



AGENDA  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
June 1, 2021  
7 PM PST  
Zoom: <https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97123303841>

## **I. Call to Order**

Velazquez

- Breeze calls the meeting to order at 7:02pm

### **A. Signing of the Attendance Sheet**

- Signed via Google Docs

## **II. Approval of Agenda\***

Gatica

- IVP written report
- Strike TGIF
- Strike SWC Programming Fund
- Strike BAG
- Strike ASRF
- Strike TGMF
- Strike Capital Contingency
- Tayloneei moves to approve the agenda as amended, Promise seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, agenda is approved as amended

## **III. Approval of the minutes\***

Gatica

5/25/2021

- Cassandra motions to approve 5/25/2021 minutes, Promise seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, 5/25/2021 minutes are approved

## **IV. Public Comment**

Velazquez

Hannah: Hi my name is Hannah and I'm a third year at UCLA. I'm here to ask you all tonight to vote yes on the resolution in support of Jewish students. As a Jewish student, the last few weeks have been incredibly challenging to me as I've witnessed members of my community being attacked here in Los Angeles and around the world in the name of anti-Israel activism. These incidents have left me and my community feeling extremely unsafe and it's taken a toll on my mental health. At a time when I should be focused on my finals I am here to ask you to vote yes. I am also here to express my concern about the draft statement that USAC is working on to condemn antisemitism, while I applaud the sentiment, I urge you to remove statements about anything about the conflict in Israel and Palestine. I believe a statement condemning antisemitism should be just that: condemning antisemitism and not be conflated with the conflict that we as Jewish students at UCLA have no control over. Including harmful and misleading language about the conflict only serves to promote the antisemitism that this statement aims to condemn. Please remove that statement and let this be what it should be, a condemnation of antisemitism alone. Thank you.

Alfred: Good evening, council. I hope all of you are doing well. As you all know, I'm Alfred and I'm the Elections Board Chair. I hope all of you are having a wonderful time transitioning into your new role as leaders of our student body. I'm coming to you today to make one final public comment before the end of my term. While I know that this might not be the best time, I still just wanted to put it out there for consideration. I'm coming here to advocate for an increase in Elections Board stipends before I move on and graduate. The reason why I'm saying this is because the Elections Board is one of the governments of the student body that has the most amount of work and is the most thankless and underappreciated and this statement can be easily attested by many of the Elections Board members and our advisor. The work we have is year long, preparing very hard for student elections which starts in fall with educating students about student government while planning for winter, which continues in winter while recruiting students to run for office, and all the while planning for Spring quarter ending with typically tumultuous election season. The amount of work and sacrifice Elections Board members have to put in is a lot. Despite this insane amount of work, Elections Board is the second lowest amongst all entities in student government, the Chair gets \$124 per week, everyone else gets \$86 per week. Recognizing this, I worked with the previous council to raise the stipends to \$240 for Chair, \$160 for Vice Chair, and \$115 for any other Executive Committee position. However, despite this stipend ceiling increase, we still can't be

actually paid that amount because a lack of funds in the budget and that's why the Elections Board needs an additional \$12,433 to reflect this change, and that is why I want to strongly encourage Breeze and the rest of council to strongly put this into consideration when you're balancing the budget for the next year and to try to make sure that you have room for additional stipend ceiling increases for Elections Board members. It's very important that the stipends for Elections Board members reflect the crazy amount of work they've done. Thank you.

Binat: Hi everyone, my name is Binat and I'm the incoming President of Hillel at UCLA. I want to thank all the council members for listening to us tonight. As an Israeli student I have spent the last couple of weeks fearing for the safety of my family across the world and for myself on the campus that I call my home. Although I cannot equate my experience to anyone else's, I acknowledge and stand in solidarity with Palestinian students during this difficult time. The Jewish community is not a monolith. We are a diverse group of people with varying viewpoints and opinions. However, the thing that impacts us all is antisemitism. Antisemitism does not discriminate regardless of political beliefs. This conversation does not end tonight and has lasting repercussions on our community. Stepping into the Hillel presidency next year, I value every student and want everyone to feel heard and more importantly, feel safe at UCLA. I urge USAC to pass both resolutions on the agenda with some edits in rephrasing which have been sent to council members before this meeting. Resolutions create actionable change. However, I do not support any of the proposed statements on the agenda. The rhetoric used in both statements invalidates the experience that I have had and has the power to incite further antisemitism at both UCLA and the community at large. Thank you.

Lauren: Hi, my name is Lauren and I just wanted to share an experience that I had regarding Palestine and regarding being a disabled student. At my community college, I would not be here, I would not be the student I am today, the person I am today if it wasn't for the Palestinian professor and all of the Palestinian women that came before her that nurtured me. I have been bullied severely in the past and when I told her that I wanted to create this club, this model United Nations, she saw my vision and she ran with it. She has been sharing with me about, you know, she hasn't been able to see her family in decades and seeing the pain in her eyes and the suffering, not even being able to go back to somewhere where she has ancestral ties to. Every Friday she would bake us Palestinian food and she really took us in. So I just want to read a statement from the Asian American Studies Department, a statement of solidarity with Palestine. "At this moment of historical juncture, we call for the end of evictions of Palestinians from their homes, especially in the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, and in the South Hebron hills. While we commend the ceasefire of airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, which as of May 19th, 2021 have killed hundreds, injured thousands, and displaced over 40,000, we insist that the 15-year-old blockade on Gaza must be lifted immediately. We call for an immediate end to state and settler violence against Palestinian citizens of Israel, including mob lynchings, imprisonments, and the beatings of protestors. We demand an end to the military occupation of the West Bank and the renewed assault against Palestinians who have joined the protest. We implore the Biden administration to halt all funding to Israel until it complies with international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and stops its crimes against humanity and human rights violations. We condemn the 735 million dollar weapons sale to Israel that the Biden administration has recently approved." Also, I wanted to support the Disabled Student Union's ending the unit cap. I had to withdraw from this quarter because invisible disabilities are still disabilities, so I'm here to support that too. Thank you very much.

Chloe: Hi everyone. My name is Chloe and I'm the incoming President of Bruins for Israel. My parents escaped the Iranian revolution. My family left Iran, the place where my great grandfather was stabbed to death for being Jewish to give their children a better life and to practice their religion freely and safely. Jews throughout history did not have this same luxury. Israel saved my family from genocide. I am virtually standing before you to today to remind you that all human tragedies start with words. Words of hate and misinformation. Words matter. If history can teach us anything, it is that hate and discrimination may start with words, but it never ends there. It festers and grows, leading to acts of harassment, violence, attacks on communities and much worse against those targeted by hate. As elected officials, you have tremendous power with the words you choose. Please use them wisely. There has been a 600% rise of anti-semitism in just recent days. I'm here to ask you not to adopt a statement that will actively contribute to the rise of antisemitism. The rise of antisemitism that makes me feel uncomfortable to wear a Jewish star in L.A. We need to fight for the dignity of Palestinians, Jews, and Israelis and these statements are not steps in the right direction. I urge not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by Hillel leadership. Thank you for your time.

Brandon: Thank you Breeze for allowing me to speak today and thank you to the council for welcoming me to talk. My name is Brandon, I served as a USAC General Representative two years ago. I'm a Jewish student here on campus thankfully graduating. I am here today to talk about the proposed resolutions and statements on the table. We find ourselves here in another contentious debate over the Israel-Palestine issue, an issue that has been on the council's agenda the past few years including on my time on

council, and will certainly be for years to come. In these debates, I think it's sometimes easy to forget that we are all members of the same community, we all go to the same university, we all should empathize with each other regardless of where we come from. And I think as difficult as these conversations can be, I still care about this place and the meaning and the power that this council has, and I think that's why it's so important that the council take its actions and words with serious gravity and respect. Today, I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written, but to support both resolutions currently on the council table, both in support of Jewish students and Palestinian students with the amendments provided by the Hillel leadership today. Thank you.

Danika: Hi, thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Danik and I am an American-Israeli student and Vice President of Bruins for Israel at UCLA. I cannot begin to tell you how stressful the past month has been for me and my family. During the recent events, I've been distracted from my studies as my phone has constantly been buzzing every time a rocket was fired by Hamas, an antisemitic terrorist organization at cities inside Israel, indiscriminately targeting Israeli's of all backgrounds, including my own family. Watching frightening of videos of rockets flying in the sky above homes made me frustrated and distressed. Members of my family had to run for their lives to bomb shelters. Do you know the toll it takes on a student's mental health when they are constantly texting and calling their family members and friends to make sure they are safe? This agenda with six items on it directly connected to my identity made me sick to my stomach. I'm not here tonight to argue with you about all the things that are being presented as facts that are just wrong. But I'm here to tell you that USAC is not representing Israeli students with any of these items, including the statement on antisemitism that misleadingly talks about Israeli violence against Palestinians but mentions nothing about the violence that has been perpetuated against members of my own family. It is beyond insulting to me as an American Israeli student. I'm asking you tonight to not release the draft statements proposed on this agenda. They disrespect me, my family, and the many other Israeli students at UCLA. I urge you to not sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Thank you very much.

Mohammed: Hello everyone, my name is Mohammed, I'm a first year transfer student majoring in Political Science and minoring in Middle Eastern Studies. To start on a positive note, congratulations to you all on being elected. I hope this council can stand with all students on campus, especially those from marginalized communities. This past month has been extremely tough for many, especially those who have family members or friends in Palestine. Unfortunately, this council has yet to stand in solidarity with our Palestinian Bruins. In the span of eight days, over 200 innocent people died in the illegally occupied territories of Palestine. I recall my time at Mt. Sac. When the tragic events of the [indiscernible] mosque killing occurred, killing 51 innocent Muslims, neither the student government nor the administration acknowledged the atrocity. As a Muslim student, I felt left out and unsupported. I urge you to not let that happen again. I implore you to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Gene Block's [indiscernible] on the importance of combatting antisemitism, which is absolutely crucial and necessary, yet he left out an important part. He refused to condemn the killing of over 200 innocent Palestinians. I understand there can be pressure, and trust me as a Muslim I understand that. But this is not a Muslim issue. This is not an Arab issue. This is a human rights issue. No child should be killed by an airstrike. No child should be detained. No peaceful protestors should be shot and killed. As student leaders, you should ensure that Palestinian Bruins are welcomed, they're heard, they're supported. So please, I urge you, be on the right side of history and stand for justice. I yield my time.

Feras: So I want to say thank you all for taking the time to hear from fellow Palestinians and allies on the horrible recent events that occurred in the past couple weeks as Israel attempts to once again steal land Sheikh Jarrah and it's currently doing of the village of Silwan. I want to be very clear before I begin my statements though. This is genuinely a humanitarian crisis. This is not a conflict, it's not a war. This is an occupation, it's an apartheid system and with Palestinians are landlocked in an open air prison as Israelis enjoy full political and economic rights. I want you all to be cognizant of the fact that there has been 256 Palestinian deaths in comparison to 13 Israeli lives lost as well. Any life lost is a horrible tragic event occurred. We must be clear, we must clearly state that Israeli is the fourth largest and strongest military power in the world, and it is fighting against in self defense for paramilitary militia that is using outdated bombs that half the time explode in the air without even touching the ground, is to claim that essentially they were trying to falsify that their bombings of residential buildings that are justified when it is clearly against UN humanitarian law. I want to share the stories of my parents really quick before I finish my statements. My father's from a village called Innaba, does anyone know where that is? There's a reason why. All the natives were kicked out of their homes and it is now a town called Kefar Shemu'el and it is now built over. In regards to my mother's experience here in the US, because of her fair skin and lighter hair she's often asked, oh are you French are you Eastern European and she replies no I'm Palestinian, and then they say where's that. And then she says oh I'm from Israel. Do you understand the issue here, it's an entire group of people being razed, they're built over. And there's people that have the audacity to actually claim that there's both sides of the situation in which people are being killed at a proportional rate. I want to make a final statement an say it is not antisemitic

to state that denouncing Israel's apartheid of Palestine is antisemitic, that it is harmful to actually claim the two as the same and it belittles actual antisemitic claims and incidents that occur. I want to state that any antisemitic semitism that occurs is wrong on all levels, but to claim that denouncing an apartheid system is the same as making anti-semetic dlaims is harmful on so many levels, and it's so anti-humanitarian, it is harmful. So I ask you to please adopt the resolution, the first resolution on the statement of being in solidarity with Palestinian students. Thank you.

Kyle: I'm here to speak about UCLA admin removing the 19 and 21 enrollment cap from students with disabilities. This actually was done without due process or consultation from student leaders. The office is only allowed to deny accommodations if they propose a substantial administrative or cost burden to the institution, they cannot take away what they've already given to students. For example, this will make students with the extended test time taking accommodation, it'll be harder for them to schedule classes and to fit their schedule and to accommodate their disabilities. The reason given in the email to students on Friday was that "this will also support the university's goal of preventing priority enrollment from having an impact on the availability of courses" and not because it's a substantial burden. Each priority enrollment group is limited to 30% within each class and half of all the seats and half of all the seats in each class are reserved for priority enrollment group as a whole, and these ratios were not affected at all in the new policy, and this was a personal attack against students with disabilities. Multiple students have expressed to me how their future at UCLA is now in doubt, and how they might have to drop out because of this decision. Also the administration knew about this for 12 months and they are only deciding to tell us right now with fall enrollment only a matter of weeks away and we had many meetings with them and they did not choose to tell us. I've never heard of accommodations being taken away from students like this at all. This is highly irregular. A few weeks ago they took \$30,000 and now they're taking our accommodations so I wonder what's next. Thank you for turning on the captions and have a good evening.

Selma: There's been a lot of discussion about releasing the solidarity statement with Palestine being proposed, and I'm here to speak in support of releasing the statement, so I'm going to share a few points. Number one, neutrality is not synonymous with accuracy. Publishing a statement that depicts ethnic cleansing as a conflict is not only incorrect, but completely dismissing the fact of the issue. It dehumanizes the 250 plus lives lost in Gaza in the past few weeks alone. So let me provide an analogy to explain my point further. Imagine a cop filling suited and riot gear, complete with a shield, a baton, a gun and a helmet. His threat is an unarmed individual who's angry at the police for committing atrocious crimes. This cop holds power and is well protected by his gear. Now let's say the protester is frustrated by the attacks committed by the police and they step on that police's foot. The police might feel a bit of pain but nothing circumstantial, but then decides in retaliation to assault this protestor until he is on the brink of death. Would you equate the protestor and the cop? Would you deem that a conflict? Now this is the reality of Palestinians in Gaza. They are defending their homeland with basic rockets against an entity, Israel, that is protected by the iron dome which is a defense system that intercepts most rockets coming from Gaza, and retaliates with airstrikes, missiles, and bombs. Most of this is funded by the US which gives \$4 billion annually. Now Hamas' leader agreed to ceasefire before Gaza even launched a rocket, the only threat in Israel after the siege on [indiscernible], where the Israeli military locked injured men who were only there to pray inside a mosque, choked them with tear gas and refused to allow medical aid. A 22-year old was murdered during the siege, mind you, some of us are that age. It was Israel that refused the ceasefire and continued firing missile after missile into Gaza. They targeted journalists' buildings, libraries, hospitals, Covid testing centers and mainly Palestinian homes. There are 19 families that no longer exist. Entire bloodlines from grandparents down to newborn babies were murdered, over 60 children were killed. This is not a conflict, this is ethnic cleansing in cold blood. My second and final point is that calling the situation ethnic cleansing is not antisemitic. We condone Israeli government and the actions of settlers who act on behalf of the Zionist movement. I would not consider their actions as part of the religion of Judaism, as Judaism is a peaceful faith. Calling me antisemitic for condemning genocide would essentially associate Judaism with the unlawful actions of the Israeli government taken from the UN, which I assume would not be preferred by the Jewish community. Ask yourself why no anti-Semites are also proud supporters of Israel. So in closing, we must release a statement that supports the Palestinian community and use correct language and terminology, numbers, facts. Taken lives do not lie. Those who wish to be neutral are choosing the side of the oppressor, and to stay neutral on something like this is to tell the UCLA community that ethnic cleansing is acceptable. Palestinians are losing their lives, the least we can do is use our voices. Thank you.

Ben: Hi, I'm Ben and I'm a Jewish student and I want to thank you all for listening. I consider myself very critical of Israeli government, I personally feel very strongly about many interactions especially recently and I stand in solidarity with Palestinian students. However, political buzzwords like ethnic cleansing and settler colonialism are harmful. And while the intent may be to criticize policy, these words have an impact of delegitimizing Israel, and furthering anti-semitism and not educating people about the conflict. Speaking from extensive experience, there is a way to criticize Israel without using this rhetoric. These words won't

bring peace to Israel and Palestine but will create unrest on our very own campus. I support both resolutions with the amendments that Hillel has provided and fundamentally want peaceful coexistence with a region, all people living there as well as on our own campus. Thank you.

Simon: Hi, my name is Simon, I'm a student at UCLA, second year. I'd like to thank all the members of the council being elected to represent us, I know it's not an easy task. I'm here tonight because I'm just disappointed in the dialogue that has taken place over the past two weeks between USAC and members of my community, in addition to the statements that were made at last week's meeting. I think there is a way that you can support both Palestinian and Jewish students at UCLA without using language that creates further division and tension and perpetuates misinformation about both communities. I'm afraid the draft and statement being proposed does just that. As a member of the Jewish community I'm asking you to release a statement condemning antisemitism, anti-emitism alone. Ues, the latest wave of violent antisemitism began at a time of heightened conflict in Israel and Palestine, but not because of it. Whether contextual impetus held by those antisemitic attackers is not the point of condemning antisemitism, and we should not validate or justify their hatred and warped reasoning. Anti-semitism should be condemned on this campus and in this country, irrespective of what is happening in the Middle East and despite one's real or preceived views of the situation, the way it currently stands, your draft links the experience of Jewish people here t UCLA, it's recent events, the Middle East in an irreversable way. If UCLA were to receive the statement as it is, the mention of the state sanctioned violence [indiscernible] will distract students at hand. It is not possible for a condemnation of antisemitism to have its intended effect while authors equate the issue as a consequence of actions that a nation claimed in a different statement to be raised as oppressive, have perpetrated. Please modify your draft statement condemning antisemitism to focus on what is happening here and do not conflate it with the conflict in the Middle East. Thank you.

- Promise moves to extend public comment for the remainder of the 20 current speakers, Maya seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, public comment is extended

Hamza: Hi, my name is Hamza, I am the outgoing External Vice President of the Muslim Student Association. I just want to clarify that I'm not saying that to imply I'm representing my entire community or to try to give myself more authority, I'm just trying to accurately represent myself. I fully support USAC releasing the statement supporting Palestinian people with the current language. I think it's important to use the language that accurately defines what's going on, which is one of the largest and most technologically advanced militaries in the world and a society that claims to be democratic, having full economic and political jurisdiction over the territories of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza and having full impunity and any and all actions that are taken including the removal of Palestinian families from Israel and the West Bank and the indiscriminate killing of civilians in Gaza, as well as the destruction of infrastructure. Obviously, I don't support the death of any innocent person whether they are Israeli or Palestinian, but I think the fact that Palestinians in the recent conflict in Gaza were killed, around 20x more Palestinians were killed than Israelis, the fact that hundreds of protestors were injured, the fact that one of the holiest mosques in the Islamic faith was attacked and desecrated, the fact that families are being forcibly removed from homes in which they've lived for generations shows that the terms that are used, settler colonialism, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, are entirely accuratne and I support council releasing those statements. Thank you.

Janine: Good evening, everyone. My name is Janine and I'm here in my capacity as the Chief of Staff at the TSR office but also primarily just as a UCLA student. The previous council unanimously passed the resolution restructuring the Basic Needs Committee on May 4, 2021 and I would like to urge this year's council to support the reiteration of the basic needs resolution on today's agenda. A month has passed and we have only received one response which was from Vice Chancellor Gordon stating that he and his office will review the resolution and later be in contact to arrange a time to meet and discuss, but we have not received any other responses from administrative offices or the Basic Needs Committee themselves. The Basic Needs Committee did meet two weeks later on May 21, the committee Chair indirectly referenced the USAC resolution but explicitly stated that he would push back on our demands and that there were already these systems in place. Unfortunately, again there is a lack of transparency and lack of recognition that there's a disconnect in community, we must work together and understand campus climate and how we approach things and center the student voice. We must hold UCLA administration accountable and move forward to best serve. Thank you.

Gabby: Hi everyone, my name is Gabby and I'm a Jewish student at UCLA. I'm here today to express my support for the resolution supporting Jewish students. I'm also here to support the intent behind the resolution supporting Palestinian students. While it's commendable that USAC aims to support communities impacted by the most recent wave of violence between Hamas, a terrorist organization, and Israel, it is disappointing that the resolution supporting Palestinian students has many factual issues

and language that perpetuates antisemitic propaganda and misinformation. Therefore, I would like to see that resolution amended. USAC is meant to be a voice of the students and to protect the students, while the resolutions on the agenda claim they will acknowledge and protect, the harmful language used only further divides students on campus. Using false claims like apartheid and ethnic cleansing harms the Jewish community and makes it less safe. USAC needs to be responsible for ensuring that misinformation is not spread, especially misstatement or resolution. I'm asking you not to sign either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Thank you for your time.

Jeffry: Hello, my name is Jeffry and I hope everyone is doing well tonight. President and members of the council, I want to start off by saying that I am not Palestinian, Jewish, or Israeli and I understand that I will never be able to completely grasp the experiences of these communities, yet still tonight I come before you to demand that you support Palestinians currently living in occupation and under complete ethnic genocide. Let me be abundantly clear, while we sit here and debated if this council should actively take a stance against settler colonialism and genocide, the people of Palestine continue to be killed, displaced, and abused by the settler colonial State of Israel. We can sit here and waste time and debate if these lives matter but I'm here to demand that you take the power given to you and support Palestine. I urge you to vote yes without a moment's hesitation on tonight's statements of solidarity and remind you that as an elected official you have this responsibility, and your vote tonight is a reflection of your own values. We all know the truth, we know this isn't a conflict but an orchestrated murder of innocent people. You know the right thing to do. As one of your constituents I demand that you do your duty. Actively standing against colonialism and genocide is not antisemitic. Standing with the historical original people of this land against the state that has existed for less than a century is not antisemitic. I have no time for petty politics, crafted words and polished statements, and neither do the people of Palestine. Vote yes on the statements as written that call this genocide what it is. I demand you stand with Palestinians tonight once and for all. Thank you.

Adi: I'm here tonight for two reasons. The first is to urge you to listen to the voices of the organized Jewish community here at UCLA, and the second because I'm here to tell you that I, like other Jewish students, am really tired. For the past three weeks I haven't endured seeing an onslaught of misinformation and anti-Israeli posts, which clearly crossed the line to being antisemitic posted on social media. I had others try to dismiss antisemitism by trying to define to me, a Jewish person and the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, what is and isn't antisemitic. I and my fellow Jewish community watched users target on the streets of New York, Chicago, Miami, London, where they shouted such awful things as rape their daughters. And here right down the road in Los Angeles. Now I and my fellow Jew students are forced to show up and defend my community to our own student government. I wish the council recognize this as an opportunity for our campus to have a conversation about antisemitism and how we can come together as a UCLA community to calm the rising tension here on campus and the rest of the world. However, the statement did no such thing. Instead it utilized harmful, false, and inflammatory language about Israel, which encourages rising conflict instead of respectful dialogue. By putting out a statement which promotes false claims for settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing, USAC is not only erasing 3,000 years of Jewish identity in history, but also the Jewish right to self determination in our ancestral homeland. That said, I would like to clear up some of the falsehoods which have been promoted by the statement. The first being ethnic cleansing is taking place in Israel, there isn't an ethnic cleansing taking place in Israel, but if you don't believe me, listen to Benny Morris, one of the most prominent historians on the Palestinian refugee crisis, who had stated that ethnic cleansing was not carried out in Israel in the 1948 war. Not to mention the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza has grown massively since the conflict began. And when Israel first declared independence, it offered citizenship to all Arabs of its territory, citizenship which 160,000 Arabs accepted and currently now 1.9 Arabs hold in Israel. That is also to say that both Israelis and Palestinians have suffered immensely during this conflict, and to accuse either side of ethnic cleansing is ignorant and offensive to the actual victims of the conflict, spreading misinformation about the conflicts does not help Palestinians. Instead, such misinformation is used as an excuse to dehumanize me and my Jewish community. I am tired. As students with the ability to foster positive change, I urge you to think about how Jewish students need to be supported on campus during this time, and to not sign on to the resolution as presently written, but instead ask you to sign on to the resolution as amended by Hillel's leadership. This is your chance to do positive change. Thank you.

Allegra: Hello, my name is Allegra and I'm a third year Jewish student here at UCLA. I'm here today to voice concern for the statement USAC plans on publishing in regards to the Israel Palestine conflict. The draft statement I've read, I'm worried about the language used to describe the conflict. The USAC draft statement uses inflammatory terms such as settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid to describe the State of Israel. To insinuate that Jewish people are colonizing the land that they're indigenous to is antisemitic. It denies our history as a people, the struggles we have gone through historically which has created the diaspora, and the approximately 4000 year long religious significance this land holds to us. To insinuate that they only Jewish state is ethnically cleansing Palestinians, something that we as Jews experienced ourselves during the Holocaust that led to the

reestablishment of Isreal, is antisemitic as the State of Israel tries to limit the number of casualties in more ways than one. To insinuate that Israel is an apartheid state is purely false. Palestinians and people of other faiths and nationalities have equal rights to Israelis and representation in the Israeli government. In fact, there are many Palestinians who travel and work too and who travel and work in Israel. Using these false inflammatory terms will put Jewish students like myself at risk. We have already seen the nearly 600% rise in antisemitism culminating in the physical attacks in Los Angeles, New York, and more. Now's not the time to contribute to this, especially on campuses such as UCLA which houses a notable Jewish student population. Further it stands against American values as we are allied with Israel and as a public federally funded institution, I do not believe taking a stance against one of our allies is appropriate. Actually I don't believe it's appropriate for an American university to comment on the conflict held in the Middle East, regardless. Lastly, I'd like to add that I do not believe non-Jews should be able to define what is and is not antisemitic or define what Judaism is, and listening to other students comments here barely any have brought up the terrorist organization Hamas who use their own people as human shields and call for the genocide of Jews and their charter. This is clearly a complex issue and innocent people are dying on both sides, any statements made in solidarity with Palestinian and Jewish students should be just that, solidarity with students, not with nations. Both groups are facing a tremendous amount of trauma and suffering and now's not the time to continue putting these people against each other and motivate antisemitic hate crimes. Jewish students deserve protections too. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Thank you.

Matthew: Hello, I'm Matthew I use he/him pronouns. I'm from a number of anti-imperialist bases on campus. I'm here to affirm my support for a statement of strong support for Palestinian liberation. What's happening isn't complex, it is settler colonialism, it's ethnic cleansing, and it's been happening from 1948 in the context of Israel and before that from Britain. It's not a black and white thing it's ethnic cleansing. It is the lack of access to water, it is the lack of ability to move, people are living in open air prisons. There shouldn't be a complicated thing to make a statement in support of Palestinian liberation. I end my statement by saying that Palestinians will be free from the river to the sea.

Rachel: Hi, I'm here as an incoming member of the Hillel board and primarily as a Jewish student. While I appreciate the council's revisions of the resources to include more voices of those who were actually impacted by the events in Israel and Palestine, these statements were primarily crafted by those who will never be impacted by the bloodshed that happens in the land. While I personally agree with the Human Rights Watch and analysis that Israel is an apartheid state, I'm not sure what the aims of USAC are in criticizing the foreign government, nor do I find it productive for the non-Jewish, non-Palestinian, non-Israeli council members to claim to be experts on one of the most complex geopolitical issues in the 21st century and to set out to define what is and isn't antisemitic. Rather I believe the function of USAC is actually to be of support to all students and to focus their action within the bandwidth of UCLA. The statement supporting Palestinian students currently written focuses far more on agner towards the Israeli government than actually extending support and resources towards Palestinian students. Furthermore, the statement condemning antisemitism does not condemn hatred based on the nationality that many Israeli students are facing. Israeli students and Palestinian students are both afraid for their families and for their safeties, while yes, the Israeli government does have more power and more strong allies in the US and other countries I do not believe it is thre role of student government to try and mettle in foreign affairs. Rather, we should direct our energy to focusing on supporting the students who exist within the UCLA communities and all Bruins who identify as Palestinian, Jewish, and Israeli and also support the diversity of opinions and perspectives and trauma. Thank you.

Loren: Hello everyone, my name is Loren and I'm an Israeli student at UCLA. Similar to many others on this call I cannot begin to tell you how stressful the past month has been for me, from fearing for the well being of my family and friends to seeing homes in my childhood neighborhood being attacked by rockets and now feeling alienated by my UCLA community. Honestly, I feel completely disregarded, ignored, and even targeted. This type of contentious language used in some of the statements perpetuates a hostile environment in which I do not feel safe. In the conversations I've been hearing these last few weeks, including claims that there are no two sides to this conflict, not only ignores the struggles and traumas of Israelis including myself and my family, but also 3 million Israelis that are under the threat of rockets. It also denies the right of my people's existence. The question is not whether or not that's your intention, because that is the consequence. And if you don't feel comfortable with that, and I hope you don't, I ask you to rethink your actions. I believe it is your responsibility as selected student representatives to deescalate the situation, not create a climate that will make Israelis on campus feel unsafe and unsupported. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both the resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Thank you.

Roni: Hi everyone, my name is Roni and I'm an Israeli student at UCLA and a proud member of the Hillel community. The resolutions and the statements being considered tonight contain an onslaught of claims and misinformation. Over the last few weeks we have seen that misinformation spread online has real life consequences for Jews in America and around the world as violent attacks have been committed against us for their real or perceived connection to Israel. Some of the language being used in the statements insinuates that Israel is purposely targeting and killing Palestinians, that is false and perpetuates a harmful anti-semitic trope about Jews being killers that has persisted for thousands of years. Israel goes to great lengths to prevent the loss of life of civilians while the Hamas terrorist group commits war crimes by launching rockets from neighborhood schools and even hospitals indiscriminately as civilian populations inside Israel. In the last two weeks, Hamas fired over 4,000 rockets at innocent men, women, and children. Jews, Muslims, Christians, alike. Some of their rockets misfired and killed Palestinians themselves. I believe that you should remove the harmful language and their statements and I urge you not to sign these statements as they're currently written but rather to support the resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Voting yes will add to the already rapid antisemitism we have already seen in the past few weeks.

Sara: Hi everyone, my name is Sara and I'm speaking as a Jewish student at UCLA. I'm concerned that the council is prepared to release two statements tonight that will not only lead to more division on campus but not actually achieve anything tangible to support students on campus. The two proposed resolutions on the other hand more effectively take an active role in supporting both Jewish and Palestinian students. This includes demand for leniency from faculty towards both groups of students who have been dealing with trauma over the past few weeks. As a point of constructive criticism, these two resolutions are being seen in parallel, and should be brought more in line with each other for the Jewish community, the Palestinian community, and everyone else involved. These communities need not only support but the same form of solidarity being called for. I may have disputes with the facts being presented in one of the resolutions as many tonight have and will point out, but I think both Palestinian and Jewish students deserve real support from this council and not performative statements that contain harmful language and disputed claims. Please vote yes on the resolutions in lieu of the statements that will further divide both communities. Thank you for listening.

Sarah: Hi, my name is Sarah and I'm a member of the Jewish community at UCLA. As a Jewish woman of color and a UCLA student I feel very disturbed to see that there are six agenda items up for discussion today about Israel and Palestine. I understand that the council wants to ensure that students at UCLA feel supported during this difficult time, but I hope the council in the future will put the same level of energy and discussion into supporting other communities as well, because frankly I haven't seen that level of discussion happening around any other international conflict. With that being said, I do want to urge you to vote yes on the resolution in support of Jewish students, passing this resolution in its current form will go a long way in showing our community that you hear our concerns and are listening. I have significant concerns with the statement condemning antisemitism that you are considering, and I hope that you will change that. I also have significant factual concerns about the statements draft in order to support Palestinian students and worry about USAC's responsibility to not spread misinformation. Just one example of harmful misinformation is the claim that Israel is a colonizing power. Ethnic Jews are indigenous to the Levant and denying that is antisemitic. Furthermore, there are many Israelis and Jews who do not support West Bank settlements and are in favor of an independent Palestinian state in terms of a two state solution. Portraying these false claims of the facts will only further divide Israelis and Palestinians, and will not lead to peace in the future. It will also harm these communities on campus. During this difficult time where USAC should be showing their solidarity with all kinds of communities struggling, USAC should not be promoting language that will do the opposite. You're promoting language that delegitimizes Israel. A lot of people forget the stories of Mizrahi Jews. Nearly 1 million were ethnically cleansed from the Middle East. So like, where would they go if there was no Israel. I'm in no way against criticism of Israel, but language used in the proposed draft statement goes beyond criticism through the use of this harmful language. This draft also perpetuates the dangerous idea that Palestinian liberation comes at the cost of Jewish and Israeli safety, when both can come hand in hand. Frankly, I do not have high hopes for how this will turn out but please at the very least vote yes to the resolution in support of Jewish students, and that I do not support any of the amendments to the current language without talking to our community leaders. Thank you.

Azure: I'm a member of Students for Justice in Palestine and I'm here to support this statement for Palestinian solidarity. Honestly, hearing all of the statements from people in Hillel has made me very angry because these terms ethnic cleansing and colonialism are so accurate, like how do you not see Israel getting bigger and Palestine getting smaller over the years? Do you not see that? What else could that be? That's kind of like saying that when Europeans came to America that the indigenous people were fighting back like oh, they're so dangerous and violent, like no you just came here and decided that his land was yours. And all of these claims about religion literally make no sense because it's as if Palestinians don't also have religious ties to their own lands. Please make it make sense you can't make it make sense. So therefore I endorse the language that was used in



this statement and I don't think that antisemitism is literally at all relevant and because the Palestinian movements are 100% against antisemitism, they're not against each other. I endorse the statement for Palestinians. Thank you.

Zoe: Hello, my name is Zoe and I'm a first year student at UCLA, thank you for letting me speak today. I'm a Jewish student at UCLA and I'm concerned that the council is prepared to release two statements tonight that will not only lead to more division on campus but not actually achieve anything tangible to support students on campus. The two proposed resolutions on the other hand more effectively take an active role in supporting both Jewish and Palestinian students. This includes demand for leniency from faculty towards both groups of students who have been dealing with trauma over the last few weeks. As a point of constructive criticism, these two resolutions are being seen in parallel and should be brought more in line with each other. The Jewish community like the Palestinian community needs not just support, but the same form of solidarity being called for. I may have disputes with the facts being presented in one of the resolutions as many tonight have and will point out, but I think both Palestinian and Jewish students deserve real support from this council and not performative statements that contain harmful language and disputed claims. Please vote yes on the resolutions in lieu of the statements that will further divide both communities. Thank you.

Aaron: Hi everyone, my name is Aaron. I'm a junior in the Hillel community. About a year ago, the world came together in solidarity after the tragic death of George Floyd, may he rest in peace. Now more than ever it is vital that our elected representatives in student government seek for every opportunity to bring the student body together, especially as acts of violence and hatred spread throughout our community. Both Palestinian and Jewish students deserve genuine support from council, and not performative statements that contain harmful and divisive language. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Words have power and I ask you to use them wisely. Thank you and I yield my time.

Elliot: I'm Elliot, and I just want to thank everyone for sharing their perspectives and stories. I'm a student here at UCLA. There are injustices happening in Israel and Palestine. Silence is complicity, and it is important to speak up for what you believe in. However, when you speak up, especially from a position of power, you must do so responsibly, you must make an effort to ensure the safety and well being of all innocent people potentially involved and you must make sure you are speaking from an educated and well thought out perspective. The buzzwords ethnic cleansing and settler colonialism are not only inaccurate, but they also obscure the true value proposition in a way that is dangerous for Jews and Israelis. With that line taken out of the resolution, I support both resolutions in solidarity with the Palestinians and the one condemning antisemitism, and I commend the council for speaking up for the people they represent. The statements, however, contain claims that are not substantial and language that does not protect the safety of students on this campus. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Thank you.

Rimsha: Hello, thank you so much for allowing us to speak today and congrats on all your newly appointed positions. I'm going to keep it short because I know you all want to go, but my name is Rimsha and I am a Muslim American student on campus. I just want to describe my background a little bit and why I feel so strongly about the current statement of solidarity with Palestinians. As someone who's grown up in Los Angeles, I've been surrounded with Palestinians and Israelis all my life. The first hand accounts of the violence Palestinians and Palestinian refugees face is unmatched. There's a reason why there's many, many Jewish groups that also condemn the actions of the Israeli government. The original statements provide accurate information filled resources, the claims of misinformation are simply unfounded, and I really commend the individuals who crafted them on USAC, so thank you. There is no excuse for the ethnic cleansing of and the apartheid against Palestinians and Palestinians themselves as well as experts claim that this is happening and that their lives, families, infrastructures are being razed. How can you claim that it is not. However, I absolutely agree with the statement of solidarity against antisemitism, there's no excuse for antisemitism ever and the allies of Palestine recognize that this government or that this apartheid has to do with the Israeli government and settlers not Jewish individuals all over the world, in America, anywhere. That being said, I urge you to sign on to the solidarity statement for Palestine as originally written. This is truly a pivotal moment in history and it's important that our UCLA government whose offices I, like many other Palestinian allies have been a part of. Be on the right side of history despite the years of support UCLA has provided the ultra right and conservative Israeli government. Thank you.

Sachi: Hello everyone, my name is Sachi and I am a Jewish student at UCLA, also a former council member so hello again. I'm here to speak about the statement and the resolution in solidarity with Palestinian students. You all heard me speak last week but I'll briefly summarize my stance that as an American Jewish student my experiences in Israel and my Jewish values have inspired my Pro-Palestinian and anti-occupation political stances, but upon listening to the council's conversation last week, a member of

this council said that “the Jewish community told us that they disliked the statement and we should listen to them.” The Jewish community is not a monolith, as has been said so eloquently earlier. You’ve heard many Jewish students who disagree with the statements in their resolutions, but you’ve also heard many students, including myself, who have openly identified as Jewish and who have actively disagreed with those who claim to be the leaders of the Jewish community. Let me be very clear, if you associate all Jewish students with the vehemently pro-Israel stance, you’re being antisemitic and ignorant of your own constituents who have come to speak to you today. I’ve also heard others here talking about defining antisemitism, I will again drop the same link that I dropped last week to the Jerusalem Declaration, a definition of antisemitism written and signed by Israeli and Jewish scholars around the world, including the leader of the UCLA Israeli Studies Program. Further, I want to be clear that those claiming leadership of Jewish organizations, including Hillel at UCLA, are not elected by their own community and therefore do not represent the immense diversity within our space. With no council members here today currently identifying as openly Jewish, I hope that you would not presume any stance of any community that is not your own. I would love for this council to acknowledge it specifically within their discussions today. Finally, I’d like to acknowledge the harm perpetuated by the leaders within the Hillel including some of those here today. Some of them directly invalidated the oppression that black women face while editing out my contributions to a Hillel BLM statement that’s “acknowledging the anti blackness in our own community.” I don’t think these leaders can really talk about harm to communities when they fail to take accountability for the harm that they perpetuated to people within the Zoom room today including myself and other current council members. Finally, I’d like to ask the Hillel community, if you support Palestine so much as you said today, where’s your solidarity statement, as you said yourself, silence is complicity. Let’s not impose values on this council that we can’t even uphold ourselves. Thank you.

Ariella: Hi my name is Ariella and I’m a Jewish first year UCLA student. I fully support the resolution against antisemitism but I have to bring up some points to contextualize its passage. Proposing this resolution alongside harmful language in the Palestinian solidarity statement and resolution signals USACs real intent. It’s not because they really want to, but because they feel they have to. Antisemitism in all forms of discrimination will never truly be condemned with this attitude. The presence of language that actively hurts Jewish students written by the same body just makes the antisemitism resolution feel like it is only being proposed simultaneously to be able to claim that there is no antisemitic intent in the other texts being debated. No one should condemn antisemitism for the purpose of avoiding any allegations of antisemitism when they ram through one sided biased proclamations on a geopolitical conflict they don’t wish to address with Jewish and Israeli concerns in mind. This is not a genuine approach to combating antisemitism. We can and should stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and students on campus, but this should not and does not have to come at the expense of Jewish students. USAC should instead retract all statements and instead seek to rectify issues in the solidarity resolution so that both the Jewish and Palestinian communities have their concerns heard and are lifted together with their one respective resolutions. Thank you.

Orla: Hi, I’m here tonight to beg you to take action against UCLA’s decrease of priority enrollment for disabled students. We have been told two weeks before enrollment that we will only be able to enroll in 15 units that we can access. It is an urgent barrier to education that will likely cause many disabled students to either not graduate on time, or have to drop out of UCLA altogether. Many disabled students including myself rely on choosing all of our classes during priority enrollment because we need time in between classes to travel across campus, schedule transportation, take midterms and finals with extra times, and our limited windows in which we can take classes due to limited energy and the need for off campus treatments. The reduction of priority enrollment, which is necessary to ensure that we have enough time between classes to travel across campus starts Fall 2021 when mobility is an issue on campus once again. Why did UCLA not explore other options to improve enrollment during the first pass for the rest of UCLA students, other than taking priority enrollment from literally disabled people. The fact that UCLA cut disability priority enrollment, which is necessary to secure a spot in sections and labs that we can attend before they cut priority enrollment for athletes speaks volumes on UCLA’s priorities. This is a blatant injustice that we should not have to be fighting against. Disabled students already struggle to advocate for ourselves. Please help us and do everything in your power to support disabled students at UCLA. I would like to be able to continue to attend UCLA, and in the chat I will put testimonies, a link to them. Thank you.

Samuel: Hi guys, thank you for having me. My first name is Sam and I’m a second year political science and Jewish leader at UCLA. I’m here today to express my support for the resolution supporting Jewish students as well as the intentions behind the resolution supporting Palestinian students. The resolution supporting Palestinian students has many issues regarding the accuracy of its claims and pose an incredibly one sided picture that inherently alienates Jewish students at UCLA. While I’m incredibly sad to see the casualties on both sides of this conflict, I’ve also become incredibly frustrated that it’s been largely characterized as one sided. Israel has committed thousands of war crimes throughout this conflict in the forms of the missiles which they have indiscriminately rained down on Israeli cities, many which are homes to Jews and Arabs alive. I believe it is USACs duty to

properly inform students on both sides to to work toward a fair solution for all students. USAC is supposed to bring students together to find real solutions, not fuel the fire on existing conflicts. We attend one of the best schools in the country, we should know better not to alienate any marginalized community currently experiencing hate. We are leaders who understand that these performative statements will not be helpful. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and support both resolutions amended by the Hillel leadership. Thank you.

Gabriella: Hi, my name is Gabriell and I'm the current President of SSI at UCLA. As a UCLA student who has read the proposed amendments, I want to urge you to vote yes on the resolution supporting Jewish students. The fact that I even need to be at this USAC meeting in the middle of finals because I worry about what the passage of these resolutions and statements could lead to is troublesome. Harmful rhetoric found within the statement condemning antisemitism only adds fuel to the fire that is antisemitism instead of calling for healing for all communities impacted. The statement brings up state sanctioned violence perpetrated by the Israeli government to the Palestinian people disregarding the nuance that is required when dealing with such a complex issue. The fact that USAC feels the need to bring up Israel when condemning antisemitism shows in it of itself the correlation between antisemitism and the State of Israel, antiZionism, and it is for this reason in addition to many others that USAC must be much more aware of the statements they are making. Calling the Israeli government out for violence without addressing the origins of the conflict paints Israel as a villain, and people use this misguided claim to justify their actions of antisemitism. This harsh reality is clearly brought up in the statement, and without removing the mention of the conflict from the statement condemning antisemitism at, USAC would be doing more harm than good. Furthermore, in its conflict with Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization, Israel is driven by its responsibility to protect Israelis of all backgrounds. This is the right and duty of every country and Israel is no exception. The idea of code of ethics requires its soldiers to do everything they can and take every precaution necessary to target only terrorists, even as those terrorists use innocent Palestinians in Gaza as human shields. I also want to point out how disrespectful it is to have people who are not Jewish tell me what is and isn't antisemitism. Jewish people are the ones facing the consequences of this conflict, whether it be in or outside of Israel, and we're the ones who have had to fear for our safety and hide the fact that we are Jewish. There is a difference between criticizing Israel and calling the state itself an apartheid state and using harmful rhetoric. This rhetoric increases violence against us and we have concrete evidence of this based on the past few weeks and what we have seen in LA as well as all over the world. Please do not partake in perpetuating this tate, I urge you to vote yes on the resolution supporting Jewish students and I also urge you to not sign onto the solidarity statements without the changes made by the Hillel leadership. Thank you.

Danit: Hello my name is Danit, I was the President of Hillel UCLA this past school year. To be honest with you I'm exhausted. I'm exhausted to be sitting here in my final weeks as an undergraduate at UCLA having been incredibly stressed about this particular issue in these past few weeks. I'm someone who really tries to listen to others. I try my best to be empathetic, kind, and respectful towards everyone that I meet no matter the circumstances. I like to hear different perspectives and I enjoy learning about other people's experiences. In these past few weeks these values of mine have been tested to the limit. I very much respect USAC as an organization but I'm really tired of explaining why this situation hurts me. I defended myself last Monday night, I defended myself again in writing, and now I'm back defending myself for hopefully one last time. I didn't realize how hard it would be to feel completely unheard by some of my own peers and I'm hurting. It hurts me as a Jew having my words invalidated many times over, it hurts me as a child of an Israeli immigrant because all my cousins and grandparents live in Israel and I was scared for their lives as they ran to bomb shelters last week. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership and hope that you can hear me this time. Thank you.

Lara-Lynn: My name is Lara and I am a Jewish student here at UCLA. these last few weeks on top of feeling terrified for my family and friends in Israel, I've had to witness the silencing, demonizing, humiliating and twisted narrative shared on social media throughout the world about my homeland. I've had to watch my security and identity become the object of political debate, while friends were debating if it was politically correct to condemn antisemitic hate crimes all over the nation. And now I have to stand here today and take a stance once again, because the words you chose to condemn antisemitism and to promote Palestinian rights are the words which put my family in danger in the first place. As you mentioned, it is no coincidence that antisemitism has risen at the time of the Israel Hamas conflict. If it is not understood by now that the reason we have been experiencing these hate crimes is because of insensitive and false claims about a country whose history have been changed to suit narratives, then there's no better time to condemn antisemitism directly. If you're incapable of criticizing the Israeli government while keeping your Jewish students safe, then I cannot trust you to represent me. It is your responsibility as representatives to be noble, just, and truthful, you cannot pretend to speak against antisemitism while still using the word apartheid to describe Israel, and then condemn antisemitism as if your words are not the reason we were being targeted. You cannot claim to be pro-Palestinian rights

and choose not to condemn Hamas, which uses its civilians as human shields, you cannot claim to be pro-Palestinian rights, not support a need, and not support a nation still looking for peace, while having offered the mistake several times. You cannot claim to fight against antisemitism when the very words you use put us at risk. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership. Thank you.

Kian: Hello, my name is Kian and I'm a business economics major. I'm here today to express my support for the resolution supporting Jewish students. I support the intent of the resolution in support of Palestinian students, but the language is harmful to another marginalized community on campus and needs to be amended. As a Jewish student who is heavily involved in the Jewish community at UCLA, I found the statement condemning antisemitism extremely problematic and hurtful to the Jewish community. My Jewish peers and I do not support the statement condemning antisemitism in its current form. I have no idea why anything about Israel and Palestine is included in the statement condemning antisemitism when we should just be talking about antisemitism. Anyone from the Jewish community would tell you that in itself is antisemitic. The answer to one community feeling marginalized is not to marginalize another community. I encourage you to reject the statements and pass the resolution in support of Jewish students and pass a resolution in support of Palestinians that does not include hyperbolic language and speaking misinformation about the history of Israel that in fact actually hurts Jewish students. I urge you not to sign on to either of the solidarity statements as currently written and to support both resolutions as amended by the Hillel leadership.

Public comment read by Jane: So this is just a letter from the Disabled Student Union to various USAC admin. It reads "Dear all, the Disabled Student Union is appalled to learn of the decision made by UCLA administration to reduce the number of units students with the Center for Accessible Education accommodation are allowed to receive during priority enrollment. Notice that this decision was delivered via an email sent by the CAE on May 28, 2021. Not a single disabled student leader was consulted on this decision and the DSU strongly condemns this discriminatory action. Further, this email was set up for 4:21pm on a Friday before a three day holiday weekend, only two weeks before priority enrollment begins. This is indicative of the constant refusal to be communicative, transparent, and honest with the UCLA disabled student community, despite consistent attempts from disabled student leaders to open communication lines. The email reads 'Dear Bruin, we hope this email finds you well. The purpose of this communication is to notify you of upcoming changes you receive through the Center for Accessible Education, effective for Fall 2021 enrollment which is scheduled to take place next month. There will be a 15 unit enrollment limit in place during your priority enrollment pass. You'll be able to enroll in additional units if necessary during your first or second pass. This decision was reached by the UCLA Academic Senate Undergraduate Council following recommendations by the UCLA priority enrollment ad hoc committee and consultation with CAE leadership staff and ADA 504 compliance officer in an effort to standardize priority enrollment privileges among all eligible groups. This adjustment will also support the university's goal of preventing priority enrollment from having an impact on availability of courses for students not receiving priority enrollment.' This decision arrived as the students prepare to transition back into in person learning when disabled students are already concerned for their health, safety, and access. Further decrease of accommodations leads to lower retention rates for our population. To reiterate, effective Fall quarter, students with disabilities will now only be able to enroll in 15 units during priority enrollment where previously the cap was 19 units. If the impulse is to think that 15 units is enough, or that students don't need this accommodations, below are some reasons as to why this decision negatively affects our population who are legally obligated to have access to an education. Due to the nature of UCLA costliness, this means that disabled students will only be able to enroll in approximately three classes a quarter, that's making it more difficult to add a minor and graduate on time, leading to a potential loss of financial aid packages and awards. Disabled Students need to organize transportation, caregivers, support, medication, education levels, etc. This means that many students have significantly restricted windows of time to take courses and require a considerable transition time between courses among other reasons. Many disabled students may only have one or two accessible class discussion permutations and thus there is a high probability that their class, including non-impacted courses will be full by first pass. Due to accommodating professors, medical emergencies, many disabled students are forced to drop courses at a greater frequency than the general student population and while the university must address the barriers that lead to drop in courses in the first place, these barriers still exist today. Priority enrollment allows disabled students to have a buffer when it comes to specific classes. Immunocompromised or otherwise at risk students may not be able to safely attend in person classes in the fall given that the number of online course offerings will likely be limited, these students are even further restricted in the number of accessible courses. In addition to this, there's a document with testimony that I believe has been linked already. The Undergraduate Council and the UCLA priority enrollment ad hoc committee mentioned in the email above made these recommendations regarding priority enrollment in June of 2020 yet did not notify students until May 28, 2021 when students are working on their final examinations and about two weeks before their enrollment. This blatant disregard for accommodations during a particularly challenging and uncertain time is a testament to the university's unwillingness to prioritize the needs of disabled students and further perpetuates barriers to an equitable education. Actions such as this express the values and intentions of UCLA. in a letter

to the Editor of the Daily Bruin the Center for Accessible Education Director expressed a commitment to increasing student voices and experience in CAEs work as CAE students continue to be disregarded by the CAE. This is truly insulting and as the DSU we make it clear that we condemn these actions as well as the blatant disregard for the free labor that we as disabled students are forced to exert as the university continues to disrespect our population and our demands to remedy [indiscernible], the 19 unit cap on priority enrollment is restored for all affected students for the Fall 21 quarter and beyond an end to restricted priority enrollment courses, an end to no priority enrollment for first quarter students, and all policy regarding disabled students to be clearly communicated to students and disabled leaders within a week of decisions and at least a month before the policy goes into effect and transparency regarding this decision, including a timeline of all related decisions, such meetings, and a list of all participating parties.” And then it just asked for a meeting with administration and I believe the petition has been linked already.

Rafi: Hello, I’m Rafi. I’m a Palestinian student and I just wanted to share some words from the bottom of my heart for anybody who’s trying to make this situation seem confusing or complicated to you. I want you to know that it’s incredibly simple. There was a land full of farmers and people who got along for many many many years, including my grandfather, and a lot of them woke up to destruction and to pain for years and for 70 years. And that’s what their life still is now. The trauma that they endure every single day because people wanted their land is immense. And I understand why people want to conflate the ideas of antisemitism to Palestine, but I want you to know that whoever taught you that was very misunderstood because Palestinians more than anybody can empathize with being discriminated and being unheard and being misunderstood. Our liberation is not tied to hating Jewish people at all. Our liberation is tied to the freedom of all people, and the freedom of the people who are being oppressed and I encourage you to see the simplicity in this situation. It’s not unlike what America did to the Native Americans. And if you want to know how you would act then try to do it now, try to act like that now. What would you do if you say America doing that years ago, doing it now still to Native Americans and to indigenous people everywhere. This is not an issue about religion, it’s an issue about indigenous communities and if we’re protecting them or not because we haven’t been protecting them and we need to. Thank you.

Esther: My name is Esther, I’m a Palestinian American and I’m going to be attending UCLA in the Fall. I just want to say that this is not an issue of religion, it’s an issue of occupation and apartheid and an ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people that started in 1948. Over the past few weeks I feel like I’m also tired of explaining to people that Palestinians matter. It’s basically just an ethnic cleansing and when we look at Gaza and we see families getting torn down, families getting wiped out, 226 people getting killed, this is not an issue of religion. I urge you guys to take a stand and support Palestinians in this matter. Thank you.

Public comment read by Hailey: I am horrified by UCLA’s use of the disabled student community as a scapegoat to take the blame for poor planning on the UCs behalf. I have often struggled to get the classes I want but I have never once thought they should take priority enrollment from those who need it. Frankly, I’m disgusted that the UC thought the best option would be to harm the prospects of CAE students rather than increase the number of classes and professors or athlete priority enrollment. Then again this past year and a pandemic has shown me that we as students can absolutely not count on the UC to support students and make fair and helpful policies.

- Public comment concluded at 8:34pm

## **V. Funding**

### **Capital Contingency\***

Minasyan

### **Contingency Programming\***

Minasyan

Total Requested: \$4,685.93

Total Recommended: \$3,858.65

6 non-USAC entities

- Promise motions to approve \$3,858.65 to 6 non-USAC entities, Maya seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, contingency allocations approved

### **SFS Allocations#**

Subhan

Total Requested: \$3,850.00

Total Recommended: \$3,264.01

2 CSC orgs

2 non-CSC orgs

- No opposition, SFS allocations approved

SWC Programming Fund Allocations# Jackson

Bruin Advocacy Grant Allocations# Wang

ASRF Allocations# Quint

AAC Travel Mini-Grant Allocations# Quint

ARCF Allocations# Ogunleye

Total Allocated: \$4,652.08

3 non-USAC entities

- No opposition, ARCF allocations approved

TGIF Ni

## VI. Special Presentations

CALPIRG Patel

CALPIRG Students Year in Review 202-2021

### Organizational Structure

- Mission
- Statewide Organization
- CALPIRG at UCLA

### Mission

- We are a student run, student funded nonprofit that has been around for more than 45 years.
- It is our mission to take action within the public interest and give students a voice on issues they care about in areas such as the environment, public health, affordability, and civic engagement
- Have made huge accomplishments such as banning single-use plastics and the UCs to getting our stat to 100% clean electricity by 2045

### Statewide/Organizational Awards

- **Grand Prize for the Youth Earth Week** national events challenge hosted by Greenpeace, the Plastic Pollution Coalition, and more, for our Climate Action Summit
- **American Climate Leadership Award** 2020 for work to get UCs committed to 100% clean purchased electricity
- Finalist for the Civvys for our NVP
- UCLA won the Ballot Bowl Award for most registrations at a campus vote center

### CALPIRG at UCLA

- 376 volunteers
- 302 interns
- 18.5k educated through class presentations
- 16k on email list

### Campaigns

- 100% Clean Electricity by 2030
- Make Textbooks Affordable
- End Oil Drilling
- New Voters Project
- Hunger and Homelessness

### 100% by 2020

- Working to convince Governor Newsom to speed up California's transition to 100% clean electricity to 2030
- 25,000 petitions statewide, 4,626 from UCLA
- Meeting with Governor Newsom's office
- USAC resolution
- Statewide Climate Summit on Earth Day (730+ people)

#### Make Textbooks Affordable

- Goal: UC-wide grant funded program for open textbooks!
- Collected 1807 petition signatures and have 5 personal letters published on the media (UCLA)
- Met with Regent Oakley, Regent Park, Regent Sherman, Regent Butler, and the Academic Senate Chair Shane White!
- We also passed a UCSA Resolution!!

#### End Oil Drilling

- Oil drilling has had disastrous consequences for our environment and communities
- Pollution of air and drinking water
- Harmful health effects: upper respiratory disease, cancer, birth defects
- Goals:
  - Pass SB-467, the bill that would have ended oil drilling in CA by 2027
  - Pass an LA County ordinance in the fall to end oil drilling LA

#### New Voters Project

- Goal: Increase youth voter turnout to the same level as other generations
- Accomplishments:
  - As a part of BruinsVote, we helped 1,000 students register to vote and made 2,800 GOTV contacts for fall election
  - Helped 100 students register to vote and made 500 GOTV contacts for local elections
  - 82% of the students we helped register voted

#### Hunger and Homelessness

- Nearly 3 in 5 students experience basic needs insecurity (food and/or housing)
- Many students don't know about available resources
- Accomplishments
  - Raised \$2,153 for the LA food bank
  - Reached 43,000 people
  - Panel with 60 attendees
  - 138 calls into Senator Feinstein's office
  - Hunger and Homelessness lobby day
    - Met with 10 representatives to ask for a COVID relief bill with at least \$14 billion for universities

#### Organizational Highlights

- Kickoff
- Pledge Drive
- Meetings
- What's Next

#### Kickoff

- We hold a kickoff meeting every quarter to recruit and launch our campaigns
- Had 185 students at Winter kickoff meeting and 161 students at Spring kickoff meeting

#### Pledge Drive

- Our org is completely student funded through an opt-in \$10 quarterly pledge
- Gives us the resources and trainings to make change on big campaigns!
- Over 2,000 students pledged since the transition to online learning last spring

#### Meetings

- Vice Chancellor Gordon and Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck
  - Updated them on our recruitment drives, pledge drives, and campaigns, introduced our new board and next year's Campus organizer
- UC Regent Oakley, Regent Sherman, and Regent Butler

- Told them more about our affordable textbooks campaign so that we can strive for big wins and implement open educational resources across the UC's
- Academic Senate Chair Shane White
  - Discussed our initiative for affordable textbooks and new voters project for this quarter elections

#### What's Next:

- Summer canvass:
  - Our members will be going door to door to garner support to pull neonic pesticides from Amazon's shelves which is going to be a huge win to save our pollinators!
- Campaign Mix:
  - Next fall we will be running 4 campaigns, our 100% clean Electricity, End Oil Drilling, Affordable Textbooks, and the New Voters Project/Hunger and Homelessness Campaigns. Our chapter voted on these campaigns in our week 8 CORE meeting.

#### Fall Campaigns

- 100% Clean Electricity by 2030
  - Convince Governor Newsom to move SB100 clean energy goal from 2045 to 2030
- End Oil Drilling
  - End Oil Drilling in LA county
- Affordable Textbooks
  - Champion the UC Regents on Affordable textbooks
- New Voters Projects
  - Increase student turnout for Governor Newsom recall election
- Hunger and Homelessness
  - Fundraise, Lobby and Spread awareness about hunger resources

Thank you!

## **VII. Appointments**

- None

## **VIII. Officer Reports**

### **A. President**

Velazquez

- Interviewed over 50 people
- Appointment applications have been released
- We need to discuss meeting times during the summer
- Breeze motions to hold a special meeting June 8th, Promise seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, special meeting is called for June 8th at 7pm
- Breeze motions to hold Monday meetings at 7pm Starting June 21, June 28 then biweekly after with a quorum of 8 people for summer 2021, Promise seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, summer meeting times and frequency are approved

### **B. Internal Vice President**

Gatica

- Hosted the last Campus Safety Alliance meeting of the 2020-2021 school year on Friday, May 28th from 5-6pm
  - Topic: new COVID-19 regulations and plans to return to campus
    - Touched upon summer session, hybrid classes, the lifting COVID-19 restrictions, accessibility for students with disabilities, housing/housing priorities, and vaccine/testing requirements
  - Planning to release CSA meeting highlights sometime soon
- Education Work Group today (06/01)
  - Discussed: Hybrid classes, exams/assessments for Fall quarter, and how CAE accommodations will look like in Fall quarter
- Executive Staff applications for the IVP has closed



- Currently interviewing potential directors for platforms/committees	
<u>C. External Vice President</u>	Wang
- Hired 45 students	
- Added a new Civic Engagement Team	
- Met with policy director from UCSA to start planning events for summer	
- Spoken with Herman and Natalia about their appointments	
- Accepting Title IX Advisory Board appointments	
- Throughout summer UCSA will be accepting appointments on a rolling basis	
<u>D. General Representative 1 Written</u>	Valles
- Released executive staff applications as of May 14th.	
- Will be finalizing and sending decisions by the end of week 10	
- Interviewed half of applicants for executive positions.	
- Planning to release general staff applications at the beginning of summer!	
- Strategizing and laying out our year-long timeline to execute proposed initiatives	
<u>E. General Representative 2 Written</u>	Pungchai
- First round of staff applications done; applicants should expect to get an email about scheduling interviews later this week. Interviews are slated for the week or so after final exams.	
- Co-sponsored resolution on basic needs led by TSR Chavez.	
<u>F. General Representative 3 Written</u>	King
<u>G. Academic Affairs Commissioner</u>	Quint
- Office apps closing on Friday	
- Appointment apps are open	
- Been attending transition meetings	
- Upcoming meetings with CAE director to discuss collaborative goals for upcoming year	
- Academic senate applications	
<u>H. Campus Events Commission Written</u>	Sanghavi
<u>I. Community Service Commissioner Written</u>	Subhan
<u>J. Cultural Affairs Commissioner Written</u>	Ogunleye
<u>K. Facilities Commissioner Written</u>	Ni
<u>L. Financial Supports Commissioner Written</u>	Yu
<p>- In transparency, this Week 9 through 10, I have been grieving the recent death of a friend. The FSC office has continued to respond to emailed questions in the USAC Relief Fund inbox, and Student Government Accounting is steadily working on the award disbursement. FSC leadership apps are due this Friday.</p> <p>I am not attending the June 1st council meeting due to its time conflict with the viewing service for the deceased, and my overarching need to grieve with loved ones. I understand that on today's agenda, there are three drafts of the Palestinian Solidarity Statement, a Statement Condemning Antisemitism, a Resolution Supporting Palestinian Students, a Resolution Supporting Jewish Students, a Resolution in Reiterating Restructuring the Basic Needs Committee, and a Resolution in Support of Proposed Changes in the Westwood Village Plan. While my absence from the June 1st council meeting means that I cannot vote on any of the four resolutions, I would like to emphasize my support for all four resolutions. If I were in attendance, I would vote yes on all four.</p> <p>I have also signed the Statement Condemning Antisemitism, and I contributed to the Palestinian Solidarity Statement Draft 2. Draft 2 is overall the same document as Draft 1, with my changes being many additional Chicago Style footnotes to support claims and facts that are stated in the draft. My grief has highlighted to me the importance of supporting Palestinian students and their communities facing devastating, violent attacks from Israeli military and police that have resulted in loss of precious life. I also emphasize my support for Jewish students and their communities facing a surge in violent hate crimes and antisemitism. I am grateful to my fellow council members for their labor in the writing processes of these statements and resolutions, and for their labor in discussing these at tonight's council meeting from which I will be absent.</p>	
<u>M. Student Wellness Commissioner Written</u>	Jackson
- Finished training new SWC Leadership staff!	
- Bruin Necessities: Menstrual Hygiene Scavenger Hunt Challenge on <a href="#">Instagram</a> all of Week 10!	
- We'll be giving away menstrual cups, stickers, and Cards Against Humanity period packs!	

#### N. Transfer Representative Written

Chavez

- Finalized communications materials to send Executive Board members selected for the TSR office

#### O. International Student Representative Written

Garcia

- Executive team applications were extended for one more day and expired on May 31st
- Interviews have been rolling
- Application decisions will be released on June 4th, Friday
- Researched and drafted a third version of the statement of solidarity based on the previous versions

#### Q. Administrative Representatives

Alexander, Chacon, O'Connor, Perez, Solomon

Fernando: I want to remind everyone that if you want to transition to a u.ucla.edu email just reach out to me.

### **IX. Old Business**

- None

### **X. New Business**

#### Palestinian Solidarity Statement Draft 1

Ni

As we see the continual ethnic cleansing,<sup>1</sup> settler-colonialism,<sup>2</sup> and apartheid<sup>3</sup> of Palestinian peoples, the USAC Offices of \_\_\_\_\_ affirm that we stand in solidarity with Palestinian students at UCLA and the Palestinian community at large as they struggle to reclaim their personhood.

That said, on May 15, 2021, Palestinians rose up to defend families that were being targeted by the Israeli military and forcibly removed from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah. Since then, the Israeli military has executed targeted attacks on Palestinian resistance by launching rockets that killed Palestinian civilians, including children, attacking the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is a national symbol to the Palestinians and the larger Muslim world, and bombing a building in Gaza that housed international media outlets in an attempt to stop news from circulating about the attacks.

Since its establishment in 1948, the government of Israel has been characterized by state violence and social control. And, as we well know, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Close to home, the apartheid state of Israel has found for itself a natural ally in the prison industrial complex of the United States.<sup>4</sup> U.S. police forces regularly visit Israel to train alongside their military and learn how to better repress and control Black and Brown communities.<sup>5</sup> Each year, the U.S. provides Israel with \$3.8 billion in military aid funding<sup>6</sup> in return for surveillance technologies, new weaponry, and control tactics that have been “battle-tested” on the Palestinian population.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Ethnic Cleansing,” United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (United Nations), accessed May 26, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/ethnic-cleansing.shtml>.

<sup>2</sup> Alicia Cox, “Settler Colonialism,” Oxford Bibliographies (Oxford University Press, July 26, 2017), <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780190221911/obo-9780190221911-0029.xml>

<sup>3</sup> John Dugard, John Reynolds, Apartheid, International Law, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, European Journal of International Law, Volume 24, Issue 3, August 2013, Pages 867–913, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ejil/cht045>

<sup>4</sup> Cristina Maza, “Prison Systems in the US and Israel Have Something in Common,” Civil Rights | Al Jazeera (Al Jazeera, September 27, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2019/9/27/prison-systems-in-the-us-and-israel-have-something-in-common>.

<sup>5</sup> Sheren Khalel, “US Police Departments under Pressure to End Training Programmes with Israel,” Middle East Eye, June 22, 2020, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-us-police-training-end-knee-neck-protests>.

<sup>6</sup> Barak Ravid, “United States Announces \$38 Billion Israel Military Aid Package,” Haaretz.com (Haaretz, January 10, 2018), <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/united-states-announces-38-billion-israel-military-aid-deal-1.5433493>; “Israel Foreign Assistance,” U.S. Foreign Assistance | Israel, accessed May 26, 2021, <https://www.foreignassistance.gov/explore/country/Israel>.

<sup>7</sup> Shuki Sadeh, “For Israeli Arms Makers, Gaza War Is a Cash Cow,” Haaretz.com (Haaretz, April 10, 2018), <https://www.haaretz.com/gaza-war-is-arms-industry-cash-cow-1.5258893>.

We recognize that some sentiments in favor of protecting Palestinian rights have been manipulated for the purpose of perpetuating antisemitism and we heavily condemn these practices. Rather, we want to emphasize that condemning the actions of the state of Israel is not mutually exclusive with condemning antisemitism. We acknowledge and abhor the recent, severe rise in antisemitic attacks in the US and in Los Angeles and we strongly condemn these actions and affirm that UCLA needs to be a safe space for both Jewish and Palestinian students. We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and strongly condemn those who have been antisemitic in the name of the movement for liberation. Any movement that seeks liberation cannot hold any bigoted sentiment towards an oppressed people.

We also acknowledge that UCLA has played a role in the apartheid of Palestinian people by continually funding companies that violate Palestinian human rights. As elected members of the student body, we urge the university to stand in solidarity with Palestinian students and push for divestment from state-sanctioned violence. Even though a ceasefire is in effect, we want to make it clear that the struggles that students face are not over. We want to encourage all students to educate themselves on the history of settler colonialism in Palestine, stand in solidarity with other students, and for professors to provide academic leniency to Palestinian students on campus. Additionally, we want to highlight some of the student organizations who have been organizing for Palestinian liberation.

**As councilmembers, we aim to make it abundantly clear that we believe UCLA ought to be a place where all students feel safe and are free from harmful attacks.**

In Struggle and Solidarity,

Links to Donate:

Middle East Children's Alliance - Emergency Aid for Gaza  
<https://www.mecaforpeace.org/>

PaliRoots - Meal Program  
<https://www.paliroots.com/pages/paliroots-meal-program#donate>

Islamic Relief USA - Pray for Palestine: Urgent Call for Aid  
<https://irusa.org/middle-east/palestine/>

Resources/Books:

The Question of Palestine by Edward W Said

The Modern Middle East: A History by James Gelvin

Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Davis

Roll-Call vote (signing on)

ivp:

Evp: yes to 3rd version

Gr 1: yes to 4th draft

Gr2: no to 1,2,4 mayb 3 w edits

gr3:yes to version 3 w edits

Aac: yes to draft 4

Cec:

Csc: yes to draft 4

Cac: yes to draft 4

Jane: yes to draft 4

Swc: yes to draft 4

Tsr: yes to draft 4

Breeze: yes to four

Natalia: no to any

Maya: yes to 4

[Palestinian Solidarity Statement Draft 2](#)

Ni

**This is an edited version of Draft One. Edits were mainly made by Passa and Emily. Emily's edits are primarily for fact-checking and footnoted Chicago Style citations.**

As we see the continual ethnic cleansing,<sup>8</sup> settler-colonialism,<sup>9</sup> and apartheid<sup>10</sup> of Palestinian peoples, the USAC Offices of \_\_\_\_\_ affirm that we stand in solidarity with Palestinian students at UCLA and the Palestinian community at large as they struggle for self-determination.

On May 6, 2021, Palestinians rose up to defend families that were being targeted by the Israeli police and military to be forcibly removed from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah.<sup>11</sup> Since then, the Israeli police and military have executed targeted attacks on Palestinian resistance by launching rockets that killed Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including children, attacking the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is an important symbol of identity to Palestinians and the larger Muslim world, enacting violence on protesters throughout Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>12</sup> and bombing a building in Gaza that housed international media outlets, deterring news from circulating about the attacks.<sup>13</sup>

Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has been characterized by state violence and control.<sup>14</sup> And, as we well know, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere; close to home, the apartheid<sup>15</sup> state of Israel has found for itself a natural ally in the prison industrial complex of the United States.<sup>16</sup> U.S. police forces regularly visit Israel to train alongside their military and learn how to better repress and control Black and Brown communities.<sup>17</sup> Each year, the U.S. provides Israel with more than \$33.8

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<sup>8</sup> "Ethnic Cleansing," United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (United Nations), accessed May 26, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/ethnic-cleansing.shtml>.

<sup>9</sup> Alicia Cox, "Settler Colonialism," Oxford Bibliographies (Oxford University Press, July 26, 2017), <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780190221911/obo-9780190221911-0029.xml>.

<sup>10</sup> John Dugard, John Reynolds, Apartheid, International Law, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, *European Journal of International Law*, Volume 24, Issue 3, August 2013, Pages 867–913, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ejil/cht045>

<sup>11</sup> AP, "Palestinians, Israeli Settlers Scuffle in East Jerusalem," AP News (Associated Press, May 6, 2021), <https://apnews.com/article/jerusalem-middle-east-israel-lifestyle-religion-f4c2594aab82ca8117c39b577a42ff01>.

<sup>12</sup> Dan Bilefsky, "Israel-Gaza Conflict: What You Need to Know," *The New York Times* (The New York Times, May 17, 2021), [https://www.nytimes.com/article/israel-gaza-what-we-know.html?name=styln-jerusalem-palestinian&ion=TOP\\_BANNER&block=storyline\\_menu\\_recirc&action=click&pgtype=Article&variant=show&is\\_new=false](https://www.nytimes.com/article/israel-gaza-what-we-know.html?name=styln-jerusalem-palestinian&ion=TOP_BANNER&block=storyline_menu_recirc&action=click&pgtype=Article&variant=show&is_new=false).

<sup>13</sup> Al Jazeera Staff, "Give Us 10 Minutes': How Israel Bombed a Gaza Media Tower," Al Jazeera (Al Jazeera, May 16, 2021), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/15/give-us-10-minutes-how-israel-bombed-gaza-media-tower>.

<sup>14</sup> "State-Backed Settler Violence," B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'Tselem, November 11, 2017), [https://www.btselem.org/settler\\_violence](https://www.btselem.org/settler_violence); "A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution," Human Rights Watch, April 27, 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution#>.

<sup>15</sup> Human Rights Watch, "A Threshold Crossed."

<sup>16</sup> Cristina Maza, "Prison Systems in the US and Israel Have Something in Common," Civil Rights | Al Jazeera (Al Jazeera, September 27, 2019),

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2019/9/27/prison-systems-in-the-us-and-israel-have-something-in-common>.

<sup>17</sup> Sheren Khaleel, "US Police Departments under Pressure to End Training Programmes with Israel," Middle East Eye, June 22, 2020, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-us-police-training-end-knee-neck-protests>.

billion in military aid funding,<sup>18</sup> and in return receives surveillance technologies, new weaponry, and control tactics that have been “battle-tested” on the Palestinian population.<sup>19</sup>

As Council members, we want to make it explicit that we believe that UCLA needs to be a place where all students feel safe and are free from harmful attacks. UCLA is located in an area with a rich Jewish, Israeli, Middle Eastern and Muslim population; these communities contribute greatly to our educational experience. We stand in solidarity as well with the Jewish community that have faced antisemitic attacks during this moment<sup>20</sup> and strongly condemn those who have been antisemitic in the name of the movement for liberation. We want to acknowledge that there has been a severe rise in antisemitic attacks in the US and in Los Angeles recently and we condemn these actions strongly and affirm that UCLA needs to be a safe space for Jewish and Palestinian students. We want to be clear that condemning the actions of the state of Israel is not mutually exclusive with condemning anti-Semitism. Any movement which seeks liberation cannot and will not hold any bigoted sentiment towards an oppressed peoples.

We also acknowledge that UCLA has played a role in the apartheid of Palestinian people by continually funding companies that violate Palestinian human rights. As elected members of the student body, we urge the university to stand in solidarity with Palestinian students and push for divestment from state-sanctioned violence. This demands a critical review of how involved elements of the US military industrial complex affect our education, in the lens of faculty, students, and administration. Even though a ceasefire is in effect, we want to make it clear that the struggles that students face are not over. We want to encourage all students to educate themselves on the history of settler colonialism in Palestine, stand in solidarity with other students, and for professors to provide academic leniency to Palestinian students on campus.

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Islamic Relief USA - Pray for Palestine: Urgent Call for Aid

<https://irusa.org/middle-east/palestine/>

Palestine Children’s Relief Fund - Urgent Humanitarian Care for Sick and Injured Children in Palestine<sup>21</sup>

<https://www.pcrf.net/>

Resources/Books:

*The Question of Palestine* by Edward W Said

*The Modern Middle East: A History* by James Gelvin

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<sup>18</sup> Barak Ravid, “United States Announces \$38 Billion Israel Military Aid Package,” Haaretz.com (Haaretz, January 10, 2018), <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/united-states-announces-38-billion-israel-military-aid-deal-1.5433493>; “Israel Foreign Assistance,” U.S. Foreign Assistance | Israel, accessed May 26, 2021, <https://www.foreignassistance.gov/explore/country/Israel>.

<sup>19</sup> Shuki Sadeh, “For Israeli Arms Makers, Gaza War Is a Cash Cow,” Haaretz.com (Haaretz, April 10, 2018), <https://www.haaretz.com/gaza-war-is-arms-industry-cash-cow-1.5258893>.

<sup>20</sup> Nicole Chavez and Brynn Gingras, “Anti-Semitic Attacks Are Being Reported in US Cities as Tensions Flare over the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” CNN (Cable News Network, May 21, 2021), <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/21/us/anti-semitic-attacks-new-york-los-angeles/index.html>.

<sup>21</sup> [Main office in Gaza was destroyed by Israeli airstrike on May 17](#)

Palestinian Solidarity Statement Draft 3 ISR

Garcia

As elected members of the Undergraduate Students Association Council, we are committed to be the representative voice for over 30,000 undergraduate students at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The USAC Office of \_\_\_\_\_ affirm that we stand in solidarity with Palestinian students at UCLA and the Palestinian community at large as they struggle to reclaim their personhood in the wake of recent events in Sheikh Jarrah, a predominantly Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem.

As airstrikes and rocket attacks were exchanged between Israeli military and Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza, strikes by the Israeli Defense Forces and Hamas rockets resulted in 243 Palestinian deaths,<sup>22</sup> including dozens of Hamas senior operatives<sup>23</sup> and 66 children,<sup>24</sup> and 1,910 injuries.<sup>25</sup> Palestinians rose up to defend families that were being targeted by the Israeli military and forcibly removed from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah. Since then, the Israeli military has executed targeted attacks, storming the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which is a national symbol to the Palestinians and the larger Muslim world, enacting violence on protesters throughout Israel and occupied Palestinian territories, and toppling three buildings linked to Hamas after warning civilians to evacuate.

Each year, the U.S. provides Israel with more than \$33.8 billion in military aid funding,<sup>26</sup> and in return receives surveillance technologies, new weaponry, and control tactics that have been “battle-tested” in fighting between Israel and Hamas.<sup>27</sup> American military aid has been justified to help Israel defend itself from foreign threats, as is the case of the 1973 coordinated attack from Syria and Egypt that happened on Yom Kippur<sup>28</sup> as well as the current threats posed by the Iranian government, Hamas, and Hezbollah. However, as seen in recent events in Sheikh Jarrah, Israel’s military now has the capability to not only defend itself but also inflict significant damages on outside forces. To be clear, this violence from Israeli military assets has been led by far-right political forces in the Israeli government — actors wholly separate from the Israeli and Jewish peoples.

As representatives of the student body, we recognize that some sentiments in favor of protecting Palestinian rights have been manipulated for the purpose of perpetuating antisemitism and we heavily condemn these practices. We acknowledge and abhor the recent, severe rise in antisemitic attacks in the US and in Los Angeles and we strongly condemn these actions and affirm that UCLA needs to be a safe space for both Jewish and Palestinian students. We stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and strongly condemn those who have been antisemitic in the name of the movement for liberation. Any movement that seeks liberation cannot hold any bigoted sentiment towards an oppressed people.

We also acknowledge that UCLA has played a role in the oppression of Palestinian people by continually funding companies that violate Palestinian human rights. As elected members of the student body, we urge the university to stand in solidarity with Palestinian students and conduct a critical review of how involved elements of the US military industrial complex affect our education, in the lens of faculty, students, and administration. Even though a ceasefire is in effect, we want to make it clear that the struggles that students face are not over. We want to encourage all students to educate themselves on the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, stand in solidarity with other students, and for professors to take international events into

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<sup>22</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/africa-middle-east-israel-palestinian-conflict-health-coronavirus-pandemic-41d515a273b54187d429887a3ae9d9e8>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/21/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-war-ceasefire.html>

<sup>24</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/africa-middle-east-israel-palestinian-conflict-health-coronavirus-pandemic-41d515a273b54187d429887a3ae9d9e8>

<sup>25</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/africa-middle-east-israel-palestinian-conflict-health-coronavirus-pandemic-41d515a273b54187d429887a3ae9d9e8>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/united-states-announces-38-billion-israel-military-aid-deal-1.5433493>; <https://www.foreignassistance.gov/explore/country/Israel>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/gaza-war-is-arms-industry-cash-cow-1.5258893>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/yom-kippur-war#:~:text=On%20October%206%2C%201973%2C%20hoping,day%20in%20the%20Jewish%20calendar.&text=Israel%20counterattacked%20and%20recaptured%20the%20Golan%20Heights>.

consideration when teaching classes. Additionally, we want to highlight some of the student organizations who have been organizing for Palestinian liberation.

**As councilmembers, we aim to make it abundantly clear that we believe UCLA ought to be a place where all students feel safe and are free from harmful attacks.**

In Struggle and Solidarity,

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Resources/Books:

The Question of Palestine by Edward W Said

The Modern Middle East: A History by James Gelvin

Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Davis

Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor by Yossi Klein Halevi

Portrait of a Jew by Albert Memmi

### **Roll-Call Vote for Sign-On:**

President: Yes; draft 4

IVP:

EVP: Yes; 3rd draft

Gen Rep 1: Yes; 4th draft

Gen Rep 2: No to 1, 2, and 4; maybe 3 with edits

Gen Rep 3 : Yes; 3rd draft with edits

AAC: Yes; draft 4

CEC: Yes; draft 4

CSC: Yes; draft 4

CAC: Yes; draft 4

FAC: Yes; draft 4

SWC: Yes; draft 4

TSR: Yes; draft 4

ISR: No; any (Withdraws draft 3 from the selection, does not agree with releasing multiple versions of one statement as a Council. Will be releasing her own statement as an Office soon.)



**USAC Statement Condemning Antisemitism**

To the greater UCLA community, as students representatives from the office of General Representative 1, Academic Affairs Commission, Student Wellness Commission, Transfer Student Representative, Facilities Commission, Financial Supports Commission, Office of the President, we want to unequivocally condemn the rise of antisemitism in Westwood, in the greater Los Angeles area, and across the nation. Discrimination in any form on the basis of one's identity and/or country of origin is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated.

As a collective, it is our responsibility as representatives of the Bruin community to foster a safe campus community for all students to thrive. More specifically, it is our responsibility to ensure that our Jewish peers and community members are not a target of discrimination and ignorance.

The recent acts of antisemitism have been especially threatening to the Jewish Bruin community, as they have occurred very close to the UCLA campus.

- ❖ On May 18, 2021, there was an attack on Jewish patrons at a restaurant in West Hollywood.<sup>29</sup>
- ❖ On May 18, 2021, an Orthodox Jewish man was chased by 2 vehicles attempting to run him down in Fairfax District.<sup>30</sup>
- ❖ On May 28, 2021 a man was caught attempting to break the windows of a synagogue in Century City.<sup>31</sup>

It is critical to note that the hate crimes against the community are not limited to the aforementioned instances and several have not received sufficient coverage by the media. As hate crimes continue to occur in the vicinity of our campus, we call on non-Jewish students to stand in solidarity with their Jewish peers and to combat bigotry stemming from ignorance. We encourage our non-Jewish Bruins to join us in reflecting and educating ourselves on our positionality and privilege in order to strongly rebuke all violence perpetrated on the Jewish community.

As student leaders, we strongly denounce the use of criticism of the Israeli government as a rationalization for discrimination against the Jewish community. Bigotry and violence have no place at this institution and we urge the UCLA student body to align themselves against hate perpetrated toward our Jewish peers and the greater Jewish community. We recognize that this council has a great deal to learn with regard to antisemitism and we are using the below resources to do so. We encourage the UCLA student body to do the same.

**For Jewish community members impacted by the attacks in Los Angeles, we have included a list of community-specific resources:**

[Los Angeles Jewish Community Resource Guide by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles](#)

[Community Resources by Jewish Family Service LA](#)

[L.A. Jewish Crisis Resource Guide by the Jewish Journal](#)

**Educational Resources:**

[Antisemitic Incidents: Being an Ally, Advocate, and Activist](#)

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<sup>29</sup>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/suspect-arrested-investigation-alleged-hate-crime-attack-los/story?id=77849583>

<sup>30</sup> <https://abc7.com/man-chased-down-fairfax-district-video-los-angeles-lapd/10665553/>

<sup>31</sup>

<https://abc7.com/man-caught-on-camera-trying-to-throw-concrete-block-through-la-synagogue-windows/10717767/>



[Why the Jews: History of Antisemitism](#)

**Furthermore, we would like to highlight the resources currently offered by UCLA:**

For folks experiencing discrimination or harassment, please report incidents to the [Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)

For UCLA students seeking mental health support at UCLA, please refer to [UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services](#).

For UCLA employees seeking mental health support at UCLA, please refer to [UCLA's Staff and Faculty Counseling Center](#).

**In Solidarity,**

Breeze Velazquez, President  
Cassandra Gatica, Internal Vice President  
Hailey Valles, General Representative 1  
Herman Luis Chavez, Transfer Student Representative  
Angelina Quint, Academic Affairs Commissioner  
Jane Ni, Facilities Commissioner  
Emily Yu, Financial Supports Commissioner  
Tayloneei Jackson, Student Wellness Commissioner

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**Roll Call Vote for Sign-on:**

President: Yes  
IVP: Yes  
EVP: No  
Gen Rep 1: Yes  
Gen Rep 2: No  
Gen Rep 3: No  
AAC: Yes  
CEC: No  
CSC: Yes  
CAC: Yes  
FAC: Yes  
SWC: Yes  
TSR: No  
ISR: no

**[Resolution Supporting Palestinian Students\\*](#)**

Quint

**A Resolution in Solidarity with the Palestinian Community**

Sponsors:

Angelina Quint, Academic Affairs Commissioner

Jane Ni, Facilities Commissioner

Tayloneei Jackson, Student Wellness Commissioner

Cassandra Gatica, Internal Vice President

Breeze Velazquez, President

Hailey Valles, General Representative 1

**WHEREAS**, in the past weeks, many Palestinian families were forcibly removed from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah by the Israeli military; and

**WHEREAS**, Israeli police forces attacked the Al-Aqsa Mosque on May 7, 2021, during the Holy Month of Ramadan when around 70,000 worshippers were attending Friday prayers. Israeli police officers used tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades on Palestinian civilians, including women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, this recent violence between May 10-May 17 has left at least 212 people dead from Israeli airstrikes, the majority of them Palestinian, including at least 61 children, and destroyed 132 buildings in Gaza and have left 2,500 people homeless<sup>32</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, a documented 58,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been internally displaced as a result of Israeli bombardment of the region<sup>33</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, although a ceasefire has been called, the Israeli government has continued to mass arrest Palestinians inside the Green Line, many Palestinian citizens remain displaced, and the already broken infrastructure of Gaza has been damaged severely, impacting the ability of its residents to access resources such as hospitals and schools<sup>34</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, an Israeli airstrike destroyed the offices of over twenty Palestinian media outlets located in Gaza in order to restrict coverage of the human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli government<sup>35</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Palestinian communities continue to suffer from insufficient housing, health services, and a militarized police presence.

**WHEREAS**, the University has not done anything to show support for their Palestinian students at this time and has not even acknowledged the pain that Palestinian students are currently facing; and

**WHEREAS**, Palestinian students at UCLA have personal ties with the events occurring overseas and have experienced distress and emotional turmoil, and have publicly demanded that university administration stand in solidarity with the Palestinian community.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council stands in solidarity with the Palestinian community and with our Palestinian students whose families and community are being severely impacted by the crimes of apartheid and persecution perpetuated by the Israeli military.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC calls on university administration, the Academic Senate, academic departments, and individual professors to practice academic leniency for Palestinian students and to take into account the needs

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<sup>32</sup>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/17/world/middleeast/israel-palestine-gaza-conflict-death-toll.html>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/17/tens-of-thousands-of-palestinians-displaced-in-gaza-strip>

<sup>34</sup>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/gaza-damage-infrastructure-bombs-israel-b1850795.html>

<sup>35</sup> <https://theintercept.com/2021/05/18/gaza-journalists-israel-palestine-attacks/>

of Palestinian students during this time. We strongly urge professors to simplify finals, and we condemn making remote finals more difficult and strenuous for students.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC calls on university faculty and administration to take a public stance in solidarity with the Palestinian community and Palestinian students, donate to causes that provide aid for the Palestinian community, and publicly denounce the apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and settler-colonialism that Palestinian peoples are currently facing.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC calls on Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to offer a greater number of counseling sessions to Palestinian students and to actively work to hire more diverse counselors in the future.

**LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC calls on the university, systemwide administration, and students to exercise empathy in this distressing time for our Palestinian students, heed our demands to practice academic leniency, and stand in solidarity with the Palestinian community.

- Tayloneei moves to approve a Resolution Supporting Palestinian Students, Promise seconds
- By motion of 11-0-3 the motion passes, a Resolution Supporting Palestinian Students is approved

#### Resolution Supporting Jewish Students\*

Quint

#### **A Resolution in Support of Jewish Students Amidst Rising Antisemitism**

Sponsors:

Angelina Quint, Academic Affairs Commissioner

Jane Ni, Facilities Commissioner

Tayloneei Jackson, Student Wellness Commissioner

Cassandra Gatica, Internal Vice President

Breeze Velazquez, President

Hailey Valles, General Representative 1

**WHEREAS**, there has been a recent surge in antisemitic hate crimes and attacks on the Jewish community amid the escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing tensions across the world have impacted our Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian students close to home, within the U.S. and within the Bruin community.

**WHEREAS**, the hateful anti-Jewish rhetoric, physical assaults against Jewish people, and vandalism targeting Jewish businesses<sup>36</sup> have been used to perpetuate antisemitism, white supremacy, and neo-nazism.

**WHEREAS**, the Jewish community in Los Angeles is facing harassment and violent attacks, like the hate crime attack against

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<sup>36</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-05-19/i-a-sushi-restaurant-attack-is-being-investigated-as-an-antisemitic-hate-crime>

four Jewish people eating at a sushi restaurant on Tuesday, May 18.<sup>37</sup>

**WHEREAS**, four Jewish synagogues in Arizona, Illinois, and New York<sup>38</sup> have been vandalized by antisemitic aggressors in the past month.

**WHEREAS**, a family spending the Jewish holiday Shavuot in Florida were harassed with antisemitic remarks and sexually violent threats<sup>39</sup> by a white SUV with four young men inside.

**WHEREAS**, the violent attacks on Jewish communities throughout the United States, and in Los Angeles, have been a direct result of the harmful antisemitic rhetoric that is currently being pushed online.

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned attacks have been a few of a long history of antisemitic attacks against the Jewish community, as perpetuated by white supremacy and neo-nazis.

**WHEREAS**, the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) strives to build cross-cultural solidarity with marginalized communities across campus to combat the forces of white supremacy, neo-nazism, and systemic racism, as well as fight for equity and justice.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC strongly condemns antisemitism and hate crimes against the Jewish community, and that we strive to cultivate a campus environment that is free of discrimination, bigotry, and violence, and that is safe to all students.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC calls on university administration, the Academic Senate, academic departments, and individual professors to practice academic leniency for Jewish and Israeli students and to recognize the fear experienced by the Jewish and Israeli community during this time. We strongly urge professors to simplify finals, and we condemn making remote finals more difficult and strenuous for students.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC calls on Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to offer a greater number of counseling sessions to our Jewish and Israeli students who have been particularly impacted by the hate crimes occurring in Los Angeles.

**LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, that the USAC calls on the university, systemwide administration, and students to exercise empathy in this distressing time for many Jewish and Israeli Bruins and heed our demands to practice academic leniency.

- Promise moves to approve a Resolution Supporting Jewish Students, Herman seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, a Resolution Supporting Jewish Students is approved

[A Resolution in Reiterating Restructuring the Basic Needs Committee\\*](#)

Chavez

**A Resolution in Reiterating Restructuring the Basic Needs Committee & Creating a Basic Needs Student Advisory Board**

*Sponsored by:*

Herman Luis Chavez, Transfer Student Representative

*Co-Sponsored by:*

Cassandra Gatica, Internal Vice President

Sarah Wang, External Vice President

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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/20/us/los-angeles-police-investigating-restaurant-altercation-possible-hate-crime/index.html>

<sup>38</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/US/york-synagogues-vandalized-brazen-attacks-surveillance-video-released/story?id=77316099>

<sup>39</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/antisemitic-attacks/2021/05/23/8907864e-bbdd-11eb-83e3-0ca705a96ba4\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/antisemitic-attacks/2021/05/23/8907864e-bbdd-11eb-83e3-0ca705a96ba4_story.html)

Emily Yu, Financial Supports Commissioner  
Hailey Valles, General Representative 1  
Passa Pungchai, General Representative 2  
Carl King Jr., General Representative 3  
Natalia Garcia, International Student Representative  
Tayloneei Jackson, Student Wellness Commissioner

*Supporting Organizations:*  
Afrikan Student Union at UCLA  
Transfer Leadership Coalition

**WHEREAS**, the UCLA Basic Needs Committee lacks student voices and productive collaboration such that undergraduate students are largely unaware of the resources and programs available, with only one student organization being represented on the committee and other students being internal to the Community Programs Office<sup>40</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the UCLA Basic Needs Committee does not widely promote its meetings to the student body and did not update their website with meeting minutes for the 2020-2021 academic year up until May 2021, which is now only current up to the first month of winter quarter<sup>41</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, an updated budget was posted on October 2020<sup>42</sup> for a three-year span, but does not provide detailed yearly breakdowns of expenditures or outreach for departmental or student input for budget allocations;

**WHEREAS**, the UCLA Basic Needs Committee is housed under the Community Programs Office and directly managed by CPO administrators, and this is not the first instance in which they have failed to address or comment on the lack of financial reports provided to the public<sup>43</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the UCLA Basic Needs Committee justify their lack of transparency on the basis of sensitive information when basic needs is not a delicate subject nor a place to disclose individual, private information but rather a hub of resources to support, aid, and/or provide fundamental necessities to the most vulnerable communities;

**WHEREAS**, a letter on January 29, 2021 from CPO staff acknowledged the fluctuation of transfer applicants for the Food Box Distribution events and that their *team has managed these new challenges—including decreased student and full-time staff support for event execution, increased reliance on outreach without in-person word-of-mouth, and ever-changing COVID-19-related public health restrictions—and will continue to work collaboratively with our campus partners to reach these student communities*<sup>44</sup> yet have not reassessed their outreach to different student groups and organizations outside of the CPO Office;

**WHEREAS**, in the Basic Needs Committee Meeting SQ #2 on May 21st, 2021, the UCLA Basic Needs Chair verbally mentioned that they would not support USAC demands regarding Basic Needs, such as the “Resolution in Restructuring the Basic Needs Committee & Creating a Basic Needs Student Advisory Board” passed by the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Students Association Council<sup>45</sup>, further dismissing student voices, which coincides with the recent change in Council administration;

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<sup>40</sup> Basic Needs Organizational Flow Chart -

<https://basicneeds.ucla.edu/file/1c075ae5-4528-411f-9714-b274330afc54>

<sup>41</sup> Meeting Notes 2020-2021 - <https://basicneeds.ucla.edu/meeting-notes-2020-21>

<sup>42</sup> UCLA Basic Needs Plan - <https://basicneeds.ucla.edu/file/91c72d75-427b-4205-b242-98ecd086d9be>

<sup>43</sup> <https://dailybruin.com/2020/01/14/public-information-is-lacking-for-over-2-million-used-by-two-campus-committees>

<sup>44</sup> “CPO Basic Needs Transfer Student Data 2019-21” - Antonio Sandoval - January 29, 2021 sent via email

<sup>45</sup> “Resolution in Restructuring the Basic Needs Committee & Creating a Basic Needs Student Advisory Board” - <https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2021.A%20Resolution%20in%20Restructuring%20the%20Basic%20Needs%20Committee.pdf>

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that student representatives from the Undergraduate Students Association Council work closely with the UCLA Basic Needs Committee to ensure that the restructuring of the committee comes to fruition, which includes that the Committee welcome and invite students from the remaining 14 USAC student offices, who are not internal partners of the committee, into witnessing the restructuring process;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that every academic year the UCLA Basic Needs Committee be comprised of two subcommittees with a one-term co-chair each: a Basic Needs Committee with department representatives, external partners, and student organizations and a Basic Needs Student Advisory Board with student leads to represent each respective program under the UCLA Basic Needs Framework to best advocate for current issues and voice student input;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that UCLA update their definition of Basic Needs in alignment with current unforeseeable events and that it actively transition to the UC's intervention pyramid approach<sup>46</sup> in such that overtime its framework is structured on the premise of proactivity;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the UCLA Basic Needs Committee work in collaboration with the UC Basic Needs Village and other UCs such as the University of California, Santa Cruz<sup>47</sup> and the University of California, Berkeley<sup>48</sup> who have both administrative-led and student-led facilitation and committees and additionally have compiled a comprehensive list of student offices, clubs, and/or organizations in which they shall maintain communication with throughout each academic year;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that the UCLA Basic Needs Committee publish quarterly transparency reports and assessments and an annual end of the year report to identify gaps in programming to better coordinate and serve the student body;

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED**, that UCLA require a case management team for its Basic Need Committee that is committed to advocating for and actively outreaching to students in underserved communities;

**LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED**, that the Undergraduate Students' Association Council supports, promotes, and reiterates both the creation of a student-led basic needs committee entitled the Basic Needs Student Advisory Board and the restructuring of the UCLA Basic Needs Committee to include other departments and student organizations, as passed by the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Students Association Council.

- Herman moves to approve A Resolution in Reiterating Restructuring the Basic Needs Committee & Creating a Basic Needs Student Advisory Board, Passa seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, A Resolution in Reiterating Restructuring the Basic Needs Committee & Creating a Basic Needs Student Advisory Board is approved

[A Resolution in Support of Proposed Changes in the Westwood Village Plan](#)\*

Ni

**A Resolution in Support of Proposed Changes in the Westwood Village Specific Plan**

**Sponsors:**

Jane Ni, Facilities Commissioner

**Co-Sponsors:**

Hailey Valles, General Representative One

Cassandra Gatica, Internal Vice President

Sarah Wang, External Vice President

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<sup>46</sup> Basic Needs Intervention Pyramid - <https://sites.google.com/berkeley.edu/bnc-dashboard#h.radtxe9z8b5n>

<sup>47</sup> The UCSC Basic Needs Team - <https://basicneeds.ucsc.edu/about/basic-needs-team.html>

<sup>48</sup> Basic Needs Security Report - [https://diversity.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/ucb\\_basic\\_needs\\_report.pdf](https://diversity.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/ucb_basic_needs_report.pdf)

**WHEREAS**, UCLA has approximately 46,000<sup>49</sup> undergraduate and graduate students, as well as an additional 46,130<sup>50</sup> staff and faculty members, who are all stakeholders of Westwood and Westwood Village; and

**WHEREAS**, Westwood Village was developed in conjunction with UCLA and was designed to be a thriving retail destination for students and other residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Westwood Village Specific Plan was established in 1989, with amendments in 1991, and 2004, is the guiding document for all urban planning and business development in the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, the Specific Plan currently contains many prohibitive definitions and restrictions that are outdated and have resulted in a crippling 32% vacancy rate in Westwood Village; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles Department of City Planning has released a draft ordinance<sup>51</sup> to amend the Westwood Village Specific Plan, referred to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee by Los Angeles Fifth District City Councilmember Paul Koretz<sup>52</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, significant amendments include eliminating ratios for fast food versus restaurant land uses in the Village. The current language classifies almost all food uses, particularly popular and affordable fast-casual concepts, as “fast food” and subsequently restricts the amount of these restaurants that can be established on each block of the Village. Therefore, this change would allow more affordable and popular restaurants to enter the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, significant amendments include administrative approval for signage that complies with existing Westwood Village Specific Plan regulations. Signage that deviates from the plan will still go through the current Design Review Board Process. The current process disincentivizes business development by slowing down the approval of signage projects and increasing costs for small business owners; and

**WHEREAS**, significant amendments include returning parking requirements to those in the General Zoning Code. The current Specific Plan requires more parking than the General Zoning Code for many land uses, creating an overabundance of unnecessary parking which increases costs on developers, thereby disincentivizing investment in the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, on and off-street parking requirements in the Village and elsewhere impose an enormous cost on developers and businesses by requiring them to develop or purchase parking instead of letting them decide the amount that is necessary for their land use. This cost is passed on to residents and consumers in the form of higher rents and more expensive goods; and

**WHEREAS**, Old City Pasadena effectively removed off-street parking requirements and replacement requirements, which along with other parking reforms significantly changed its status as a deteriorating downtown to a thriving retail, dining, and performance destination; and

**WHEREAS**, Westwood Village requires significant parking reform beyond returning to General Zoning Code to support its return to a thriving business district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Westwood Village Improvement Association (WVIA) is asking for two additional amendments to the Specific Plan regarding parking. First, they are calling to eliminate parking requirements for business change of use. Second, they are asking that off-site parking requirements are allowed to be met by lease in lieu of covenants, which would allow more property owners to lease their parking property and thereby allow more businesses to meet the requirements to establish themselves in the Village; and

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<sup>49</sup> [Fast Facts about UCLA](#)

<sup>50</sup> [Faculty & Staff](#) (headcount as of October 2020)

<sup>51</sup> [Ordinance FAQ](#)

<sup>52</sup> [LA City Clerk Council File: 18-1101 \(Koretz Support\)](#)

**WHEREAS**, undergraduate students are directly impacted by the proposed amendments as the Specific Plan controls the ability of the Village to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, students and the Undergraduate Students Association have consistently been allies and activists in the fight to reclaim Westwood Village to improve affordability, accessibility, and prosperity for local businesses and residents alike.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the UCLA USAC supports the proposed amendments to the Westwood Village Specific Plan in the Draft Westwood Ordinance<sup>53</sup>; and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the UCLA USAC supports the additional amendments proposed by the WVIA to reduce parking requirements; and

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the UCLA USAC emphasizes the importance of undergraduate students as stakeholders in the Village and affirms to LA City Planning the importance of including student input equally as stakeholders in Westwood and the Village.

- Promise moves to pass A Resolution in Support of Proposed Changes in the Westwood Village Plan, Maya seconds
- By motion of 13-0-0 the motion passes, A Resolution in Support of Proposed Changes in the Westwood Village Plan is approved

## **XI. Adjournment\***

Velazquez

- Breeze adjourns the meeting at 11:27 pm

**Good and Welfare;**

\* Indicates Action Item

# Indicates Consent Item

@Indicates Executive Session Item

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<sup>53</sup> [Draft Ordinance](#)