

Resolution on Houseless Students, 2019

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Whereas UCSC has a substantial population of houseless students (undergraduate and graduate), the great majority of whom can afford neither campus housing rents nor rents in the community, and

whereas a significant number of those houseless students choose to sleep in their cars (estimates range from 20-50 and more), most commonly in places where there are threats to students' safety, and

whereas our students' unsafe living conditions heavily impact their studies and our pedagogy, the Senate directs the University administration to institute a Safe Parking program for houseless students, granting overnight parking access for the purpose of sleeping in the student's vehicle overnight, and to extend this opportunity to any currently enrolled student in need thereof. There is a great variety of Safe Parking programs around the country, and these should be consulted in designing a pilot program for UCSC. Most provide restroom access; many have proctors (full-time or periodic); some are free, and some charge fees. We leave the details of implementation to be worked out by a joint committee of staff and houseless students. Assembly Bill 302, introduced by Bay Area Assemblyman Marc Berman and intended to require Community Colleges to provide safe overnight parking to students in need, now under consideration by the whole State Assembly, could be a model for UCSC.

It is a reasonable expectation that for the foreseeable future, regardless of how much dormitory space is constructed, we will have a population of houseless students. For the sake of their academic success it is our responsibility to ameliorate their living conditions to the greatest extent we can.

Respectfully submitted;

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