

PermIGNITE Resolution December 2017

Issue: Creating a Permanent Racial Justice, Solidarity Campaign ("PermIGNITE")

Sponsor: Nushi Yapabandara (Founder and Co-Chair, UCSB), Dominick Williams (Co-Chair and Legislative Director, UCB), Tamara Favors (UCM), Omer Sohail (Legislative Director, UCR), Miguel Martinez Jr. (Legislative Director, UCSD), Christián González Reyes (UCSD), Zoe Broussard (UCI), Kosi Ogbuli (Organizing Director, UCLA), Refilwe Gqajela (UCSD), Miguel Ángel Tapía Trujillo (UCSD), Parshan Khosravi (UCLA), Christian Green (UCLA GSA)

Whereas, Marginalized communities, Black and brown folx must be excessively and unapologetically resilient, taking into consideration the racism and bigotry that existed pre-US Presidential 45th's era, during, and beyond; AND,

Whereas, The fight for collective liberation is one that takes the acknowledgment of our differences before we move forward as one. This acknowledgment is crucial in order to prevent the erasure of our most marginalized communities, and is not something that can be achieved overnight; AND,

Whereas, Permanence of such an important campaign is necessary as we navigate growth and progress with multiple communities and identities; AND,

Whereas, since the 45th's election, marginalized communities, 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, we would like to structure Permanently Invest in Graduation, Not Incarceration, Transform Education (PermIGNITE) as an adaptable campaign based on uplifting the demands of cultural orgs such as the Black Student Union (BSU), The Undocumented Student Coalition, 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 explicit, permanent duty to protect marginalized 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 (term 2017-2018), 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 identified as necessary. To say that a permanent racial justice campaign should not be implemented would be deprioritizing students of color across UC campuses and would be in direct conflict with the UC's mission statement of uplifting diverse students; AND,

Whereas, UCSA has been accused of being anti-Black and apathetic toward marginalized communities multiple times in previous years and has taken little action to assuage these concerns; AND,

Whereas, students of color came to UCSA with a solution to these problems in the form of "PermIGNITE" despite the lack of any type of apology or accountability to campus communities harmed by the organization's previous actions.

Let it be resolved that UCSA will establish a permanent racial justice campaign, known as Permanently Invest in Graduation, Not Incarceration, Transform Education, hereinafter referred to as PermIGNITE. This campaign will serve to show racialized communities within the UC that they will be supported and made priorities of campus leadership, especially in a global political climate that has steadily utilized the university to harm them.

Let it Further be Resolved, This campaign will build upon the work and progress of ReIGNITE and its previous iterations, for their goals are central to the goals of PermIGNITE and will be heralded as top priorities of PermIGNITE.

Let it Further be Resolved, In addition to the responsibility of the External Vice Presidents, the Organizing Directors, the Legislative Directors, staff, and additional members of the board, the PermIGNITE campaign will be the responsibility of at least one PermIGNITE Campaign Chair, whose responsibilities are to maintain the vitality and longevity of the PermIGNITE campaign. This position will be appointed by the previous PermIGNITE Campaign Chair, to then be approved by the UCSA board.