

A Resolution to Recognize and Honor the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at UCLA.

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addressed thousands of University of California, Los Angeles students on April 27, 1965 (the 4th Tuesday of April) at the bottom of Janss Steps under the auspices of the Associated Students Speakers Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., fought to end segregation in this nation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was one of the leaders of the Montgomery Bus Boycott to desegregate buses in the South in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his work in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., advocated for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which guaranteed the right to vote for all African American citizens, through the March from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in that speech declared "America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., believed the US was the greatest purveyor of violence in the world¹; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., believed in the radical redistribution of wealth to fight for economic justice, and solve racial problems in the US. The Undergraduate Students Association Council, which is a microcosm of the world, must fight towards similar virtues on the UCLA campus and Los Angeles community; and

WHEREAS, Freedom, justice, and equality have not been experienced by Black people in America, as evidenced by the Prison Industrial Complex, the mass murders of Black individuals by police, and the anti-Blackness sentiments felt throughout this nation; and

WHEREAS, unequal schooling and segregation continues to be a pandemic scourging the American "Educational" system²; and

¹ King, Martin L, *Beyond Vietnam*, April 6, 1967

² <http://www.propublica.org/article/segregation-now-full-text>

WHEREAS, the University of California, Los Angeles has the responsibility to promote diversity and anti-racism both inside and outside of the classroom³; and

WHEREAS, in spite of Dr. King (and others) efforts toward a more egalitarian society, UCLA as a center of Global Higher Education is only 4% Black, demonstrating the continued racial inequity of our society; and

WHEREAS, similar to the segregation era, a Black person is murdered by extra-legal violence every 28 hours⁴; and

WHEREAS, this may explain why King Jr., later Dr. would later declare “not long after talking about that dream I started seeing it turn into a nightmare”; and

WHEREAS, this may explain why Dr. King eventually gave merit to the principle of Black (Afrikan) Independence and Self-Determination stating “there are some situations where separation may serve as a temporary way-station to the ultimate goal which we seek”; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Students Association Council, along with the Afrikan Student Union calls on the administration of the University of California, Los Angeles to annually recognize every 4th Tuesday of April, as a King Remembrance Day and play one of his many speeches in its entirety publicly for all of campus to hear; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Students Association Council, along with the Afrikan Student Union will program a Dr. King speech viewing and educational program that speaks specifically to the role the UCLA community must play in helping to achieve Dr. King’s vision of the Beloved Community, on every 4th Tuesday of April of every year; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Students Association Council, along with the Afrikan Student Union calls on the administration of the University of California, Los Angeles to create a larger and more visible memorial for Dr. King to honor his legacy at UCLA; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Students Association Council, along with the Afrikan Student Union calls on UCLA Undergraduate Admission, to

³ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/4400.html>

⁴ <https://mxgm.org/operation-ghetto-storm-2012-annual-report-on-the-extrajudicial-killing-of-313-black-people>

incorporate Dr. King's legacy at UCLA into the script of every tour given, as well as by visiting the memorial on Janss Steps every April 4th.