UCLA Academic Senate
Legislative Assembly

October 20, 2026

Julio Frenk
Chancellor, UCLA

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCLA

Re: Resolution Against Closing Early Care and Education & University Parents Nursery School

Dear Chancellor Frenk and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt,

At the October 6, 2026, special meeting of the Legislative Assembly of the Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate, members approved (93 votes cast: 89 Approve, 4 Oppose) the attached Resolution Against Closing Early Care and Education (ECE) & University Parents Nursery School (UPNS). Over one hundred and sixty Senate faculty attended the meeting.

On behalf of the divisional Legislative Assembly, I transmit the full resolution (see attached) and respectfully request action on all three requests stated in the resolution:

(1) Immediately reverse the decision to close ECE and evict UPNS.

(2) Publicly acknowledge that child care is an essential benefit, like health insurance, that enables faculty and staff to accomplish the core mission of the university and enables our parenting students to attend UCLA.

(3) Build a new governing structure for all child care programs and child care benefits at UCLA, in consultation with the Faculty Welfare Committee and parents whose children were affected by child abuse at Krieger. This work must include both an investigation of ECE's past failures and the implementation of reforms that ensures careful oversight, shared decision-making with ECE parents, and sufficient long-term investment to make safe, high-quality child care affordable.

Sincerely,
Tim Groeling
Chair, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate
Tara Hottman, Senior Policy Analyst, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate
Megan McEvoy, Immediate Past Chair, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCLA
Julie Sina, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, UCLA
Catherine Sugar, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate

Amended by unanimous consent at the October 6, 2026, Special Legislative Assembly Meeting
[final text below with approved amendment in red]

September 2026

Resolution Against Closing ECE & UPNS

Whereas, on August 13, 2026, with no prior consultation with faculty, EVCP Darnell Hunt announced that, effective June 30, 2027, UCLA will terminate the Early Care and Education (ECE) program, closing the Krieger and University Village child care centers, and informed the University Parents Nursery School (UPNS) that they would also be evicted on that date.

Whereas, this surprise announcement immediately threw into chaos the lives of hundreds of UCLA parenting families, many of whom are Senate faculty, along with their teachers.

Whereas, the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) of the Academic Senate has repeatedly argued, most recently in January 2026, that "ECE is a crucial benefit for faculty members, playing an important role in both recruiting and retaining talented faculty. Although it directly affects only a small portion of the faculty, its impact extends well beyond this group: the university's ability to attract and support faculty with dependent children is integral to its overall effectiveness. As such, providing support for ECE is an essential benefit for faculty."

Whereas, the FWC has long expressed "deep concern" about "the ongoing degradation of Early Childhood Education" at UCLA and in particular identified the 2025 closure of the Fernald center as "a threat to faculty welfare" and to the "retention of current faculty and recruitment of future faculty."

Whereas, the recruitment and retention challenge posed by closing ECE is especially acute because every other UC campus provides child care for faculty, staff, and students, as do nearly all the other top public and private universities with whom we compete for faculty and students.

Whereas, according to UCLA's 2022 Child Care Strategy Committee Final Report, Fernald (26 slots; closed abruptly in 2025) and Krieger (60 slots; now to be closed in 2027) represented over half of all the licensed infant care capacity in Westwood, and unsurprisingly, for UCLA faculty and staff, "finding high-quality care in a suitable location is difficult, and once found, care costs are inordinately high — for many, untenable."

Whereas, we are now in a well-documented child care crisis across Los Angeles, with child care centers failing to meet parents' and children's needs; in the entire county, according to LA County's 2022 ECE Needs Assessment, licensed centers and family child care homes together

can serve only 4% of children under 24 months, a level of "lack of access" that the County deems a "crisis."

Whereas, the ECE program has been a vital lifeline for UCLA parents, but at the same time, as currently structured and managed within the School of Education & Information Studies (SEIS), ECE has not always provided safe child care and catastrophically failed to protect children from abuse, demonstrating a serious need for more effective administration and oversight, as the FWC has repeatedly emphasized as it has unsuccessfully sought a greater faculty role in governance of ECE.

Be it therefore resolved that the Legislative Assembly of the UCLA Division of the Academic Senate respectfully demands that Chancellor Frenk and EVCP Hunt take the following steps:

(1) Immediately reverse the decision to close ECE and evict UPNS.

(2) Publicly acknowledge that child care is an essential benefit, like health insurance, that enables faculty and staff to accomplish the core mission of the university and enables our parenting students to attend UCLA.

(3) Build a new governing structure for all child care programs and child care benefits at UCLA, in consultation with the Faculty Welfare Committee~~,~~ and parents whose children were affected by child abuse at Krieger. This work must include both an investigation of ECE's past failures and the implementation of reforms that ensures careful oversight, shared decision-making with ECE parents ~~governance~~, and sufficient long-term investment to make safe, high-quality child care affordable.

Sponsors:
Jessica Cattelino (Anthropology / Center for the Study of Women)
Matthew Fisher (English)
Joseph Fishkin (Law)
Sung-Jae Lee (Psychiatry)
Melody Li (Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics)
Anna Markowitz (Education)
Eric Min (Political Science)
Lauren Wisk (Medicine)
Meng Zhang (History)