

GSA/USAC Resolution for Graduate and Professional Equity at UCLA
Resolution Sponsor: Jean Paul (JP) Santos, GSA President
Date: December 2, 2020

Approved by Forum: December 2, 2020 (17 YES - 0 NO - 0 ABS)

Approved by Undergraduate Student Association Council (USAC): December 8, 2020 (12 YES - 0 NO - 0 ABS)

Whereas, there is tremendous inequity in supporting graduate and professional students at UCLA

Whereas, according to UCLA Academic Planning and Budget¹, graduate students represent 28% of the total student body (12,828 graduate/professional students out of the 45,742 total UCLA students).

Whereas, approximately 3 out of every 10 student at UCLA is a graduate and professional student

Whereas, there are present discrepancies with graduate resource graduate student affairs support due to the tremendous dependency of graduate and professional students are to how well informed the individual department and faculty are

Whereas, individual academic departments and individual faculty to students orientation are insufficient in disseminating appropriate resources (i.e. CAPS, Student Legal Services, Case Management, ECRT, Food Bank, etc.) to students

Whereas, a majority of key graduate student services are currently housed within “Student Affairs, such as Graduate Writing Center (GWC), Graduate Student Resource Center (GSRC), and Graduate Career Services (GCS), are tremendously understaffed, missing key positions, and programs are tremendously underfinanced

Whereas, staff that support graduate services are financed through temporary dollars subject to available SFAC funding and are therefore not institutionalized

Whereas, although UCLA Student Affairs is focused on affairs of students at UCLA, the practice has heavily skewed service to undergraduates

Whereas, while UCLA Student Affairs individual units have tried to outreach, engage, and create programming for graduate and professional students, there lacks an overall thread, both logistically and programmatically, to reach out to graduate and professional students.

Whereas, UCLA Graduate Division is serves only graduate and professional students but is under the umbrella of academic affairs and Academic Senate and institutionally, is not financed and staffed to directly assist in the student wellness and affairs

Whereas, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the understaffing and underfinanced support are hurting student support and services since they are more needed now than ever before

Whereas, the lack of support and engagement to graduate and professional students are tremendously hurting our most vulnerable populations and underrepresented graduate and professional students even more

Therefore, be it resolved that the GSA Forum and the Undergraduate Student Association Council (USAC):

1. urges Student Affairs and Graduate Division, as a campus unit, support financing and staffing of onboarding orientation such as Graduate Student Orientation (GSO), Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Week, and the National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation (NGPSA) Week to the same level as is done for undergraduates like *True Bruin Welcome* and *This is Bruin Life*
2. urges Student Affairs and Graduate Division that for the above events, that they be made institutional and campaigned as an essential Bruin experience
3. urges Chancellor's and the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost's offices to support better staffing and dedicated resources to Graduate Career Services quantitatively and qualitatively on par with undergraduate career services
4. urges Chancellor's and the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost's offices to create a permanent campus task force and charge the *Graduate and Professional Student Welfare Committee* to create a strategy to better serve graduate and professional students. This campus task force should consist, at minimum, with representatives from *Graduate Student Association (GSA), UCLA Student Affairs, Graduate Division, Graduate Student Resource Center, Graduate Writing Center, Alumni, Graduate Career Services, and Academic Senate/Graduate Council.*

¹ 2019-2020 Enrollment, <https://www.apb.ucla.edu/campus-statistics/enrollment>