

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE BRUINHUB COMMUTER STUDENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, there is a true need for commuter student and houseless student support from the University;

WHEREAS, Westwood, the closest living community to the UCLA campus, has the highest average rent prices in California, forcing many students to live further from campus to save money;¹

WHEREAS, a super-commute (defined as a 90+ minute one-way commute) is a constant reality for at least 18% of students who live off-campus;²

WHEREAS, almost half of students experience housing insecurity and 15% of students face houselessness during their undergraduate career;³

WHEREAS, UCLA has committed to returning to predominantly in-person instruction, so most students will need to report to campus to receive and excel at their education;⁴

WHEREAS, the issues of long commutes and houselessness disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) UCLA students;⁵

WHEREAS, UCLA's cityLAB a team of student advocates and administrators at UCLA ('The BruinHub Coalition) have created a new resource space on campus called the BruinHub. The space provides rest and community for students with long and extreme commutes and for students experiencing housing insecurity.

WHEREAS, due to the aftereffects of the pandemic, we are seeing even more students commuting and facing forms of financial, housing, and/or food insecurity. For UCLA to meet the needs of these students, we had to prioritize creative solutions to centralize resources that address the experiences of students most affected by the crisis. The BruinHub is one such solution that, with an expanded mandate, has assisted in providing a safe and accessible space for our underserved students.

¹<https://www.latimes.com/business/real-estate/story/2019-10-09/westwood-california-highest-rents#:~:text=In%20Westwood%2C%20the%20average%20apartment,the%20highest%20rate%20in%20California.&text=For%20the%20second%20straight%20year,place%20to%20rent%20an%20apartment>

²https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5f174899f7eeee5f87c9a1a3/1595361446786/cityLAB+BruinHub+Update+July+21_2020.pdf

³https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5f174899f7eeee5f87c9a1a3/1595361446786/cityLAB+BruinHub+Update+July+21_2020.pdf

⁴<https://dailybruin.com/2021/04/02/ucla-announces-preliminary-plans-for-fall-return-to-campus-in-person-instruction>

⁵https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e4e9705016e194dd5cdc43/t/5d8bb03f597be3780c8542bd/1569435766654/19-0924+MCiH_Final_Update.pdf

WHEREAS, University of California provided the seed money to create the initial space with 5 pods. The FY22 CPF award of \$450,000 will allow us to increase to 10 pods. Our new proposal builds upon the initial grant to expand the BruinHub reach to serve more commuter/housing insecure students with an expansion of the current commuter space and add “mini” satellite locations.

WHEREAS, since opening in Fall 2021, even during hybrid learning, the BruinHub has served 1,368 students with only 5 pods. This expansion of twenty more pods would result in a 600% increase in our ability to serve students.

WHEREAS, FY23 CPF funding would allow for not only a physical expansion of the current BruinHub, but it would provide funding to support the operations, programmatic elements, resource development in the creation of two “mini” satellite BruinHubs providing 20 additional pods in designated commuter high-traffic areas of the campus.

WHEREAS, the ability for the University to expand the BruinHub project would be augmented upon the receipt of Community Program Fund (CPF) support from Senator Alex Padilla or Senator Dianne Feinstein, and the University is in the process of applying for said funding;

WHEREAS, additional university, state, and federal support is needed to combat UCLA student housing insecurity, with additional interventions such as rent relief, housing grants, and new university and private affordable housing construction needed to address systemic housing unaffordability for students in Los Angeles;

WHEREAS, we envision partnerships with local community colleges to model our commuter student support and serve in an advisory role to support the needs of this diverse student population.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the UCLA USAC supports the request for \$1,000,000 in Congressional Community Project Funding from the FY23 budget to support UCLA’s BruinHub and address student housing insecurity.