June 3rd, 2019

On November 19th, 2019, I, Zak Fisher, President of the UCLA Graduate Students Association, attended a meeting with UCLA Chancellor Gene D. Block and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Monroe Gorden. I was told that the meeting would not and may not be audio recorded and that no official written minutes would be taken. For the sake of transparency and accountability, values indispensable to a public institution in the United States of America, I hereby make public my introductory remarks spoken to those in attendance:

“Thank you, Mr. Chancellor and Mr. Vice Chancellor, for this opportunity to meet with you on behalf of my constituents, 14,000 outstanding graduate students.

It has been six months since we began discussing the urgent need for bold action on critical issues for graduate students such as housing security, homelessness, access to affordable childcare, and access to timely mental health services.

Since then, I have had numerous meetings with your team ostensibly aimed at tackling these issues and implementing serious solutions. At the end of each of these meetings, the only result seems to be a call for “further conversation” and therefore an extension of the timeframe under which we operate. Though I wish deeply it were not so, I believe that these meetings were in fact primarily cosmetic spectacles. They were intended merely to pacify your students’ desire to relieve their suffering, not to work together towards implementing common-sense, necessary methods of relieving that suffering. It feels there is a strategy to run out the clock. Such delay tactics are unacceptable given the magnitude of the crises in our midst, including UCLA’s affordable housing crisis.

I sincerely hope that today’s meeting does not proceed in the same manner. As we sit here, today, over a quarter of UCLA’s 14,000 graduate students are food insecure. Most graduate students lack housing security; some experience homelessness. 90% of student parents cannot access UCLA’s childcare services, and all students are made to wait four weeks or more to have a non-emergency counseling session they have already paid for with their student fees. These problems are dire and require immediate action.

Our budget stands in the billions. We have every resource we require to fix these issues except for serious, bold leadership. We cannot afford further delay. We must now choose to solve these problems. History will judge us harshly if we do not act together soon.

- Zak Fisher”
**Agenda Items**

1. Instituting a $1,000 a month rent cap guarantee for all students. This would cap the rent at $1,000 in University Housing and provide subsidies/vouchers for all students who can make a good faith showing of housing insecurity despite reasonable efforts to find housing comparable to University Housing. The program will be paid for out of donor funds (including centennial related funds), general funds, and permanent Student Service Fee monies.

2. Hiring approximately 30-40 more certified CAPS counselors to meet minimum demand for the student body. Space in the Luskin Conference Center will be used for clinical appointments until permanent space on campus can be found. The school will also begin looking for suitable real estate for a CAPS satellite office(s) in Culver City, West Hollywood, and another area where off-campus students are concentrated.

3. Pledging a major investment in student parent support initiatives, particularly an at least 300% increase in investment in affordable childcare services.

4. Lobbying before the Regents for reform of administration compensation for executive administrators making more than the Governor of California.

5. Enacting policies that mandate greater transparency and accountability in the wake of publicized criticism in the LA Times of Chancellor Block’s administration’s handling of UCLA bribery and sexual assault scandals (respectively).

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**UCLA 2016 Net Revenues Sources**