

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA STUDENT ASSOCIATION (UCSA)
A Resolution on Addressing UC International Student Concerns

Formal Sponsors:

- Caroline Siegel Singh (UCSA Financial Aid Advocacy Officer & UC San Diego AS Senator)
- Chloe Pan (UCLA USAC External Vice President)
- Eric Hu (UCLA GSA Director of Graduate Events & UCSA Academic Affairs Officer)
- Parshan Khosravi (UCSA Treasurer & UCLA GSA Vice President of External Affairs)
- Vignesh Iyer (UC Santa Cruz Legislative Director)

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Co-Sponsors:

- Alice Malmberg (UC Santa Cruz SUA Vice President of Internal Affairs)
- Bryant Kalim Gunaman (UC Irvine AS Information and Computer Science Senator)
- Harshil Bansal (UC Berkeley ASUC Senator)
- Hayden Jackson (UC Council on Student Fees Chair)
- Kayla He (UCLA USAC General Representative 2)
- Kevin Yi (UC Berkeley ASUC Office of Senator Taehan Lee Policy Director)
- Lynn Shiung (UC Berkeley ASUC Senator)
- Taehan Lee (UC Berkeley ASUC Senator)
- Zhuonan Steven Jiang (UC Irvine AS International Student Senator)

WHEREAS, there are 24,899 undergraduate international students and 13,018 graduate international students on the 10 University of California (UC) campuses as of Fall 2017; and,¹

WHEREAS, 11.48% of undergraduate students and 23.13% of graduate students enrolled in the UC system in Fall 2017 are international students as of Fall 2017; and,

WHEREAS, international and non-resident students in the UC system pay an extra \$28,014 for tuition per year for the same education as California resident students; and,²

¹ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/fall-enrollment-glance>

² <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc/tuition-and-cost/index.html>

WHEREAS, international students are also required to pay higher supplemental fees than in-state students, in areas such as the professional degree supplemental tuition (PDST) fee; and,

WHEREAS, the UC Graduate Student Well-Being Survey has gathered detailed information about the experience of international graduate students and the challenges they face; and,³

WHEREAS, there are no questions about the experience of international undergraduate students on the University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES); and,⁴

WHEREAS, many international students are financially unstable and suffer from a lack of financial aid; the UC Graduate well-being survey administered in 2016 shows that 46% of UC graduate international students are financially unstable; and,⁵

WHEREAS, at the March 2018 meeting of the UC Board of Regents at UCLA, the Board decided to raise tuition for non-resident students by \$978 (3.5%), thereby raising the financial burden for non-resident students to attend a UC campus; and,⁶

WHEREAS, existing cultural and linguistic barriers have historically made it difficult for international students to mobilize their communities in order to advocate on behalf of their concerns, a reality that the UC has historically exploited to subject the community into undue burdens that are hard to bear; and,

WHEREAS, not every UC student government includes director, commissioner, officer, or senate positions to specifically advocate on behalf of international students; and,

WHEREAS, international student leaders on individual UC campuses require assistance to unite and advocate on behalf of international students' concerns at the statewide level; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California Student Association (UCSA) does not currently have a position on the appointed board of directors to specifically advocate on behalf of international students; and,⁷

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https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/graduate_well_being_survey_report.pdf

⁴ <https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/services/survey-services/UCUES.html>

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https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/_files/graduate_well_being_survey_report.pdf

⁶ <https://dailybruin.com/2018/03/15/board-of-regents-votes-to-increase-tuition-of-nonresident-students/>

⁷ <https://ucsa.org/about/student-board/>

WHEREAS, the UC system prides itself on its global reputation and uses international student talent to raise its rankings, yet the UC has been lacking in addressing international student issues; and,

WHEREAS, the current political climate of the U.S. has raised fear and anxiety among international students with regards to the future; and,⁸

WHEREAS, international students require additional resources and assistance from the university to overcome cultural barriers, culture shock, immigration issues, and visa problems; and,

WHEREAS, the UC system utilizes international students to make up for UC's shrinking budget from the state, meaning that a majority of every tuition dollar paid by international students are spent on areas that do not give back to international students; and,⁹

WHEREAS, the level of fee re-investment into the international student experience is so low that international students are required to pay additional fees on certain UC campuses in order for basic resources to exist for them; and,¹⁰

WHEREAS, there are existing system-wide committees that deal with critical policy issues that affect every student in the UC system; and,

WHEREAS, no existing system-wide committees specifically focus on addressing issues that international students face (University Committee on International Education only oversees academic aspects of the UC Education Abroad Program); and,¹¹

WHEREAS, all need-based and most non-need based scholarships request information regarding applicants' citizenship status; and,

WHEREAS, similar concerns have been previously brought to UCSA's attention by the members of the undocumented coalition; and,

WHEREAS, non-citizen students, including international students, hold a status that disqualifies them from meeting criteria in the category of citizenship status on federal, state-funded, and most campus-specific scholarships; and,

⁸ <http://cornellsun.com/2016/11/20/international-students-fear-trump-presidency/>

⁹ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/How-foreign-out-of-state-students-pad-UC-s-6434407.php>

¹⁰ <http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu/home/istart/11/15/registration>

¹¹ <https://ucsa.org/get-involved/swc-reps/>

WHEREAS, the post-graduation life of an international student is extremely challenging; and,

WHEREAS, it is difficult for many undergraduate and graduate international students to be employed by American companies and organizations due to the fact that many American companies do not favor sponsoring work visas for non-U.S. citizens; and,

WHEREAS, international students are fearful of communicating financial need because of concerns of university dismissal and visa revocation; and,

WHEREAS, the international student advocacy leaders from UC campuses acknowledge that solutions to these challenges require many months and years to implement given the complexity of some of these issues faced by international students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That UCSA acknowledges the above concerns from the UC international students; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA creates a new position, dubbed “International Student Affairs Officer”, to be added to the existing Board of Directors starting in the 2018-2019 academic year; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA amends the existing UCSA Bylaws by adding the position of the International Student Affairs Officer under Article II, Section 2, Subsection 1; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA amends the existing UCSA Bylaws by adding the responsibilities of the UCSA International Student Affairs Officer as Article II Section 2 Subsection 11; the responsibilities of the officer shall be, “The International Student Affairs Officer shall serve as the Board’s primary adviser on international student advocacy, including, but not limited to, working with each of the individual UC student governments to expand its international student advocacy initiatives and connecting international student advocacy leaders with UCSA to support various international student initiatives. The International Student Affairs Officer shall assist UCSA and provide regular recommendations to the Board to seek to improve the international student experience and suggest collaborative opportunities between UCSA and other parties working to address matters relating to international student affairs;” and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Vice Chair of UCSA shall supervise, mentor, and support the International Student Affairs Officer; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA calls on the UC system to reinvest an additional \$1,000 of the nonresident supplemental tuition fee that each UC international student pays into their respective campuses with the aim of addressing the specific, unique issues of international students, accomplishing this through consultation with international student advocacy leaders and each international center at the UC campuses; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the Campus Action Committee to engage international students, both graduate and undergraduate, and encourage them to be involved in campus, local, state, and national advocacy; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the University Affairs Committee to encourage all UC student governments to establish commissioner/officer/senator positions to represent international students in student governments; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the University Affairs Committee to request that each UC campus surveys international students to obtain data on international student needs, how international students fund their education, and any changes in their financial status throughout their college career; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the University Affairs Committee to work with UCOP to create a systemwide committee to address the concerns and issues of UC international students; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the University Affairs Committee to work with UCOP to omit the need for citizenship status/financial need determination on scholarship applications across UC campuses; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA also works with UCOP to ensure that all future private and non-governmental financial aid will be available to all students, whether international, undocumented, non-resident, or of any other citizenship status; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA refers the matter of non-resident student issues, including this resolution and the expansion of financial aid services for international students, to the University Affairs Committee for discussion at its next meeting; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA commits to provide the support needed for the committees to accomplish these tasks; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in all future discussions and meetings around tuition, UCSA shall include that the demands above it its requests and its official stances; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the Chair of the Campus Action Committee, the Chair of the University Affairs Committee, and the International Student Affairs Officer with holding biweekly (every two weeks) check-in calls/meetings with the formal sponsors of this legislation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the formal sponsors of this legislation with appointing another UCSA board member to hold biweekly check-in calls/meetings with the Chair of the Campus Action Committee, the Chair of the University Affairs Committee, and the International Student Affairs Officer for the next academic year as the existing UCSA Board of Directors terms out; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That UCSA tasks the International Student Affairs Officer with providing detailed, monthly reports to UCSA and an annual report to UCSA and UCOP; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the International Student Affairs Officer and the formal sponsors of this legislation hold UCSA accountable for addressing the issues that are listed on this legislation; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That UCSA and the International Student Affairs Officer collaborate with undocumented students on issues relating to immigration, financial aid, and agreed upon priorities determined by undocumented students.