

**A Resolution**  
**In support of updating UCSC CALPIRG's pledge agreement**

WHEREAS, the UC Santa Cruz chapter of California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) is a registered campus organization in good standing; and,

WHEREAS, CALPIRG works to further the interests of the public state-wide by advocating on such campaigns as Textbook Affordability, Clean Energy and Global Warming Solutions, Water Conservation, Democracy and Voter Registration, Ocean Protection and Environmental Preservation and Consumer protection; and,

WHEREAS, CALPIRG worked as part of the Vote Coalition to help over 2,000 students register to vote from UC Santa Cruz leading up to the 2012 elections, and reminded over 10,000 UC Santa Cruz students to vote, thus increasing overall student participation in the political process, and increasing the voice of young people; and,

WHEREAS, CALPIRG also worked to ban plastic grocery bags in Santa Cruz county to protect our oceans from plastic pollution and helped the national effort to increase federal financial aid by \$36 billion.

WHEREAS, in 1974, a majority of UCSC students signed a petition in support of the creation of a Public Interest Research Group on campus and a majority of students voting in UCSC elections for the CALPIRG fee referenda throughout the 1980's and 1990's affirmed the support for a CALPIRG fee on their bills, and <sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS in 1994, in conjunction with the Chancellor's Office of the University of California at Santa Cruz, CALPIRG established an Agreement on CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System through a fee referendum in which a majority of the students who voted approved the adoption of the CALPIRG Pledge System; and,

WHEREAS, the 1994 agreement established CALPIRG's pledge fee at \$5.00 per quarter of the academic year, with a threshold of 20% of the undergraduate student body,

WHEREAS, since this first agreement in 1994, CALPIRG has made a good-faith effort to meet the terms of the agreement including maintaining an active membership status of more than 20% the undergraduate students for more than two decades,

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<sup>1</sup> CALPIRG organizing history archives,  
[https://zimbra.publicinterestnetwork.org/service/home/~/.document.pdf?auth=co&loc=en\\_US&id=6711&part=2.2](https://zimbra.publicinterestnetwork.org/service/home/~/.document.pdf?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=6711&part=2.2)

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Voluntary Pledge Fee policy was updated, including the new language that changing CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge System agreement "shall require either a student referendum or [be] subject to the concurrence of the Chancellor or Chancellor's designee, a duly adopted resolution of student government"; and,<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, the SUA is representative of the student body at UC Santa Cruz and may pass a resolution reaffirming the CALPIRG pledge system and suggesting edits to the CALPIRG Voluntary Pledge System Agreement.

WHEREAS, maintaining the average 20% pledge threshold has become increasingly difficult as the student population at UC Santa Cruz rises. For example, the population at UC Santa Cruz has increased 75% since the 1994 original agreement. In addition, averaging 20% also requires pledging more than 20% of the student body to make up for the low membership in the fall after much of CALPIRG's membership graduates; and,

WHEREAS, CALPIRG chapters across the state have updated their voluntary pledge system agreements to keep up with the changing enrollment, lowering the pledge threshold to 10-15%. UC Santa Cruz is the only campus that still holds the CALPIRG chapter to a 20% threshold.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SUA supports the update of CALPIRG's Voluntary Pledge Agreement to continue their public interest organizing, funded through a voluntary fee system of a \$5.00/quarter voluntary fee on their term bill, and the chapter will maintain a 15% threshold of the UCSC student body as fee-paying members of CALPIRG.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SUA supports changing the way the CALPIRG pledge threshold is calculated, from requiring a 3-quarter average of 20% to requiring 15% by the end of the academic year (or Spring quarter).

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SUA President is authorized to write letters which reflect this position of the SUA to the Chancellor and other campus bodies; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to University and elected public officials in the form of a publically available letter

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<sup>2</sup> UC Fee Policy, Section 90.12 <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/2710529/PACAOS-90>