



University of California Student Association  
1020 12th St., Suite #232  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
510-834-8272 | [www.ucsa.org](http://www.ucsa.org)

Resolution Establishing the Council of Academic Affairs as a UCSA Auxiliary Entity  
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Author: James Weichert (Academic Affairs Officer)

WHEREAS, the University of California Student Association (UCSA) Charter<sup>1</sup> establishes UCSA in order to “serve the interests of the current and future students of the University of California”;

WHEREAS, these interests include promoting a world-class academic experience that is inclusive, equitable, and supportive for all students through academic policies that center students and ensure that every student has access to the UC education to which they are entitled;

WHEREAS, the nature of academic policy- and decision-making at the University of California is highly decentralized, with individual “divisions” of the UC Academic Senate (i.e. campus academic senates) empowered to act on many aspects of academic life on the campus level;

WHEREAS, simultaneously, tenure-track faculty at the University are organized on the state level through the systemwide UC Academic Senate, which comprises all Senate faculty at each of the ten UC campuses;

WHEREAS, academic decisions with a particularly large (i.e. cross-campus) scope or significance are usually governed by the systemwide Academic Senate;

WHEREAS, the resulting federal system of academic governance provides two opportunities for student academic advocacy (i.e. at the campus level and at the systemwide level), but also presents significant coordination and logistical challenges, especially for student leaders;

WHEREAS, currently, student advocacy on academic issues is equally as decentralized and fragmented between various student officials on the campus and systemwide levels;

WHEREAS, on the campus-level, all campus associated students have one or more elected or appointed student leaders (e.g. academic affairs vice presidents, academic affairs commissions, etc.) to lead advocacy on matters of academic affairs;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ucsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/UCSA-Charter-as-of-Aug-2014.pdf>



WHEREAS, these student leaders have, over many years, developed relationships with faculty and administrative leaders in their campus' Academic Senate division and administration;

WHEREAS, many of these academic affairs student leaders are charged with coordinating academic advocacy through student representatives on divisional Academic Senate committees, and through their experience with the Academic Senate become experts in matters of academic policy advocacy;

WHEREAS, on the systemwide level, UCSA bylaws<sup>2</sup> Article II §2.3 establishes the position of UCSA Academic Affairs Officer to serve as the "Board's primary adviser on academic matters including, but not limited to, regular activities, positions, and communications of the University of California Academic Senate";

WHEREAS, UCSA bylaws Article II §1.3 requires the UCSA President to "Establish and maintain communication with...the Chair of the Academic Senate" and Article III §2.1 charges the UCSA University Affairs Committee with "Maintaining contact with the Academic Senate and updating the Board regularly on its activities";

WHEREAS, UCSA is also empowered to appoint student representatives to systemwide Academic Senate committees and UC administrative committees related to academic affairs;

WHEREAS, due to limited coordination between campus-level and systemwide academic affairs student officials, campus student leaders are often left unaware of relevant academic policy developments on the systemwide level, and vice versa;

WHEREAS, this lack of coordination also extends to systemwide academic committee appointees, who often do not relay important information back to UCSA and/or to campus academic affairs leaders, hampering their ability to effectively advocate on behalf of students;

WHEREAS, these coordination and communication issues could be alleviated through more regular contact between campus and systemwide academic affairs leaders, and through the inclusion of campus academic affairs leaders in UCSA's academic advocacy;

WHEREAS, as provided by UCSA bylaws (Article II §2.11 and §2.12), the UCSA International Student Affairs Officer and the UCSA Transfer Student Affairs Officer chair the UC-wide International Student Coalition and UC-wide Transfer Student Coalition, respectively;

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<sup>2</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KOGxf8R3mEm7NRPD1N\\_ZE8SHTQ2LuLWBqt7v5bGgMkg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KOGxf8R3mEm7NRPD1N_ZE8SHTQ2LuLWBqt7v5bGgMkg/edit?usp=sharing)



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WHEREAS, both of these coalitions operate as 'auxiliary entities' of the Association, providing a formal and lasting connection between the coalitions/communities and the UCSA Board of Directors while also providing a degree of autonomy for the coalitions themselves;

WHEREAS, in contrast to UCSA ad hoc committees, these auxiliary entities are permanent and provide sustainable structures for advocacy specific to their particular student communities;

WHEREAS, the structure of an auxiliary entity also acknowledges the existence and legitimacy of the mandates of elected and appointed student leaders outside of those with a seat on the UCSA Board of Directors, including elected international student representatives and transfer student representatives at many campuses' student governments;

WHEREAS, therefore, the structure of an auxiliary entity is ideally suited for a council of elected and appointed academic affairs student leaders (e.g. academic affairs vice presidents, academic affairs commission chairs, academic affairs directors, etc.) across UC undergraduate campuses;

WHEREAS, this structure would solidify a strong and lasting connection to the academic advocacy of UCSA while also recognizing that each academic affairs leader does existing academic advocacy on their respective campus, and that these leaders have mandates and advocacy platforms independent of those of UCSA;

WHEREAS, in this sense, a council of academic affairs leaders would serve primarily as a coordinating body, with formal advocacy powers and channels vested in individual campus associations and the UC Student Association;

WHEREAS, nevertheless, these academic affairs leaders can provide UCSA with valuable insight and perspectives, helping to shape advocacy goals and strategies related to academic affairs, the UC Academic Senate, and related matters;

WHEREAS, a 'Council of Academic Affairs Leaders' convened by the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer has met regularly during the first half of the 2021-2022 academic year, and has been regularly attended by a majority (7/9) of campus academic affairs leaders;

WHEREAS, this council has already been used to discuss issues related to campus reopenings, online learning, academic support and advising, and grading policies;



WHEREAS, each campus associated students has an elected or appointed 'point person' for academic affairs, and each of these academic affairs leaders has a seat on the Council, ensuring representation from all nine undergraduate campuses;

WHEREAS, the proposed bylaws for the 'Council of Academic Affairs' (Appendix A) have been drafted in consultation with academic affairs leaders; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Council of Academic Affairs is urgently necessary to better coordinate on issues related to remote instruction for winter quarter/spring semester 2022, and to start to develop a lasting source of institutional knowledge on matters of academic affairs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association establish the *UCSA Council of Academic Affairs* as an auxiliary entity of the Association, and ratify the Council's bylaws as written in Appendix A.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association, pursuant to UCSA Charter Article VI Section A, amend UCSA bylaw Article II Section 2 Subsection 3 ("Academic Affairs Officer") to read as follows:

"The Academic Affairs Officer shall serve as the Board's primary adviser on academic matters including, but not limited to, regular activities, positions, and communications of the University of California Academic Senate. The Academic Affairs Officer shall assist the President in cultivating the relationship between UC students and faculty and provide regular recommendations to the Board on actualizing the same. The Academic Affairs Officer shall chair the UCSA Council of Academic Affairs, comprising the elected and appointed academic affairs student leaders from the nine undergraduate UC campuses."

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association declare its intent to leverage the newly-formed Council of Academic Affairs to provide insight and direction on systemwide academic policy goals and strategies, as well as its intent to foster stronger coordination between the Council, the Academic Affairs Officer, the University Affairs Committee, UC systemwide committee appointees, and the UC student regents on matters of academic affairs.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association direct the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer to transmit a copy of this resolution to each campus academic affairs student leader, and to convene the Council of Academic Affairs before March 2022.



## Appendix A: UCSA Council of Academic Affairs Bylaws

### Section 1: Purpose

- 1.1 The Council of Academic Affairs shall be a standing auxiliary entity of the UC Student Association (UCSA), composed of one academic affairs student leader from each of the nine UC undergraduate associated students, and the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Council shall be to coordinate on issues of academic policy and academic affairs across UC campuses and on the systemwide level. The Council shall work closely with the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer, the UCSA University Affairs Committee, and the UC student regents in collaborating on academic issues affecting students across the UC system.
- 1.3 As elected or appointed leaders in their own student governments, members of the Council derive a mandate from their individual campus associated students, and are not required to follow the direction or agenda of UCSA. The Council therefore shall serve to provide a space for discussion and coordination across campuses, and shall not be a replacement for the advocacy of student leaders on the campus or systemwide levels.

### Section 2: Membership

- 2.1 The Council of Academic Affairs shall be composed of a maximum of ten voting members. The voting members of the Council shall be:
  - 2.1.1 UCSA Academic Affairs Officer
  - 2.1.2 ASUC Berkeley Academic Affairs Vice President
  - 2.1.3 ASUC Davis Academic Affairs Commission Chair
  - 2.1.4 ASUC Irvine Academic Affairs Vice President
  - 2.1.5 UCLA Undergraduate Student Association Council Academic Affairs Commissioner
  - 2.1.6 ASUC Merced Director of Academic Affairs



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- 2.1.7 ASUC Riverside Commissioner of Academic Affairs
- 2.1.8 ASUC San Diego Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
- 2.1.9 ASUC Santa Barbara Student Advocate General
- 2.1.10 UC Santa Cruz Student Union Assembly Vice President of Academic Affairs
- 2.2 The UCSA Academic Affairs Officer shall chair the Council and shall be responsible for scheduling and facilitating meetings.
  - 2.2.1 In the case that the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer serves concurrently as one of the nine campus academic affairs leaders, the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer shall possess only one vote, and the Council shall have one less vote in total.
- 2.3 Any member of the Council may designate a proxy or designee to assume the member's seat and vote in their absence by notifying the chair of the Council at least 48 hours in advance of any Council meeting. Notices of a proxy must be renewed for each new Council meeting.
- 2.4 The Council may, at its discretion, invite additional student leaders or University officials to any Council meeting.

### Section 3: Additional Responsibilities and Procedures

- 3.1 The UCSA Academic Affairs Officer shall be responsible for acting as a liaison between the Council and UCSA. The Academic Affairs Officer shall be required to present an update on the business of the Council to the UCSA Board of Directors or to the University Affairs Committee once per academic quarter. The Council may request updates from the Academic Affairs Officer regarding UCSA business at any time.
- 3.2 Twice per academic year, the Council shall endeavor to meet with the chair and vice chair of the UC Academic Senate to discuss systemwide academic policy priorities and emerging Academic Senate business.
- 3.3 The Council may, by a two-thirds vote of campus academic affairs leaders, declare no confidence in the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer. Upon a successful vote of no confidence, the Council shall designate a member of the Council to transmit a written



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notice to the UCSA Board of Directors of the no confidence vote. The Academic Affairs Officer may only be removed by the UCSA Board of Directors according to UCSA bylaws.

- 3.3.1 In the case that the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer serves concurrently as one of the nine campus academic affairs leaders, the UCSA Academic Affairs Officer shall abstain from the vote of no confidence.
- 3.4 Amendments to these bylaws may be made by a two-thirds vote of the Council. Upon passage by the Council of Academic Affairs, the proposed amendments must be ratified by the UCSA Board of Directors according to UCSA bylaws in order to take effect.