FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Student Reactions to the UC Campus Safety Symposium Part II

SACRAMENTO, CA - The University of California Student Association, joined by the UC Graduate & Professional Council and the UC Council of Student Body Presidents, the representative voices of the 285,000 UC students, presented a comprehensive vision for reimagining campus safety at the second session of the UC Campus Safety Symposium today.

Student leaders called on the university to shift funding from police operations to initiatives that better address holistic community safety. These initiatives focus on investments that will strengthen mental health services, eradicate student homelessness and hunger, support carceral system-impacted and foster youth students, and scale up restorative justice initiatives.

Students also introduced specific policy recommendations to freeze the hiring of sworn police officers, disarm and scale down current police operations, grant campus safety independent oversight boards governance authority over police department personnel and budgetary issues, develop a systemwide public dashboard to publish policing data, and eliminate mutual aid agreements with local police agencies.

In response to the discussions at the UC Campus Safety Symposium, UCSA President Aidan Arasasingham, a senior at UCLA, said the following:

"Solutions are already out there and we must have the courage to follow the vision of students, scholars, and activists," said Arasasingham. "In the months ahead, UC will either stand as a mirror reflecting society's failed policing status quo or a window into truly transformative change. It's time for UC to live up to its *fiat lux* motto and light the way forward."

UCSA Racial Justice Now Campaign Vice Chair Naomi Waters, a junior at UC Riverside, added the following statement:

"To us, campus safety refers to the University's responsibility to create and maintain an environment that nurtures community development by ensuring that campus

communities are provided for, properly resourced, and empowered. Campus safety is not policing: rather, it is the variety of methods the University can employ to ensure a hospitable campus for all."

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About UCSA: The University of California Student Association is the official voice of over 285,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from all ten UC campuses. It is our mission to advocate on behalf of current and future students for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California system.