

***Charter for the
Good Clothes Good People Basic Needs Referendum
Between GCGP and USAC***

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The concept of developing a consistent hub for campus redistribution at UCLA was first actualized in the summer of 2017 by Robert Blake Watson, who at the time was a rising 2nd year attending UCLA.¹ The project named Good Clothes Good People was originally intended to facilitate clothing redistribution in the Metro-Louisville area², but was later expanded to UCLA when Watson proposed the idea of facilitating donations in one central hub on campus to support students.

This proposal was originally developed while Watson served as a director in the Undergraduate Students Association Council's (USAC) Office of the President Arielle Yael Mokhtarzadeh, Office of the Internal Vice President Vivy Li, and Office of the General Representative 2 Kayla He. Upon receipt of funding from The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) and USAC Surplus Fund, organizations from across campus, including Bruin Visual Arts Club (BVAC), The Hunger Project at UCLA, and UCLA's On Campus Housing Council (OCHC) organized the development of art-oriented donation bins across campus to collect clothing items and unused hygiene products for a number of programs that centered on the mission of supporting students in financial crises.³ This funding would not have been possible without the help of numerous individuals, including ASUCLA Student Government Services Division Manager and TGIF Grant Coordinator Jessica Alexander, ASUCLA Director of the Union Roy Champawat, 2017-2018 Facilities Commissioner and TGIF Chair Zahra Hajee, and some members (though not all) of the 2017-2018 USAC who supported GCGP's mission and request for surplus funds to support this project.⁴

Upon Watson's transition to the elected position of USAC Internal Vice President (IVP) in the Spring of 2018, he appointed Jimmy Zhou as the Good Clothes Good People Director. Watson and GCGP Director Jimmy Zhou met frequently with UCLA Recreation Associate Director Rudy Figueroa to finalize the securing of space for the creation of a redistribution center on campus.⁵ Upon Watson's and Zhou's securing of unused space in the SCUBA programs office in the Student Activities Center Room B54 thanks to Figueroa's assistance, Watson and Zhou led the initiative, with the support of BVAC and IVP members (including IVP staff members Sneha Thirkanad, Katie Wall, Sonam Sidhu, and Abdus Najmi), to transform the unused SCUBA space

¹<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/shopping/2018/01/18/louisville-clothes-donation-manual-high-school-nonprofit/717829001/>

² <https://dupontmanual.com/manual/pts/good-clothes-good-people/>

³ <https://dailybruin.com/2018/01/23/students-paint-clothing-bins-aim-to-create-accessible-donation-options/>

⁴ <https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/minutes.2018-02-06.pdf>

⁵ <https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/minutes.2018-04-03.pdf>

into what would become the permanent home of the Good Clothes Good People (GCGP) Basic Needs Redistribution Center.⁶

Upon the arrival of Fall Quarter 2018, Watson and Zhou selected Sneha Thirkannad to be the first President of UCLA's Chapter of Good Clothes Good People based on her work ethic during the prior summer. Starting in the Fall 2018 Enormous Activities Fair (EAF), Thirkannad would then continue to lead the UCLA chapter of the organization for a 2-year term. In its initial year, GCGP served over 1,500 students, focusing on improving accessibility to basic needs resources including clothes, hygiene products, and school supplies. GCGP additionally offered formal clothing, crutches, and wheelchairs that students could borrow for a month at a time.

At the close of GCGP's first year in operation, Thirkannad reviewed the improvement suggestions given by visitors to UCLA's GCGP Redistribution Center, and expanded the number of products offered from roughly 15 to close to 40 to better support the needs of the UCLA community. At the suggestion of the 2019-20 GCGP board, GCGP also began to offer umbrellas for a 3-day borrowing period. These changes, along with fervent publicity from the GCGP team and USAC offices, brought in many new students to the GCGP center in its second year of operation, ultimately tripling foot traffic, which highlighted the importance of having stable funding for this initiative.

After having numerous unfruitful experiences with various funding bodies, Thirkannad went to Watson, who was now serving as USAC President, to discuss the possibility of running a referendum to support GCGP. Following much deliberation, Thirkannad and the GCGP board decided that a referendum was indeed the best way to move forward, and chose to run the referendum specifically to provide funding for the various hygiene products and school supplies that GCGP offers. Thirkannad decided to be the designated campaign representative for the referendum, and with the support of the GCGP board, Watson, and Zhou, she moved forward with the process.

Thirkannad and the GCGP Board drafted the language for the Good Clothes Good People Basic Needs Referendum, and selected a fee of \$0.33 during each of the regular academic quarters, with no fee during summers. The amount was decided based on previous budgetary requirements of the organization, and the terms for collection were decided based on the availability of the offerings - since GCGP did not operate during the summer, the board felt that it would be unfair to charge students when the benefit of their fees could not be seen. On February 13th 2020, the referendum language was finalized by Thirkannad and the GCGP Board, and after being reviewed by Associate Dean of Students & Deputy Title IX Coordinator Dr. Debra Geller, the language was sent to the University of California Office of the President for approval. On February 19th 2020, Thirkannad and GCGP External Vice President and upcoming GCGP President Elaine Pham presented their referendum proposal to the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) as part of the required consultation process. Nicole Corona Diaz, the

⁶<https://dailybruin.com/2018/11/02/student-run-basic-needs-redistribution-center-to-open-in-activities-center/>

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2019-2020 Chair of the Student Fee Advisory Committee, was a vital supporter of Good Clothes Good People's mission ever since Diaz's role as USAC's General Representative 1.⁷

As it was already a USAC project, GCGP initially aimed to receive the referendum funding through its parent USAC IVP office, but at the request of Watson, the GCGP Board decided to request to move the organization from the USAC IVP to become a commission-related group of the USAC Community Service Commission (CSC). This fit with USAC Community Service Commissioner Jonathan Wisner's mission of making the Commission the hub for service on campus and including all service organizations in the Commission's functions and resource sharing. In turn, this prompted a USAC bylaw change, and on March 4th 2020, Thirkannad, Pham, Watson, and Wisner met with USAC Student Wellness Commissioner Mihika Sridhar, and USAC Internal Vice President Kim Bonifacio to discuss removing GCGP from all other entities, and including it only under CSC. This included the Facilities Commission, and though Commissioner Lily Shaw was unable to attend, she signed off on the suggested changes prior to the meeting, and after all the included council members agreed to the change, GCGP was successfully moved under CSC.

On March 10th 2020, Thirkannad presented the referendum proposal to the USAC Council, which was passed unanimously with a 13-0-1 vote, allowing the referendum to be put on the ballot for the upcoming USAC elections. The campaign was led by Thirkannad, Pham, and GCGP Publicity Director Cynthia Bui, who took charge of publicity for the referendum. The campaign team included the remainder of the GCGP Board - Maimi Akter, Audrey Hernandez, Brea Hogan, Valentina Ocariz, Natalie Tang, and Nicole Tran - as well as numerous GCGP volunteers and various members of Watson's USAC Office of the President. After four weeks of campaigning, the referendum passed with a 75% majority, with 6,070 votes in support of the initiative and 2,011 against. The passing of this referendum sends roughly \$8,000 back to student financial aid, and secures an annual working budget of roughly \$24,000 to fund hygiene products and school supplies, allowing GCGP to continue to grow and serve the UCLA student body for years to come. Pham and the rest of the 2020-2021 GCGP board will be the first to utilize the referendum fees and will set precedent for the future use of the fees. Immediately upon the announcement of the passage of the referendum, Thirkannad, Watson, Zhou, Wisner and the GCGP UCLA Chapter Board drafted this charter so that future generations of student leaders will understand the full history and intentions of this referendum, and to provide a roadmap to successfully run referenda in the future.

PREAMBLE TO CHARTER

This charter is designed to formulate agreements between the USAC and Good Clothes Good People (a project under USAC CSC) leadership in order to delineate how GCGP Basic Needs referendum fees shall be managed and allocated.

⁷ <https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/minutes.2018-05-08.pdf> (General Representative 1's Office Presentation)

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The following referendum was voted on and approved by students in Spring 2020 during the undergraduate student body elections:

“Shall the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) institute a new fee of \$0.33 per undergraduate student per quarter beginning in Fall 2020 to fund school supplies and hygiene products to be distributed for free to UCLA undergraduate students at USAC’s Good Clothes Good People redistribution center? This fee would be collected from all undergraduate students enrolled in Fall, Winter, and Spring. The fee will be increased annually thereafter by the amount of the L.A. County CPI, if any, beginning in Fall 2021. 25% of the amount collected will be returned to undergraduate financial aid.”

This charter shall take effect immediately and shall be in place indefinitely until otherwise altered or revised with the clear and mutual consent of the Board of UCLA’s Chapter of Good Clothes Good People USAC CSC project leadership, and the USA Council (USAC). Any changes that are made and/or initiated by either party must be made in consultation with the Community Service Commissioner (CSC) and take into account the history of this advocacy outlined above.

OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT OF GCGP BASIC NEEDS REFERENDUM FEES

- The management of GCGP Basic Needs Referendum fees shall be managed by the USAC Community Service Commission at the direction of UCLA’s Chapter of Good Clothes Good People USAC CSC project.
- The UCLA Chapter of Good Clothes Good People USAC CSC project exists to serve as the entity that occupies the Good Clothes Good People Redistribution Center in order to operate the day-to-day functions of the center and ensure the redistribution of basic-needs items for students.
- Any changes to the logo, brand, or name of the redistribution center shall be made in consultation with Good Clothes Good People leadership.
- If the UCLA Chapter of Good Clothes Good People organization ever ceases to functionally exist, yet still occupies the space in SAC Room B54, the responsibilities of the Good Clothes Good People Redistribution Center shall fall under the direct responsibility of USAC’s Community Service Commissioner.
 - In this event, the CSC shall assume direct responsibility over the finances and operations of the Good Clothes Good People Redistribution Center, and ensure that the Redistribution Center remains fully operational.
- If it is determined that the Good Clothes Good People Basic Needs referendum fees are being used for purposes other than those delineated in the ballot language, the USAC

may assume direct responsibility of the Good Clothes Good People Redistribution Center.

- The annual election of UCLA's Chapter of Good Clothes Good People's Board of Directors shall happen internally within the USAC CSC project unless it is otherwise necessary that the USAC Community Service Commissioner solicit students for leadership positions.
- The USAC Community Service Commissioner, after discussing with the UCLA's Chapter Good Clothes Good People USAC CSC project Board, and with the consent of USAC, shall have the authority to remove members from the Board of Directors of UCLA's Chapter of Good Clothes Good People, given that it is a project housed under USAC's Community Service Commission. Such action shall only be considered in the case of evidence-based non-compliance with requests made by the Community Service Commission and/or USAC, and/or the improper use of referendum fees.
- The USAC Community Service Commissioner shall be tasked with supporting and overseeing the operations of the Good Clothes Good People Redistribution Center.
 - The USAC Community Service Commissioner shall regularly update the USAC on the usage of the Good Clothes Good People Basic Needs referendum fees, and the status of the UCLA Chapter of Good Clothes Good People USAC CSC project.
- School supplies may include any items commonly used by a student in a course of their study.
- Hygiene products may include any items that contribute toward maintaining health, wellness, and preventing disease/illness.
- In the event that there is no longer a physical Redistribution Center operated by Good Clothes Good People USAC CSC project or the USAC Community Service Commission on campus, such referendum fees shall be redirected by the USAC Community Service Commissioner for the distribution of hygiene products and school supplies through other programmatic and institutional methods. Such efforts shall still recognize and publicize that their programs and initiatives are utilizing funding from the Good Clothes Good People Basic Needs referendum.
- In the event that the USAC Community Service Commission ceases to exist, the campus student governing entity tasked with community service initiatives will oversee and manage the Good Clothes Good People Basic Needs referendum fees and the redistribution center.

Signed and Ratified: May 12th, 2020



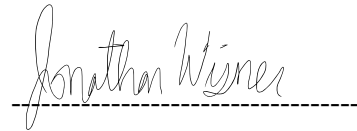
GOOD CLOTHES GOOD PEOPLE FOUNDER & USAC PRESIDENT

Signed on Behalf of the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC)



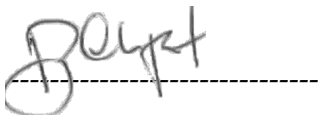
FIRST PRESIDENT OF GOOD CLOTHES GOOD PEOPLE & DESIGNATED CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE

Signed on Behalf of the UCLA's Chapter of Good Clothes Good People USAC CSC Project

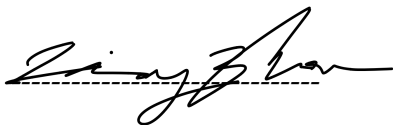


USAC COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Signed on Behalf of the USAC Community Service Commission



DIRECTOR, UCLA STUDENT UNION, ASUCLA



UCLA CHAPTER OF GOOD CLOTHES GOOD PEOPLE CAMPUS DIRECTOR



UCLA GOOD CLOTHES GOOD PEOPLE PRESIDENT 2020-2021