask that you act as allies in this struggle against the structural inequality and exclusion embedded in this institution. We intend to walk alongside fellow students at college campuses throughout the country, such as University of Missouri, Yale, Claremont McKenna College, and Amherst College, among others, who have set such an inspiring precedent in the struggle for more inclusive and equitable campuses. We declare the following:

We, the authors and signatories of this statement, are graduate students at UC San Diego who come from historically underrepresented communities and their allies. Many of us also study the structural conditions that have given rise to and reproduce oppression, inequality, and exclusion at local, national and transnational levels. Given the UCSD administration's frequent assertion of a commitment to public good and positive global impact, it is especially troubling that the university continues to evade accountability for deep institutional changes.

On November 17, 2015, UC San Diego administrators Chancellor Pradeep Khosla and the Vice Chancellors issued a statement condemning the Koala publication and claiming that they do not provide financial support for its publication. The UCSD Associated Students (AS) responded the next day by defunding the Koala from the student fee budget, following Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Juan Gonzalez' reading of the administrators' statement during its council meeting. This statement notes that the Koala is "profoundly repugnant, repulsive, attacking and cruel," yet chalks up their condemnation of the publication for its "offensive and hurtful language," but does not go far enough by actually naming its perpetuation of systemic racism or other systemic forms of oppression. While we appreciate the administration's denouncement of the Koala's abysmal language, we insist that UCSD's leaders pay more than lip service to campus diversity. Specifically we demand a reinvestment in the commitments made after the 2010 Compton Cookout.



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



UC San Diego demographics for the 2014-15 school year demonstrate the university's failure to provide the most basic aspect of representation: growth in admission of students of color to reflect our state's population. UC San Diego's student population currently consists of 0% Native American students, 1.7% African American students, and 16% Chicax/Latinx students. These numbers are troubling considering the proportions made up by these racial groups in California state demographics: 1% Native American, 7% African American, and 51% Chicax/Latinx. This demographic trend is particularly disappointing to underrepresented students when UCSD administrators present public announcements of the university's "diversity." Given the persistent underrepresentation of the said populations, and the lack of viable institutional mechanisms to properly address structural racism perpetuating that underrepresentation, UCSD's celebration of diversity functions only as a discursive and rhetorical tool to mask the grim reality of social exclusions that are replicated on campus.

The university's continuous disinvestment in key pedagogical and research opportunities in the Humanities and Social Sciences only reinforces this exclusion of underrepresented communities, as these departments consist of a large population of the university's students from historically underrepresented communities. Meanwhile, UC San Diego receives \$2.5 billion per year from the Department of Defense, previously administered by the former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and current UC President Janet Napolitano. Thus our campus contributes to the development of new policing, surveillance, and war technologies that are used disproportionately to violently oppress communities of color both at home and abroad. The structural forms of enforcing policies that directly affect underrepresented communities on campus indicate that the UC's public rhetoric of diversity is in name only. The growing evidence for the collaborative relationship between the university and the military-industrial complex makes UC faculty and students increasingly call into question the long-term vision of the entire university system, which the UC administration maintains.

We believe the statement issued by UCSD administrators and their subsequent presentation at the AS council meeting are a means of ignoring the systemic and institutional oppression perpetuated by the university. By emphasizing the reprehensible language of the Koala,



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



administrators ignore how the university itself perpetuates institutional oppression. As we have witnessed at college campuses throughout the country, campus administrations have attempted similar techniques to avoid backlash towards policies that perpetuate racism and other institutional forms of discrimination and oppression. Administrators have trivialized structural oppression, inequality, and exclusion to individual groups and individuals not as representative of policies within the campus structure that permit such attitudes to ferment. In turn, they have marginalized the continuing and historically rooted oppression of oppressed peoples on our campus and within our communities while creating a public image of tolerance and progress.

We demand that UCSD administrators implement solutions that uphold the interests of underrepresented students at this campus, beginning with a committee of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty to investigate the implementation of demands made by the campus community in 2010 as a response to the "Compton Cookout" and anti-black racism that it initiated.

Our institution maintains institutional forms of oppression by failing to uphold its foundational mission to educate and serve underrepresented youth, as well as to take special attention to remedy the intentional historical exclusion of communities of color. The Master Plan for Higher Education in California attempted to work towards this end by guaranteeing inclusion and presence of students from California communities so long as they place within the top 12.5% of their high school class. The document was drafted to specifically ensure the presence and inclusion of students from historically underrepresented communities in the university.

We recognize that changing this would require re-imagining the university outside of the profit-oriented model upon which it is currently based. Therefore, we demand serious measures from the UC administration to be taken to ensure actual, measurable institutional change occurs, beginning with a committee of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty to investigate the implementation of demands made by the campus community in 2010.



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



We demand that Chancellor Khosla adhere to his lofty statement that “the culture on this campus should be one of total inclusiveness” by investing the time, financial resources and consistent devotion to eradicating the structures that create exclusivity and inequity on this campus and beyond. We call upon UCSD to live up to its purported reputation of being a public good and lead by example in the ever-increasing national call for action—not mere rhetoric—in the fight for racial justice.

Sincerely,

Jael Vizcarra, Ethnic Studies Dept. and Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Advisor

Troy Araiza Kokinis, History Department and GSA Community Outreach Coordinator

Zachary A. Richter, Communication Studies Department

Omar Padilla, Ethnic Studies Department

Pepe Rojo, Literature Department

Leslie Quintanilla, Ethnic Studies Department

John Armenta, Department of Communication

Donald Johnson, Chemistry Department

Ana Moreno, Department of Bioengineering

Jorge Ramirez, History Department

Jeanine Webb, Literature Department

Nur Duru, History Department

Kevin Beck, Sociology Department

Aaron Marquette, Sociology Department

Belinda Ramirez, Anthropology Department

Whitney Russell, Anthropology Department and Co-chair of Diversity Action Council

Ly Thuy Nguyen, Ethnic Studies Department

Maria Celleri, Ethnic Studies Department and UAW 2865 Head Steward

Young-Hyun Kim (alias Inti), History Department

James Deavenport, History Department

Jennifer Huerta, History Department



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



Kevan Antonio Aguilar, History Department
Malathi Iyengar, Ethnic Studies Department and UAW 2865 Unit Chair
Cynthia Vazquez, Ethnic Studies Department
Raquel Pacheco, Anthropology Department
Patricia Zambrano, Visual Arts Department
Katherine Steelman, Ethnic Studies Department
Alborz Ghandehari, Ethnic Studies Department and UAW 2865 Secretary
Juan Carmona Zabala, History Department and GSA Representative
Johnathan Abreu, History Department
Manel Palos Pons, Department of Communication
Martin Boston, Ethnic Studies Department and UAW 2865 Head Steward
Tara Pixley, Communication Dept and GSA Vice President of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Jorge N. Leal, History Department
Luis E. Sanchez-Lopez, History Department
James H. Shrader, History Department
Edward Falk, History Department
Sam Mitchell, Department of Theatre and Dance
Grant Leuning, Communication Department
Laura Dorwart, Department of Theatre and Dance, Dimensions of Culture program
Paloma Checa-Gismero, Visual Arts Department
Ricardo Dominguez, Associate Professor, Visual Arts Department, Principal Investigator,
CALIT2/QI
Sascha Crasnow, Visual Arts Department
Morgan Mandalay, Visual Arts Department
Evelyn Walker, Visual Arts Department
Kimberly Schreiber, Literature Department
Seth Ferris, Visual Arts Department
Mikael Fauvelle, Anthropology Department
Marcela Mendoza Martinez, Bioengineering Department
Javier Fresneda, Visual Arts Department



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



Noni Brynjolson, Visual Arts Department
Philomena Lopez, Visual Arts Department
Melinda Barnadas, Visual Arts Department
Jamie Marvin, History Department
Jessica Frelund, Visual Arts Department
Gabi Schaffzin, Visual Arts Department
Mark B. Kelley, Literature Department
Vanessa K. Ferrel, School of Medicine
Heejung Shin, Visual Arts Department
Niall Twohig, Literature Department
Stephanie Gomez Menzies, Literature Department
Ashvin R. Kini, Literature Department
Tina Hyland, Literature Department
Mohamed Abumaye, Ethnic Studies Department
Katherine Agard, Literature Department
Reema Rajbanshi, Literature Department
Crystal Roxana Perez, Literature Department
Migueltzinta Solis, Literature Department
Linh Nguyen, Ethnic Studies and Anti-Oppression Coordinator for UAW 2865
Amie Campos, History Department
Lauren Heintz, Literature Department (Alumni); Tulane University Postdoctoral Fellow
Joe Cantrell, Music Department
Kai Small, Ethnic Studies Department
Juan David Rubio R., Music Department
Marco Antonio Huerta, Literature Department
Marcelo Flores Lazcano, Music Department
Josh Hochman, Music Department
Gerardo Rios, History Department
Caroline Louise Miller, Music Department
Maria Carreras, History Department



Council Resolution (CR04) Campus Climate



Leon Lee, Ethnic Studies Department
Mellissa Linton-Villafranco, Ethnic Studies Department
Elliot Patros, Music Department
Yiheng Yvonne Wu, Music Department
Andrew Sturm, Visual Arts Department
Esther Choi, Ethnic Studies Department
Kyle Adam Blair, Music Department
Sindhu Thirumalaisamy, Visual Arts Department
Chanda Laine Carey, Visual Arts/GSA Diversity Advisory Council
Erika Ramirez, Department of Communication
Siu Hei Lee, Music Department
Brie Iatarola, Department of Communication
Audrey Hope, Visual Arts Department
Zachary Hayes, Literature Department
Alex Dubee, Department of Communication
Boke Saisi, Ethnic Studies Department
Katie Simpson, Department of Communication, Co-chair of GSA Diversity Advisory Council

[list updated as of 11/30/2015, 9AM]