

**A Resolution in Support of the UC Student Association's Racial Justice Now Campaign for Academic Reparations and the Establishment of a Permanent \$1 Billion Endowment Fund to Improve Afrikan UC Student Access, Retention, and Graduation Rates**

**WHEREAS**, European colonial and imperial governments such as that of the United States are responsible for committing the worst racialized massacres in human history, the systematic and perpetual genocide and mass murder of African-descended peoples across the world.

**WHEREAS**, white supremacist oppressors have historically used the colonial and cultural genocide of African-descended communities like African Americans, the Congolese, Rwandans, Haitians, Tigrayans, and Afro-Palestinians along with racialized segregation practices such as North American Jim Crow, Latin American *Blanqueamiento*, and South African Apartheid to impede the social, psychological, cultural, political, and educational well-being of all Continental and Diasporic African peoples.

**WHEREAS**, anti-Black racism is a racial pandemic and public health crisis that has been maintained globally for more than 400 years. Afrophobia is psychologically ingrained and has transcended across geographical, national, and racial lines and is present in the mind and behavior of European-descended peoples, Indigenous peoples, Asian and Pacific Islander populations, Latine communities, and even African/Black individuals as a result of institutionalized white supremacy.

**WHEREAS**, African-descended communities across the world have been systematically denied the basic human right to access culturally empowering knowledge and proper education due to anti-Black racism and the intentional dehumanization and racial oppression of Afrikan people.

**WHEREAS**, global education systems rooted in Eurocentric hegemony and Afrophobia contribute to low racial self-esteem among Black people by systematically erasing the history of major African contributions to mathematics, sciences, religion, medicine, architecture, literature, philosophy, psychology, among other pivotal aspects of modern life.

**WHEREAS,** the University of California system is capitalistic and benefits from the educational, cultural, socio-political, and financial destruction of African-descended peoples on the African continent and throughout the Black Diaspora with no remorse or shame.

**WHEREAS,** the University of California system has access to more financial and educational resources than the California Community Colleges and the California State Universities but has historically enrolled and retained the least amount of African/Black students.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS,** in Fall 2005, the UC Office of the President Fall Enrollment database acknowledges that the African-descended population at UC Berkeley was 3.4%, 2.4% at UC Davis, 2.1% at UC Irvine, 3.4% at UC Los Angeles, 6% at UC Merced, 5.9% at UC Riverside, 1.3% at UC San Diego, 2.6% at UC Santa Barbara, and 2.5% at UC Santa Cruz.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS,** almost two decades later in the Fall of 2022, the African-descended percentage at UC Berkeley was 4.2%, 3.7% at UC Davis, 4% at UC Irvine, 6.2% at UC Los Angeles, 6.9% at UC Merced, 5.5% at UC Riverside, 3.2% at UC San Diego, 3.9% at UC Santa Barbara, and 4.5% at UC Santa Barbara.<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS,** in the Fall of 1999, the UC systemwide population of international students was 4.7% and in the Fall of 2022, this demographic increased to 15%. Between Fall 2005 and Fall 2022, African-descended students from Ghana, Nigeria, Morocco, Zambia, Somalia, Sudan, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Mali, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Niger, and Ethiopia have accumulatively made up 0% of the overall UC international student demographic.<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS,** in the 2023-2024 academic year, preliminary data shows that the University of California System granted 3,017 more enrollment slots than in previous years and not a single enrollment slot was allotted to a Black freshman or transfer student.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED618539.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/fall-enrollment-glance>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/fall-enrollment-glance>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/fall-enrollment-glance>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.thecentersquare.com/california/article\\_aab0d216-3636-11ee-a62e-4fc34a7108f0.h](https://www.thecentersquare.com/california/article_aab0d216-3636-11ee-a62e-4fc34a7108f0.h)

**WHEREAS**, the UC system was founded in 1868 yet the first institutionalized Black Resource Center was founded at UC Riverside in 1979. Subsequently, other resource centers for Black access and retention were formed at UC Santa Cruz in 1990, UC Santa Barbara in 2007, UC San Diego in 2013, UC Davis in 2015, UC Irvine in 2016, UC Berkeley in 2016, UC Merced in 2017, and UC Los Angeles in 2021.<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, African-descended students advocated for culturally empowering courses and the UC's establishment of academic programs centered around the history and culture of both Continental and Diasporic Africans.<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, and UC Irvine are the campuses that presently offer Africana/African American/Black Diasporic Studies majors. African-American Studies minors are offered at UC Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, UC Santa Cruz, and UC Irvine. The UC has no established African Studies majors yet minors are offered at UC Los Angeles, UC Davis, UC San Diego, and UC Riverside. UC Merced has no African American Studies major or minor as well as no African Studies minor.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <https://brc.ucsd.edu/>  
<https://blackbruinresourcecenter.ucla.edu/>  
<https://admissions.ucr.edu/black-student-experience>  
<https://aarcc.ucsc.edu/>  
<https://eop.sa.ucsb.edu/cultural-centers/african-diasporic-cultural-resource-center-adrcr>  
<https://cadss.ucdavis.edu/>  
<https://star.berkeley.edu/resources/fannie-lou-hamer-black-resource-cente>  
<https://blackalliance.ucmerced.edu/>  
<https://blackcultures.uci.edu/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.history.com/news/san-francisco-state-student-strike-black-studies>

<sup>8</sup> <https://afam.ucla.edu/>  
<https://africam.berkeley.edu/>  
<https://aas.ucdavis.edu/>  
<https://bdaas.ucsd.edu/>  
<https://ethnicstudies.ucr.edu/africana-studies/>  
<https://www.humanities.uci.edu/afam>  
<https://catalog.registrar.ucla.edu/minor/2022/africanstudiesminor?siteYear=2022>  
<https://www.ucdavis.edu/minors/african-american-and-african-studies>  
<https://catalog.ucsd.edu/curric/AFRI.html>

**WHEREAS**, the Black community has historically had less equitable access to housing, financial aid and scholarships, professional and career development, research, study abroad opportunities, psychological services, and social/cultural engagement than other UC students.<sup>9</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the University of California proudly proclaims that it is the world's leading public research university system providing “a unique environment in which leading scholars and promising students strive together to expand fundamental knowledge of human nature, society, and the natural world”.<sup>10</sup>

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2022 University of California’s Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCES) data, 91% of African/Black UC Students have not completed an Honors program, 83% have not conducted research under faculty guidance, and 81% have not conducted research without faculty guidance.<sup>11</sup>

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that the presence of African-descended faculty is an essential aspect of Black access and retention at predominately white universities. In 2021, domestic and international African and African Americans were a mere 3.6% of all UC systemwide tenured or tenure-eligible faculty.<sup>12</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the UC-wide Black freshman first-year retention rate was 88.9% and the fourth-year graduation rate was 59.4% compared to the white freshman first-year retention rate at 92.2% and the fourth-year graduation rate of 72.2%.<sup>13</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the UC-wide Black transfer first-year retention rate was 91.4% and the second-year graduation rate was 51.1% compared to the white transfer first-year retention rate at 93.1% and the second-year graduation rate of 63%.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> [https://calmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FINAL\\_excelreport\\_12-30-15.pdf](https://calmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FINAL_excelreport_12-30-15.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ucop.edu/about/mission/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/ucues-data-tables-2022>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ucop.edu/faculty-diversity/files/reports/afd-2022-2023-preliminary-report.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/disaggregated-data>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/disaggregated-data>

**WHEREAS,** Umoja is a statewide African-centered access program for Black community college students that offers support such as academic counseling, professional development opportunities, and a culturally responsive curriculum. UC Irvine is the first and only UC campus that has institutionalized Umoja to address the stressors of Black students in their transition from community college to a four-year university and enhance the educational experiences of Black transfers.<sup>15</sup>

**WHEREAS,** the UC Office of the President met with Afrikan/Black Student Unions in 2016 to draft a strategic plan to improve Black UC access and retention, yet UCOP has not followed up nor implemented any concrete initiatives for educational equity and racial diversity.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the UC system has marginalized and oppressed African-descended students and owes academic reparations to Black UC students for the educational atrocities that have been historically and systematically perpetuated against this community.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the UC Office of the President, administrative leadership at every UC campus, and all UC Associated Students should show their unequivocal support for the UC Student Association's Racial Justice Now! Campaign goal to establish a permanent \$1 billion endowment fund to improve Black access, retention, and graduation rates throughout the UC system.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the UC Office of the President, administrative leadership at every UC campus, and all UC Associated Students should all be meeting regularly and annually with Afrikan/Black Student Unions to ensure that Black UC students have their particular educational needs met.

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the UC Office of the President, administrative leadership at every UC campus, and all UC Associated Students should all establish racially conscious, inclusive, and empowering initiatives to address the systematic harm that the UC

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<sup>15</sup> <https://soar.uci.edu/umoja-program/>  
<https://umojacommunity.org/affiliate-colleges>

system has historically inflicted on Black students and enhance the overall UC experience for African-descended communities.

**LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the UCOP's establishment of \$1 billion in Academic Reparations for all Black UC students will be used to properly invest in outreach to Continental and Diasporic Africans, Umoja programs, scholarships and grants, hiring of Black faculty, staff, and administrators, African/African American Studies departments, Black student-initiated and student-run initiatives, Afrocentric retention efforts and Black Resource Centers, African-centered research and study abroad opportunities, among other supports.