



Official Platform of the UC Student Association

The following describes the values and policy positions guiding UCSA's work to actualize its vision for an ideally accessible, affordable, and quality University of California. Additions to this platform may be made through formal resolutions and/or adoption of statewide campaigns and campaign priorities.

1. Affordability and Basic Needs

- a. The yearly implementation of tuition and student fees defies the Master Plan for California higher education, as established by the Donahoe Higher Education Act. The UC must be an affordable education option that seeks to alleviate and eliminate the cost of college attendance in every possible capacity.
- b. The UC should return to a tuition-free institution. In the interim, the state should pay more for per-student educational services than the students themselves.
- c. Should any tuition increase be suggested, it must only be done so with direct student consultation before any changes are proposed or implemented.
- d. UCSA advocates for the preservation and expansion of tax codes that benefit students.
- e. UCSA requires that before any increase in student enrollment may be implemented, sufficient financial aid, resources, and space must also be made available across student populations.
- f. UC must address the full cost of attendance. Beyond tuition, students need more access to food security, affordable housing, comprehensive child care, free menstrual products, and mental and physical healthcare.
- g. UCSA supports the expansion of financial aid for summer terms, including but not limited to, establishment of a summer Cal Grant award.
- h. UCSA supports the utilization and expansion of affordable housing cooperatives.

2. Accountability

- a. UCSA shall continue to hold the UC Board of Regents, University Office of the President, campus administration offices, and student leaders accountable to any personal or professional controversy that may be antithetical to the values of the university, and expect a higher caliber of excellence from university leadership.
- b. UC Regents should regularly visit UC campuses, so that they may make direct and productive connections with the students whom they govern.

3. Campus and Student Safety

- a. UCSA condemns and seeks to eradicate sexual assault on college campuses. Through peer education, staffed counseling, and the allocation of campus resources, UCSA aims to create a safe space for survivors of sexual assault, and to prevent its occurrence in any way possible at UC.
- b. UCSA supports the creation and constant improvement of campus emergency plans that are accessible and which aim to reduce instances of campus violence.
- c. UC must demonstrate that fair treatment of students is to be made a higher priority than the research money and institutional prestige held by intractable faculty members, such that the systematic abuse of graduate students in favor of funding be eradicated. UCSA supports initiatives through which conflict management, communication, and addressing of implicit bias be required of faculty members.

- d. UC security and police must use nonviolent, “de-escalation first” conflict resolution on all UC campuses. UCSA calls for the disarmament of campus police of all lethal and military-grade hardware. University leaders should develop student services which are not dependent on police intervention and provide guidelines for non-police, community-based responses to community wellness issues such as but not limited to smoking in a non-smoking zone so that even the possibility of unnecessary stop and frisk, search, threat of violence or other escalation is removed from everyday life on campus for all members of the community.
4. Racial Justice for Students, Workers, and Communities
 - a. UCSA remains committed to seeking justice and ongoing equity for students and workers of color who are underserved, misrepresented, or mistreated within the UC system.
 - b. UCSA is completely against any practice or appearance of white supremacy at the University of California. UCSA condemns white supremacy as a destructive and violent belief system, and seeks to support all past, present, and future students who may be affected by it.
 - c. UCSA condemns the allowance of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers on any University of California campus.
 - d. UCSA aims to work 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.
 - e. California and the UC must cooperate to abolish the school-to-prison pipeline.
 5. Civic Engagement
 - a. UCSA supports the implementation and expansion of Automatic Student Voter Registration Using University Enrollment, such that every student who is enrolled at UC will be able to participate in civic activities of the state of California.
 - b. UC residence halls must be accessible to non-partisan volunteers seeking to register students to vote.
 - c. External Affairs offices of student governments must work with the local community to improve the residential and civic experience of all. Development initiatives for student housing should be mindful of community needs and benefits, and not participate in systems of gentrification and displacement.
 6. Equitable Workplaces
 - a. As one of California’s largest employers, UC must address the demands of organized workers for fair wages, stable health and retirement benefits, no contracting out, increased wages for student workers, robust Sanctuary protections, ban the box and targeted local hiring practices, and an end to cuts on the backs of its lowest-paid employees.
 - b. UCSA recognizes that Black and Latinx folks, low-wage workers, and other marginalized communities must often fight to be heard and treated fairly, and will support workers’ contract fights by encouraging students and its member associations from each campus to endorse and participate in actions supporting workers’ rights and development.
 - c. UCSA condemns the outsourcing of contract labor at UC. UCSA believes that this action directly contributes to the gentrification and exploitation of communities within and surrounding UC. UCSA supports those who face layoffs in favor of outsourcing practices.
 - d. UCSA opposes the UC’s unnecessary and deceptive exclusion from benefits for employees working fewer than twenty hours and require that UC immediately announce a cost-of-living increase to its promised minimum wage. All workers, including subcontractors and student workers, must be paid the UC minimum wage, regardless of the number of hours they work at UC.
 7. Responsibility in Investments and Operations
 - a. UCSA demands an immediate divestment from coal-related ventures and the coal-industry, and urges that, under no circumstances, will the UC invest in coal mining or oil companies or companies and banks that invest in such, neither in the present moment nor the future.
 - b. The firearms industry lacks accountability, ethicality, and respect for the rights and dignity of others. UCSA therefore condemns all investment or connection to companies, banks, firms,

- or any entity with relation to the firearms and gun industry by UC, and demands the immediate divestment from the industry.
- c. In support of national and international communities, UCSA calls for the divestment from all companies and governments which systematically violate human rights, environmental laws, commit war crimes, and other harmful systematic action.
 - d. UCSA supports the UC system phasing out all single-use plastic cups and containers in the UC Zero Waste Commitment