

Updated 4/1/22

**Referenda Question: EARN- Education, Access, and Retention NOW!**

Shall the Undergraduate Students Association address the space, resource, and programming needs of the Black Bruin Resource Center and Transfer Student Center by implementing the EARN fee of \$5.00 per undergraduate student for Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters (\$3.00 per UC undergraduate student enrolled at UCLA in summer session), beginning in Fall 2022.

This fee will be adjusted annually by the Los Angeles County Consumer Price Index in order to address changes due to inflation and rising cost of living, beginning in Fall 2023.

Consistent with UC policy, 25% of the amount collected (\$1.25 per quarter in AY 2022-23) will be returned to Undergraduate Financial Aid. The remainder of the fund will be broken down providing 80% of the fee (\$3.00 per quarter in AY 2022-23) to support the Black Bruin Resource Center and 20% of the fee (\$0.75 per quarter in AY 2022-23) to support the Transfer Student Center.

I support the \$5 E.A.R.N. referenda fee to support the Black Bruin Resource Center and the Transfer Student Center.

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**Supplemental Language (link accessible from ballot):**

Both centers funded by this fee support the academic success, access and retention of minority students. Both centers funded by this fee address undergraduate space, resource, and programming needs of undergraduate students from historically underrepresented and marginalized communities. The Black Bruin Resource Center and Transfer Student Center strongly and clearly support a common student life, student services, or other programmatically related goal. The EARN! Referendum will expand existing efforts of access and retention for marginalized students at UCLA.

Approval of the EARN Referendum would provide the following:

**Background on the Black Bruin Resource Center.**

1. The EARN fee shall be used for operational and programmatic initiatives of the Black Bruin Resource Center, and to support students that use the Black Bruin Resource Center, including but not limited to space, staffing, and services. The mission for this resource center is to directly combat the systematic barriers that hinder Black student retention on campus. The Black Bruin Resource Center will provide a safe and dedicated space for students to foster academic success and increase community interaction at UCLA.
  - a. As a minority group on campus, Black students do not have an adequate and comprehensive space to house academic and counseling resources, community events and forums, and provide an overall safe space for Black Bruins to study, congregate, and exist. The current sq. footage of the BBRC is 1500 sq. ft. and can only hold up to 50 students at a time. UCLA currently has a growing population of 1,700 undergraduate Black students and the current center is not

accessible for the entire population. These fees would help expand the improvement of the BBRC.

- b. The EARN fee will also support staffing costs. Currently, only 3 professional staff members and 2 student positions are funded by the university. The BBRC's ability to hire more staff would help provide retention services to the entire Black Bruin population, as well as expand outreach efforts to recruit Black student applicants in LAUSD and surrounding districts.
- c. These fees will also support the projects that are currently housed in the BBRC, which will provide access and retention services to Black students, the Academic Supports Program (ASP), Students Heightening Academic Performance through Education (SHAPE) and the Afrikan Education Project (AEP).

### **Background on the Transfer Student Center**

2. The EARN fee shall be used to cover the operational and programmatic costs of the Transfer Student Center, including but not limited to space, staffing, and services.
  - a. The UCLA Transfer Student Center (TSC) is committed to serving the diverse population of transfer students at UCLA and their unique needs. TSC's mission is to provide transfer students with information, referrals, support services, and intentional programming that assists them in navigating the UCLA system and connections to build a UCLA network. The TSC currently has a dedicated space for transfer students to study, relax, and connect with others. The TSC currently serves as an access point for many intersecting student identities, including, but not limited to, parenting students, undocumented students, commuter students, and Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC students), etc. to access information and resources about navigating UCLA. The TSC caters to the diverse transfer student population through offering an array of programs and services to address institutional needs. For example, a general academic counselor is present in the center twice a week, a transfer student scholarship has been established to support transfer students with extenuating needs, a mentorship program to support 1st-year transfer students to acclimate to UCLA and limit the number of students who experience transfer shock.
  - b. Despite being established for over 5 years, the TSC currently does not have stable funding and currently relies on a mix of grant proposals and small university funding that they have to apply for and renew every year. This causes instability in the amount available to fund employee salaries, the number of staff they can employ, and operational costs. Professional staff, student program assistants, and UCLA campus partners play a significant role in providing transfer specific initiatives, services, resources, and self-advocacy to transfer students so they are able to achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals as they progress through their educational journey.
  - c. These fees will help alleviate the stress of searching for grants and provide the TSC with a stable budget to operate with and allow for the center to continue supporting transfer students. The fee would aid in achieving the goal of improving transfer students' access to university services and ultimately support both graduation and retention rates of transfer students.

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3. The Undergraduate Student Association Council will ensure that the funding allocation to Black Bruin Resource Center and the Transfer Student Center is consistent with the 80/20 distribution stipulated in E.A.R.N. Furthermore, the Undergraduate Student Association Council Cultural Affairs Commission in collaboration with the Black Bruin Resource Center and Transfer Student Center will prepare and present reports twice annually to the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) on the usage and specific allocation of the E.A.R.N. funds.

If this referendum fails, the BBRC and TSC will continue to operate with insufficient funding, space, staffing, and resources to serve their intended purposes. There would be less staff to assist students at the helpdesk, a cut in budget for scholarships, and a decrease in resources and community initiatives to help retain this vulnerable population. Therefore affecting the overall wellbeing of the students who use these spaces to further their growth at UCLA