

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DAILY BRUIN EDITORIAL BOARD'S DISRESPECTFUL RHETORIC REGARDING TRANSFER STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the leaders of the Transfer Leadership Coalition (TLC) and the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) write to express our condemnation of the 2019-2020 Daily Bruin Editorial Board for its disrespectful comments against transfer students seeking to run for student government positions and lack of consideration for students from “non-traditional” backgrounds. The USAC and TLC fully acknowledge the problematic nature of defining the 4-year college route as “traditional,” implying it to be more acceptable than the transfer pathway and therefore it has been placed in quotes.

WHEREAS, the USAC and TLC believe that this type of rhetoric reinforces exclusionary practices that prevent transfer students from accessing spaces of leadership on campus. By determining what types of experience are relevant in evaluations, the Daily Bruin erases the valuable experiences, knowledge, and connections that transfer students gain prior to their arrival at UCLA. The fourth element of creating a transfer-receptive culture is to “acknowledge the lived experiences that students bring and the intersectionality between community and family.”¹ By characterizing the non-UCLA experiences of transfer students as less than, the Daily Bruin violates the necessary elements for creating a transfer-receptive culture at UCLA.

WHEREAS, this is not the first instance of rhetoric that minimizes the experiences and qualifications of transfer students and students who partake in activism outside the institution of student government. This language included describing the labor of a candidate for the External Vice President’s position as being “more fit for the picket lines than for a USAC meeting².” While the Daily Bruin has the right to issue endorsements, such problematic rhetoric has been used in previous non-endorsements of candidates who have done work in community-based activism.³ Work outside the institution is often the sole avenue for transfer students to engage. As a community without secure access to higher education or bureaucratic institutions, transfers must advocate for their communities through coalition-building in the spaces transfers are welcomed in.

WHEREAS, this is not the first instance of rhetoric by the Daily Bruin that invalidates the diverse experiences of transfer students who choose the “non-traditional” college route by perpetuating the “easy-route” narrative. This language included minimizing the reasons for attending a community college to merely a matter of ease and financial burden.⁴ In reality, the decision to follow a “non-traditional” college route is a matter of varying degrees of circumstances including, but not limited to: remaining at home to care for friends or family members, returning to school

¹https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Portals/0/CandIGDivision/documents/Transfer%20Receptive%20Culture_.pdf (Page 53)

² <https://imgur.com/a/MPUgyhC>

³<https://dailybruin.com/2019/10/27/usac-fall-2019-special-election-no-endorsement-for-justin-suarez-for-general-representative/>

⁴ <https://dailybruin.com/2020/02/18/increase-in-transfer-applicants-indicative-of-larger-uc-affordability-issues/>

after a career change or service in the armed forces, being a justice-impacted student, lacking support during the college admission process in highschool, and having familial obligations.

WHEREAS, the Daily Bruin Editorial Board has a history of double-standards by correcting their own opinions upon public backlash, but applies a strict “no changes” policy to requests for changes from non-affiliated individuals unless such language is “factually inaccurate.” The Daily Bruin’s non-adherence to their own standards of journalism and pick-and-choose policy of changes both harms the newspaper’s credibility and lacks consideration for concerns outside of the Editorial Board’s own public-approval. This non-adherence to standards fosters an environment where the Daily Bruin Editorial Board is able to initiate changes to the record simply with enough public outcry and condemnation, and allows for opinion pieces to remain unchanged so long as the public agrees with the Editorial Board.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the TLC and USAC call on Daily Bruin Editorial Board to issue a public apology for their continued usage of anti-Transfer rhetoric. Such an apology should not simply be made at the bottom of the updated non-endorsement evaluation itself, but a platform equal to which the original non-endorsement was used.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TLC and USAC call on the Daily Bruin Editorial Board to be more considerate of the impact of their words on students before making incendiary and non-fact-based evaluations. Such practices should be reflected in all future Daily Bruin articles and not just those regarding student government endorsements and evaluations.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the TLC and USAC call on the Daily Bruin Editorial Board to institute reforms within the organization to welcome and encourage students to apply. The Daily Bruin, as the leading university publication, should have a representative portion of transfer students.