

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Issue: Creating a Permanent Pro-Diversity Campaign (“permIGNITE”)

Sponsor: Nushi Yapabandara (Founder and Chair, UCSB), Dominick Williams (Co-Chair, UCB), Tamara Favors (UCM), Omer Sohail (UCR), Miguel Martinez Jr. (Legislative Director, UCSD), Cristián González Reyes (UCSD), Idalys Perez (UCB), Zoe Broussard (UCI), Kosi Ogbuli (Organizing Director, UCLA), Refilwe Gqajela (UCSD)

Whereas, Black and brown folx must be excessively and unnecessarily resilient in today’s day and age, taking into consideration the racism and bigotry that existed pre-45th era; AND,

Whereas, since the 45th’s election, Black and brown folx have become even more marginalized to the point where the continuation of their existence in this country is becoming questionable; AND,

Whereas, police brutality toward both Black and brown folx especially has not seen improvement; AND,

Whereas, “permIGNITE” is simply a placeholder name for the permanent diversity campaign that we are requesting UCSA to implement, as it will not be focused solely on the school-to-prison pipeline, but will be structured to uplift students of color in their battles against oppressive systems within the UC; AND,

Whereas, we would like to structure “permIGNITE” as an adaptable campaign based on uplifting the demands of cultural orgs such as the Black Student Union (BSU), Afrikan Black Coalition (ABC), and Improving Dreams, Equality, and Success (IDEAS) among others so that the campaign endures and is useful for years to come; AND,

Whereas, as the organization and its campaigns are structured at the moment UCSA has no official duty to protect Black and brown students, resulting in a lack of support for students of color in the obstacles they are facing today; AND,

Whereas, the permanent UCSA campaigns, Fund the UC (FTUC) and UC We Vote, have been the only campaigns to be fully implemented in the tumultuous time since the 45th was elected although other UCSA campaigns were equally important; AND,

Whereas, after speaking with UCSA’s Treasurer, it has been confirmed that adding a third permanent campaign would be possible without considerable budget cuts toward other crucial campaigns and aspects of UCSA; AND,

Whereas, FTUC and UC We Vote were made permanent campaigns because both were very needed (free college and voter registration), and to say that a permanent pro-diversity campaign should not be implemented would be deprioritizing students of color across all UC campuses, which would be in direct conflict with the UC’s mission statement of uplifting diverse students; AND,

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Whereas, UCSA has been accused of being anti-Black and apathetic toward students of color multiple times in previous years and has taken no action to assuage these concerns; AND,

Whereas, students of color swallowed their pride and decided to come to UCSA with a solution to these problems in the form of “permiGNITE” despite the lack of any type of apology to UC students of color who were offended by the organization’s previous actions; AND,

Whereas, although some guidelines as to how “permiGNITE” should be structured within this resolution, we are opening the door for strong collaboration with UCSA as mentioned below:

Let it be resolved that UCSA supports establishing a permanent diversity campaign, temporarily known as “permiGNITE” until a more apt name is chosen, to show UC students of color that they will be supported at all costs in a time when their basic rights are being stripped away by the second. UCSA will also establish an ad hoc committee dedicated to fleshing out the campaign with regards to the final name of this campaign, its official mission statement, long and short term goals, budget, action plan, a process for bringing caucus chairs to UCSA board meetings would require significant capital, chairs could (a) utilize Zoom to attend meetings and vote digitally or (b) utilize UCSA’s Discretionary Funding line item to fund their attendance (roughly \$3,000), how the caucus chairs could be utilized to flesh out, deepen, and expand the Cultural Competency Training that last year’s UCSA President, Ralph Washington Jr., established through UCOP as one of the reIGNITE campaign’s long term goals, and any other area of this campaign as deemed necessary by Nushi Yapabandara (reIGNITE founder and chair) and Dominick Williams (reIGNITE co-chair) in conjunction. The ad hoc committee will consist of 6 folx of color including potential non-voting, non-Board members, who are not required to be part of UCSA’s board of directors, no more and no less to mitigate potential internal conflict. These folx may be either undergraduate or graduate students. The committee should be officially formed and have its first convening by October 14th, 2017. The ad hoc committee must diligently complete their work as outlined above by January 1st, 2018. The new campaign will then be strongly advertised, supported, and advocated for by each UC campus and UCSA, regardless of circumstances, because UCSA will make students of color a top priority from this point onward.

Explanation: Y’all knew this was coming, don’t act brand new. Rise with us by approving this campaign or oppress us with your apathy. There is no intermediate.