

A Resolution Commemorating Lily Shaw and her Contributions to Disabled Student Advocacy in USAC and the Broader UCLA Community

WHEREAS, Lily Shaw was a former undergraduate student and a beloved member of the UCLA community. As a disabled student, she was a strong advocate for disability rights and the rights of all marginalized communities on campus, receiving a Bachelors in Political Science with minors in Disability Studies and Labor Studies. While at UCLA, she was a trailblazing student leader, serving as the 2019 - 2020 USAC Facilities Commissioner, chairing The Green Initiative Fund from 2019 - 2020, co-founding the Disabled Student Union (DSU), and serving as UCLA Radio's 2019 - 2020 Events Manager; and

WHEREAS, on 19 August 2020, at the age of 22, Lily Shaw passed away at her home in Nashville, Tennessee, surrounded by her family and loved ones, and mourned by friends, loved ones, and the entire UCLA community; and

WHEREAS, at UCLA, she was recognized for her contributions to disability advocacy and received the Disability Studies Minor scholarships (Samuel Oschin Scholarship, 2018, Shapiro Family Scholarship, 2019); and

WHEREAS, the 2020 - 2021 USAC Facilities Commission is guided by Lily's principles of community and acceptance, and her saying "no normies allowed" lives on within the commission as a reminder that all students deserve a safe space to be themselves and grow as individuals and student leaders; and

WHEREAS, at UCLA, Lily founded the Facilities Commission project "Access on Board," focusing on her Greater Visibility initiative which aimed to destigmatize disability and advocate for the inclusion of students with disabilities on campus. Further, Lily institutionalized disability advocacy in USAC bylaws of the USAC Facilities Commission to ensure that all future commissions advocate for accessibility; and

WHEREAS, Lily achieved \$35,000 in funding for a Center for Accessible Education (CAE) Redesign project, with the goal of renovating the physical CAE offices to become a community space for students with disabilities and with the ultimate goal of establishing a Disability Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, Lily continually advocated for improvements in the Center for Accessible Education's services as well as UCLA's lack of basic accessibility standards at large, including non-compliant infrastructure and no support for access and retention; and

WHEREAS, Lily chaired the 2019 - 2020 The Green Initiative Fund, overseeing student sustainability funding and ensuring that all organizations had access to this vital resource while pushing the sustainability movement at UCLA to be inclusive of students with disabilities and BIPOC students; and

WHEREAS, since founding the DSU, it has blossomed into an organization with a social community guided by Lily's ideologies of inclusion, activism, and education; and

WHEREAS, Lily advocated for inclusion and community in every space she was in, including USAC, Greek Life, and other student organizations;

WHEREAS, Lily advocated for all marginalized students as a result of her lived experience and her beliefs, co-founding Safe Parking at UCLA to support unhoused students and strongly supporting the establishment of a Black Resource Center, the Cultivating Unity for Bruins Referendum, and other social justice issues on campus; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from UCLA in June 2020, she was a leader in the Nashville Disability Justice Collective, working in her hometown to promote racial and disability justice; and

WHEREAS, Lily aspired to attend law school to further her education and eventually advocate for disability rights to be regarded as human rights at the level of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, Lily envisioned the creation of a Disability Cultural Center which would be an all-inclusive, accessible physical space where disabled students could congregate and share their frustrations, triumphs, and advice without fear of consequence or intervention from UCLA.

WHEREAS, the creation of a Lily Shaw Disability Cultural Center would be the physical realization of Lily's principles of community, inclusion, and support; and

WHEREAS, 422 donors contributed a total of \$28,410 in Lily's memory to support the creation of the Lily Shaw Disability Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, student leaders continue to advocate for the creation of the Lily Shaw Disability Cultural center on campus; and

WHEREAS, Lily touched the lives of everyone she interacted with, supporting even the most difficult to achieve projects and encouraging all those she affected to follow their dreams; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2019 - 2020 USAC Council, who had the great honor of closely working alongside Lily throughout her time as an elected leader, hereby sign on to this resolution: *President: Robert Blake Watson, Internal Vice President: Kimberly Bonifacio, External Vice President: Johana Guerra Martinez, General Representative 1: Lalo Velazquez, General Representative 2: Orion Smedley, General Representative 3: Brandon J. Broukhim, Academic Affairs Commissioner: Naomi Riley, Campus Events Commissioner: Tara Steinmetz, Community Service Commissioner: Jonathan Wisner, Cultural Affairs Commissioner: Kelechi Iheanacho, Financial Supports Commissioner: Millen Srivastava, Student Wellness Commissioner: Mihika Sridhar, Transfer Student Representative: Isabel Orah, International Student Representative: Shahamah Tariq;*

WHEREAS, the Disabled Student Union, UCLA Radio, and the 2020 - 2021 USAC Facilities Commission are forever grateful for her contributions to these organizations and hereby sign on to this resolution; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the USAC commemorates Lily Shaw's contributions to the council, UCLA, and to all of her communities; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the USAC urges all future councils to educate themselves on Lily's contributions, uphold her guiding principles of accessibility, inclusion, and community in all endeavors, and re-pass memorial resolutions to commit each years' council to these principles; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the USAC recognizes that they themselves and the university at large has a long way to go in implementing basic accessibility standards to promote the inclusion of all students regardless of disability status, understanding that they must continue to listen to and amplify the voices of the Disabled Student Union as well as other disabled students; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the USAC Council supports and stands in solidarity with the active efforts to establish the Lily Shaw Disability Cultural Center on campus;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the USAC supports past, current, and future activism from the disabled community at UCLA through tangible advocacy and support in their capacity as council members;

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT Lily's guiding principles and contributions continue to lead and influence decisions made by USAC as well as the broader UCLA population in our fight for equitable education for all students.