Student Alliance of North American Indians (SANAI) resolution to the SUA to Stand in Solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against the North Dakota Access Pipeline

WHEREAS, the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline would carry as many as 570,000 barrels of hydraulically-fractured (“fracked”) crude oil per day for more than 1,170 miles from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota to Illinois, passing over sensitive landscapes including Treaty-protected land containing recognized cultural resources and across or under 209 rivers, creeks, and tributaries including the pristine Missouri River, which provides drinking water and irrigates agricultural land in communities across the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, despite deep opposition from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, as well as farmers, scientists, more than 30 environmental advocacy groups, and other Tribal nations along the proposed route, and without Tribal consultation or meaningful environmental review as required by federal law, in July, 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit allowing construction of the fracked oil pipeline to move forward; and

WHEREAS, in a complaint filed in Federal District Court on July 27, 2016, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe alleges, among other allegations, serious violations of the due process requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). In particular, federal agencies “must complete the section 106 process prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license.” According to the complaint, The US Army Corp of Engineers did not follow or complete the proper process of consultation with the Tribe prior to issuance of permits;” and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2016, the chair and members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues issued a statement finding that “The [Dakota Access Pipeline] project was proposed and planned without any consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux or others that will be affected by this major project. The lack of consultation with the Indigenous peoples concerned triggered the filing of the lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers, who approved its construction. The pipeline would adversely affect not only the security and access to drinking water of the Sioux and millions of people living downstream of the Missouri River, but it would also destroy archaeological, historical and sacred sites of the Sioux”; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2016 the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, led by Tribal Chairman David Archambault II, called on Tribal nations, Indigenous people and organizations
around the world to issue resolutions in support of the Standing Rock Sioux and the Sacred Stones Camp; and

WHEREAS, the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) has made a firm commitment to reduce its own dependence on fossil fuels and aims for carbon neutrality by 2025, in order to ensure that additional pipelines such as the Dakota Access Pipeline are not needed; and.

WHEREAS, the State of California is continuing to experience extreme drought conditions and the UCSC Water Action Plan (WAP) has been developed to acknowledge achievements and to identify strategies that can be implemented to reduce the campus's demand on water resources, to promote long-term sustainability and to promote healthy watersheds in and around the campus; and

WHEREAS, the UCSC Campus Water Protection Policy (Policy EHS-0015) of 2010 acknowledges that everyone at UC Santa Cruz has a responsibility to protect the integrity of our local waterways and describes how UCSC protects local water quality and complies with applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws, regulations, and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, The Student Union Assembly (SUA) is the official voice of undergraduate students on campus-wide and system-wide committees and promotes activism, civic participation, discussion, debate, and awareness of public issues from a variety of perspectives and viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, The Student Union Assembly, on behalf of the undergraduate student body at UCSC, supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in opposing the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline that passes under the Missouri River and other water sources with the recognized threat of contamination of existing clean water supplies with potential future oil spills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Union Assembly of UC Santa Cruz, stands in support of the opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline process and project and calls on all residents of UCSC to raise awareness about this important struggle for Indigenous sovereignty and environmental justice and to support the Sacred Stones Camp efforts.