Resolution Opposing UC Santa Cruz’s Enrollment Plan 2016-2017

WHEREAS, the UC Board of Regents mandated on November 19, 2015 that all 10 campuses in the University of California develop plans to accommodate 10,000 new undergraduates over the next three years¹;

WHEREAS, under this plan, UC Santa Cruz will be required to take additional students over the next three years² and accelerate the implementation of our Long Range Development Plan;

WHEREAS, the UC faces continual budgetary constraints due to the large increase in students, receiving nearly half of the normal funding per student from the State of California³;

WHEREAS, the University of California requested $6 million in additional funding to support the enrollment of 2,000 graduate students over three years;

WHEREAS, the enrollment of additional students will increase demand on both academic/instructional workers, such as graduate students and lecturers, as well as on clerical staff and service workers;

WHEREAS, UC Santa Cruz will incur a large structural deficit in the 2016-2017 academic year, putting even more pressure on academic departments and university units;

WHEREAS, UCSC houses approximately half of its student population on campus, but the housing it offers is unaffordable⁴, and the County of Santa Cruz is the fifth most expensive metropolitan area in the United States⁵;

WHEREAS, undergraduate and graduate students at UC Santa Cruz are already facing the lack of available housing off campus are subjected to unaffordable or distant housing options;

WHEREAS, the proposed addition of early morning or late night class periods affects student and instructor productivity, and hurts commuting students and working students most, generally resulting in a poorer quality of education;

¹ http://universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-dramatically-boost-california-student-enrollment
² http://universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-dramatically-boost-california-student-enrollment
⁴ http://www.housing.ucsc.edu/rates/index.html
WHEREAS, 83.8% of UCSC students reported that they have experienced problems overcrowding, and 84.6% believed their quality of education had been diminished due to large class sizes⁶;

WHEREAS, graduate student instructors and teaching assistants will be negatively impacted from the change in class times, due to the high population of graduate student commuters;

WHEREAS, the proposed plan for enrollment does not describe an expansion in student services, such as transportation, physical and mental health facilities, dining and other operations, that greatly impact student life and learning at UC Santa Cruz;

WHEREAS, the administration of UC Santa Cruz is tentatively compliant with the increase in students, which has drastic effects on student learning, quality of education, and student health and wellness⁷;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly stands strongly against the proposed enrollment plan by the UC Office of the President

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Union Assembly demands that Chancellor Blumenthal, Executive Vice Chancellor Galloway, and the Office of Admissions publicly condemn and challenge the enrollment plan by not accepting additional students next year;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if Chancellor Blumenthal chooses to comply with the UC Enrollment Plan, we, the students of the University of California Santa Cruz, demand his immediate resignation for not protecting the quality of our education;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if the UC administration chooses to continue with this plan for UC Santa Cruz, the Student Union Assembly will protest by working with our students, allies, and organizational partners to disrupt the everyday operations of our campus.

---

⁶ 2015 CLASS Survey
⁷ https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/sites/default/files/TimeSlots_ClassroomsFinals_0.pdf