

# Naomi Hammonds

Hello, my name is Naomi Hammonds (she/her/hers) and I am your **Students Organizing Active Resistance (SOAR)** candidate for General Representative. As a Black Bruin and woman in STEM, I will advocate for the empowerment of students through the betterment of inclusivity, equity, collaboration, and retention on our campus.

A bit of panic, a helping of fear, a splash of terror, and a dash (maybe more than a dash) of anxiety is how I felt when I first entered UCLA. Everyone around me had trouble understanding why I even wanted to attend UCLA; where I wouldn't be around people like me, fit in as easily, and be moving out of state.

I was never confident in myself nor my abilities until I joined organizations where I began to make lifelong friends that I could relate to, where I found that I wasn't the only one with divorced parents or having a full-time job, or were experiencing the difficulties of being a minority at UCLA. In these organizations I have found my place and belonging, and I hope to inspire and advocate on behalf of my peers to enhance our experiences and success on this campus.

With my lived experience, teachings from the Learning Assistant Program, and discussions with UCLA students, if elected as your General Representative I would:

- Advocate for and aid in the retention, empowerment, and overall wellness of marginalized and underprivileged students.
- Support students in recognizing their worth, prioritizing their success, and promoting their passions.

## **Platforms**

**Take Space, Make Space:** Most people barely see themselves as passive actors in racism, which are commonly committed in the form of microaggressions. Ensuring UCLA's True Bruin Values, I am advocating for a microaggression training requirement for all undergraduate students to aid in the retention and experience of marginalized students.

**Be Delusional!** Students are held back by the thought that something has already been done before and thus question why they would be supported. To highlight student projects (e.g. sneaker reselling, jewelry making), I aim to uplift student passions and provide resources for them to turn passions into businesses.

**Building Bridges in the BBRC:** UCLA has a 5% African American/Black undergraduate population, emphasizing a need for support. Working alongside ASU, I intend to support the BBRC in funding efforts, provide academic support, and host wellness workshops to enhance community building and healing for present and future Black Bruins.

## **Experience**

As the **USAC Office of the President Staff Development Director and Accessibility Staff Member**, I have maintained the morale of leadership directors and staff, reached out to organizations, and planned social events/retreats. I will continue to prioritize and ensure students feel a balance between work, academic, and personal lives.

As a **Patent Prosecution Intern at UCLA Technology Development Group** I learned about the business of technology transfer and intellectual property management. By analyzing technology evaluation, marketing, and commercialization techniques I have the skills necessary to aid in the creation of business development resources.

As a **Research Assistant** in the **Life Science Liberation Project** I created a more inclusive, caring, and welcoming environment in the LS7A/B/C series by advocating for better structure, support, flexibility, and autonomy. I developed greater interpersonal skills through listening to student stories highlighting microaggressions and inequities in resources.

As a **Massage Envy Manager** I have supervised daily operations, trained/coached staff in order to ensure excellent service for guests and to reach membership and retail goals. I have developed the skills required to lead with empathy, optimism, and unity while maintaining a welcoming environment.

As a **Program Development Team Member** for the **Learning Assistant Program** I reinforced peer learning by enhancing communication between students, instructors, and teaching assistants. Through serving in the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion division with increasing outreach to marginalized groups, I increased confidence in student's abilities to learn and succeed.