

Daniela Anais Cortez Bravo

My name is Daniela Anais Cortez Bravo (*she/her*), and I am running for Academic Affairs Commissioner with Students Organizing Active Resistance. Coming from a multi-generational, mixed-status, and Latinx household has defined my academic journey. As a first-generation, low-income woman, I was molded into a resilient, persistent leader dedicated to achieving educational justice and freedom.

Despite its advertisements of inclusion, UCLA persistently invalidates and isolates students – especially our most marginalized. The administration fails to address the inaccessibility of higher education, the scarcity of resources for retention, and the absence of student welfare. Students forcibly bear the labor of making UCLA more accessible. UCLA must acknowledge these efforts and provide support to our communities.

As Academic Affairs Commissioner, I am determined to remove barriers by extending support to students on the road to their education's completion. With my background, experience, and passion for student retention and wellness, I will successfully address the issues students face navigating higher education and center on a holistic view of the student experience.

Through amplification of student voices and campus communities, I will:

- Expand financial services within AAC's purview, such as Books for Bruins, the Academic Success Referendum Fund, and Travel Grant Mini Fund, to subsidize more resources and close financial gaps through advocacy and outreach.
- Provide direct support to students through workshops, toolkits, and community-based mental health interventions.
- Reimagine accessibility beyond UCLA admissions through conversations with communities and administration regarding UCLA's current state of affairs and ensure attainable opportunities post-grad by nurturing students' navigational capital.

Platforms:

- **Access & Equity:** I will amplify UC-wide existing resources to connect prospective students upon entry, making the UC more accessible through comprehensive guides. Accessibility extends beyond admissions, so I will partake in collaborative advocacy for UCLA's internal accessibility relative to Bruins' educational pursuits through community liaisons with stakeholders.
- **Retention First:** Textbooks, technological resources, and unpaid student opportunities have financial implications for student wellness. Honing on student retention, I will expand AAC-led funds to subsidize academic and career resources to mitigate financial barriers and equip a hub of paid opportunities for student engagement.
- **Sanctuary Campus:** I will encourage a culture that acknowledges the impact of mental health on student welfare, especially for marginalized populations with disproportionate access to services. As AAC, I will collaborate with organizations to expand mental health services and maximize students' access and retention through direct mental health care.
- **Student Agency and Resilience (StAR):** UCLA neglects student leaders and places the plight on marginalized students' advocacy without acknowledging the harm UCLA perpetuates. I will amplify student voices and empower them to harness strength from their experiences to drive institutional change while establishing a proactive culture of care.
- **In-n-Out UCLA:** Higher education is an investment and an expensive one at that. Students must be supported to apply their UCLA education in the real world. Whether it be graduate school or the workforce, I will increase the visibility of and offer various avenues of mentorship, financial, and counseling resources.

Experience:

- **As the USAC Academic Affairs Commission's Internal Assistant Commissioner (2021 – Present)**, I have an intimate understanding of the commission's functions – ranging from our platforms to our funding bodies and the Academic Senate. I support our staff in developing and implementing their initiatives, such as workshops, financial programming, and resource distribution.
- **As Academic Senator on the Committee of Undergraduate Admissions & Relations to Schools (2021 – Present)**, I reviewed ethnic studies requirements for prospective students in the Fall of 2030. I advocate alongside campus communities with stakeholders for greater inclusion of transfers and marginalized students by centering communities and pushing for institutionalized representation.
- **As an Educational Public Policy Fellow with Southern California College Access Network (2022 – Present)**, I learn about educational disparities across California through community advocacy – specializing in the different higher education systems and marginalized populations. I will also collaborate with policymakers to inform change to tackle issues within higher education.
- **As a Peer Mentor in UCLA First Years' Scholars Program (2021 – Present)**, I empower incoming first-years from marginalized communities by amplifying campus resources, cultivating a sense of belonging through the establishment of community, and passing on tools of self-advocacy as they take on their higher education journey.
- **As a College Success Advisor for California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) (August 2020 — August 2021)**, I supported high school students – preparing them for post-graduation with an emphasis on higher education accessibility. During the pandemic's peak, I assisted households with financial resources to mitigate monetary barriers through Cash-for-College workshops.