



University of California Student Association  
1020 12th St., Suite #232  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
510-834-8272 | [www.uca.org](http://www.uca.org)

---

June 22, 2020

John A. Pérez  
Chair, UC Board of Regents  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Cecilia Estolano  
Vice Chair, UC Board of Regents  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Requesting Regental Attention to UCPD Concerns

Dear Chair Pérez and Vice Chair Estolano:

On behalf of the UC Student Association, I write to request Regental-level attention to students' concerns regarding the University of California Police Department.

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, and countless other Black lives — often at the hands of the police — have brought renewed nationwide attention to the racist role that policing and the carceral system play in our society. As a part of this, Black student leaders have renewed their call for the defunding and dismantling of the University of California Police Department. This is a call we support.

It is past time for us to ask ourselves why a public university — a university with missions of research, teaching, and service — has its own police department. In my four years as a UC affiliate, I frankly cannot think of one time during which armed UCPD presence has improved a situation. But I can think of countless incidents in which UCPD officers arrested, assaulted, and detained Black and Brown people, and made students from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, including disabled BIPOC students, feel unsafe while they were simply trying to get an education.

I recognize that these are complicated issues for UC leaders to grapple with and that finding solutions is not easy. I have the following “asks” to begin this conversation:

1. The Regents should direct the UC to issue a comprehensive report that details the degree to which each campus has implemented the 28 recommendations from the Presidential Task Force on Universitywide Policing. This should include



University of California Student Association  
1020 12th St., Suite #232  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
510-834-8272 | [www.ucsa.org](http://www.ucsa.org)

details on whether or not campuses have created their own independent advisory boards, as well as the composition of each board.

2. The Regents should direct the UC to be significantly more open and transparent about its existing police force. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. UCPD's annual budget with line-item details, including spending on officer salaries as well as spending on weapons and technology;
  - b. Specific weapons and technology that are in UCPD's possession; and
  - c. Any mutual aid agreements and contracts between UCPD and local police departments, county sheriff's offices, CHP, and CalOES, as well as information on the length of the agreements and their terms.
  - d. Full compliance with SB 1421, including the widest possible definition of "great bodily injury."
  
3. The Regents should form a workgroup that examines on-campus policing from a critical, values-based perspective and makes recommendations on how to scale down existing operations while investing in more appropriate crisis response services. The Regents should consult with students — especially Black student leaders — regarding the workgroup's composition and recommendations.

We are appreciative of recent actions that the Regents have taken to demonstrate their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. However, this commitment is incomplete without a thorough, critical evaluation of the UC's own police force — and the significant role it plays in fostering an unhealthy and unsafe campus climate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Varsha Sarveshwar".

Varsha Sarveshwar  
President, UC Student Association

CC: Members of the Board of Regents  
Anne Shaw, Secretary & Chief of Staff to the Board