



**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL**
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A Resolution to Recognize

the 20th Anniversary of Samahang Pilipino Advancing Community of Empowerment and the 30th Anniversary of Samahang Pilipino Education and Retention

WHEREAS, Samahang Pilipino was founded in 1972 as a collective of Pilipinx and Pilipinx-American students aiming to provide a community space for Pilipinx students, ultimately advocating on behalf of the Pilipinx community for issues regarding access, retention, and culture.

WHEREAS, In response to the significant decline in Pilipinx student retention rates after the explicit exclusion of Pilipinx and Pilipinx Americans from Affirmative Action policies in 1986, Pilipino American Project for Education and Retention (PAPER) was established in 1989 by Samahang student leaders, which later became known as Samahang Pilipino Education and Retention (SPEAR).

WHEREAS, Samahang Pilipino Education and Retention (SPEAR) is one of the five student-run, student-initiated retention projects under the Student Retention Center (SRC) which specifically address the barriers to the retention of Pilipinx students at UCLA. Its primary goal is to achieve 100% retention of the Pilipinx/Pilipinx-American community at UCLA and envisions an actively engaged community composed of self-aware and critically conscious students who prioritize their wellbeing while pursuing their goals.

WHEREAS, SPEAR strives to holistically empower students to navigate higher education and achieve their academic and personal goals within and beyond their time at UCLA through its four components: Samahang Teaching Through Experience (STEP) Internship, One Step Ahead (OSA) mentorship, peer counseling, and SRC resources such as the Test Bank and Study Hall. STEP Internship provides culturally relevant education and leadership development for 30-40

students each year including an opportunity to learn about other marginalized communities at UCLA. OSA mentorship builds a social and professional community for 100-200+ students every year. Its peer counseling component provides one-on-one academic and holistic support for approximately 400 students each year with particular focus on High Risk, Academic Action, and Dismissed students.

WHEREAS, Through the consistent hard work and dedication of its student leaders, SPEAR has played a significant part in increasing the 4 year graduation rates of traditional students by 12.9% and the 3 year graduation rates of transfer students by 11.8% at UCLA since 2009.

WHEREAS, The exclusion of Pilipinx students from Affirmative Action in the 1980s also significantly impacted Pilipinx admission rates into these institutions. Decades later, Pilipinx students, along with many other minority groups, continue to face inequities in accessing and achieving higher education. Currently, students of Pilipinx descent are only 10% of the Asian UCLA undergraduate population while Pilipinx individuals are 23% of California's Asian population.

WHEREAS, Samahang Pilipino Advancing Community Empowerment (SPACE) is one of seven student-run, student-initiated outreach projects under the Student Initiated Outreach Committee that promotes access of Pilipinx students into higher education. Founded in the 1999-2000 academic year, SPACE envisions Pilipinx/Pilipinx-American students who are motivated to pursue higher education and postsecondary goals with respect to their personal interests by empowering themselves through understanding of holistic goals and needs in order to take full ownership of their education, application of their agency as leaders in a self-sustaining community, and the embodiment of critical consciousness reflective of their personal history, capacity, and role in the community.

WHEREAS, SPACE addresses the academic and holistic needs of all students with specific focus on Pilipinx-identifying students. SPACE does this through a holistic and personal approach to their peer tutoring and peer advising services at their high school and community college sites within the greater Los Angeles area, specifically at Carson High School, Van Nuys High School,

and El Camino Community College. In conjunction, field trips to college campuses and collaborations with different collegiate Pilipinx organizations combine SPACE's work in bridging community, identity, and higher education. Moreover, an annual conference at UCLA for SPACE's service-recipients centered on community organizing and an internship for UCLA students provide spaces to discuss the role of student empowerment in pursuit of higher education.

WHEREAS, In the 2018-19 academic year alone, SPACE conducted 535 peer tutoring sessions and 168 peer advising sessions just at Carson High School alone. This year, this amount was increased to 10% with 585 peer tutoring sessions and 185 peer advising sessions only after two quarters at Carson High School and is still increasing. Likewise, at El Camino Community College, SPACE held 347 peer advising sessions in total last year. At Van Nuys High School, there is a consistent growth in personal investment of students in the program with the implementation of a student ambassador program where SPACE high school students can create and teach culturally-relevant topics among their peers that promote the values of culture and empowerment. Moreover, SPACE's internship has grown to about 30 students large this year and its staff has nearly doubled in size with approximately 20 passionate student volunteers. In recent years, SPACE staff has also included volunteer members and project coordinators who were once students themselves receiving SPACE's services, thus highlighting the goal of promoting a sustainable community.

WHEREAS, Through the ongoing commitment and zeal of student leaders, SPACE has supported numerous students in their journey in being admitted into public universities, including various schools in the University of California and California State University systems, as well as many private institutions.

WHEREAS, SPEAR and SPACE have elected officials within the Samahang Pilipino Board, the Retention Coordinator and the Access Coordinator, to represent their communities within the Campus Retention Center (CRC) and Student Initiated Outreach Committee (SIOC), respectively. The Access and Retention Coordinators serve as student liaisons between the

committees, Samahang Pilipino, and the greater Pilipinx community to advocate for the access and retention needs of marginalized communities to be addressed by UCLA.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council (USAC) recognizes SPEAR & SPACE's efforts in raising access and retention rates for Pilipinx students by providing necessary academic and holistic services, creating community building spaces, and consistently addressing the needs of the Pilipinx community.

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC recognizes the importance of maintaining SPEAR & SPACE's, as well as all projects housed under the SIOC and CRC's, student-initiated and student-run core principles.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USAC recognizes SPEAR & SPACE's contributions to the overall Pilipinx community.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the USAC congratulates SPACE and SPEAR on a fruitful 20 and 30 years, respectively, of service to the Pilipinx community within and beyond the UCLA campus.