

Resolution Opposing UC Santa Cruz's Enrollment Plan 2017-2018

Modeled after the Student Academic Senate Resolution Opposing UC Santa Cruz's Enrollment Plan 2017-2018 passed on November 8, 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 a total of 10,000 new undergraduates over the following three years¹;

WHEREAS, the UC faces significant budgetary constraints from the large increase in enrolled students, receiving only half of the normal funding per student from the State of California²;

WHEREAS, as a result of the aforementioned mandates from UC Office of the President, UC Santa Cruz increased student enrollment from 3,620 students in the 2015-2016 academic year to 4,221 students in the 2016-2017 academic year, a total increase of 601 students³;

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

WHEREAS, in addition to the staffing and labor shortages that negatively impact students and their experience at the University, the University notably lacks sufficient resources to support students, including but not limited to housing, food, transportation, psychological support services and classroom spaces;

WHEREAS, in particular, due to the increased demand for housing by the increased number of students and the insufficient resources the University has to provide students with housing, the University has decreased the housing guarantees for transfer students from 2 years to 1 year and those of the Educational Opportunities Program from 4 years to 3 years⁴;

WHEREAS, the housing situation at UCSC is significantly worse than those of the other UC campuses in part because the city of Santa Cruz is considered the "least

¹ <http://universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-dramatically-boost-california-student-enrollment>

² <http://dailybruin.com/2015/02/18/after-delay-uc-releases-report-breaking-down-per-student-expenditures/>

³ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/admissions-residency-and-ethnicity>

⁴ <http://housing.ucsc.edu/guarantee/>

affordable” small metropolitan area in the United States⁴, often leaving students to choose from unaffordable and/or distant housing options in order to attend the University;

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Santa Cruz are concerned about the UCSC's expansion, especially with regards to the fact that a growth in student population leads to an increase in traffic in the city, higher rent prices that affect both students and locals of the area, and an unfavorable environmental impact that hurts the species unique to the area⁷, and the Student Union Assembly echoes these concerns;

WHEREAS, the University is currently and has been placing students in spaces not suitable for living, including dormitory lounges, and increasing the number of students who live in residential spaces. For example, many rooms that were made for a single resident now hold more than one student and the campus has seen an increase in rooms that hold more than three students. Through these actions, the University is subjecting many students to overcrowded living situations, often resulting in circumstances that jeopardizes students' mental health;

WHEREAS, in addition to the lack of housing for students, the campus has adopted a modification to their class schedule. More specifically, the campus has added an additional late night class period and shortened passing periods from 20 minutes to 15 minutes, which affect student and instructor productivity, disproportionately hurt commuting and/or working students most, and consequently result in a poorer quality of education;

WHEREAS, 83.8% of UCSC students reported that they have experienced problems with overcrowding, and 84.6% believed their quality of education had been diminished due to large class sizes⁵;

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2017, the UC Regents affirmed the goals of the 2015 Budget Framework Agreement between Governor Jerry Brown and UC President Napolitano. Under this agreement, each of the UC campuses, with the exception of UC Merced, “will increase the proportion of undergraduates entering as community college transfers, so that by the 2017-18 academic year—assuming the presence of a sufficiently qualified

⁴<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/24/california-homelessness-santa-cruz-housing-affordability>

⁵ 2015 CLASS Survey

transfer applicant pool—one-third of all incoming California resident undergraduates will enter as transfers, systemwide and at every campus except Merced.”⁶

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Student Academic Senate and the Student Union Assembly that administrators at UCSC are being terminated for opposing these policies that yield significant repercussions to UCSC's campus. In particular, UCSC Director of Admissions Michael McCawley was fired on October 27, 2017 and speculates that his termination was in regards to his opposition to disregard admissions and academic senate policy to conform to the UC Regents mandated 2:1 frosh-to-transfer` ratio.

WHEREAS, although we are in favor of promoting the accessibility of the University of California to all, the current circumstances at UCSC prevent us from accepting additional students

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Union Assembly strongly advocates and urges the UCSC administration to provide adequate resources that are necessary to the current and incoming students of this campus and not admit additional students until the campus is able to provide sufficient resources to the current students.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly is in full support of individuals who choose to stand against the actions of the Governor, UC Office of the President, UC Regents, and UCSC Administration specifically in regards to any mandate that requires UCSC to admit additional students when the UCSC campus resources are already inadequate and insufficient to support any additional students.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly calls upon the students of the University of California, and UCSC in particular, to take action and stand against any and all additional enrollment measures as mandated by the Governor, UC Office of the President or UC Regents.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Union Assembly demands that Chancellor Blumenthal and Executive Vice Chancellor and Campus Provost Tromp publicly condemn any and all mandates by the Governor, UC Office of the President and/or UC Regents to expand the enrollment at UCSC unless the campus has sufficient resources to accommodate the needs of each and every additional student admitted;

⁶ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may17/a2.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.santacruzlafco.org/pages/agenda/20111207materials/CLUE%20comments%20Dec%206.pdf>

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that if the either the Governor, UC Office of the President, UC Regents or UCSC Administration exacerbates the current *abysmal* quality of life conditions that are imposed on UCSC students, including but not limited to housing and learning conditions, the Student Union Assembly will *protest* by working with our students, allies, organizational partners and other UC campuses to ensure that our voices are heard and our concerns are adequately addressed.