

UCSA Police Brutality Resolution

Foadad Khosmood, Doug Jorgesen, and Tina Park, Nov. 17, 2006

Whereas the University of California Student Association is seriously concerned about recent events involving police brutality against UC Students; and

Whereas during the October 18, 2006 demonstration at UC Santa Cruz the police used batons and pepper sprays indiscriminately and without warning against students; and

Whereas multiple students sustained injuries and had to be treated on the spot for eye irritation due to pepper spray use, and at least one student's head was bloodied from baton injuries; and

Whereas another student was dragged on the ground, sustaining cement burns and three individuals were grabbed and detained by the police for hours inside a school building; and

Whereas two students and an alumnus were charged with "resisting arrest," and multiple felony assault charges were brought against a single African-American Santa Cruz student named Alette Kendrick; and

Whereas on November 14, UCLA Campus Police officers used their tasers several times against UCLA Student Mostafa Tabatabaiejad at Powell Library and they continued even after he was handcuffed and displayed no acts of aggression; and

Whereas Tabatabaiejad's repeated cries for mercy were ignored by the police officers who continued tasing him; and

Whereas other concerned UCLA students who were present at the scene and seeking public information from the officers were threatened with violence; and

Whereas UCLA is facing a law suit stemming from excessive police force and racial targeting; and

Whereas UCSC GSA voted on Oct. 19th to urge the city and campus authorities to drop all charges against the "Santa Cruz Three" and urge UCSC Chancellor Blumenthal "not to pursue any kind academic disciplinary action toward the students who were detained," and students at UCSC held a rally on Oct. 20th, denouncing police brutality and demanding that the charges against the Santa Cruz 3 be dropped, and on October 25, AS UCSB passed a resolution calling for an immediate investigation and expressing "solidarity with the students of UC Santa Cruz;" and

Whereas UCLA students have demanded a full investigation into the incident at the Powell Library and on Nov. 17 staged a large demonstration demanding an independent investigation, dropping of all charges and suspension of the officers involved and;

Whereas UCLA Acting Chancellor Norman Abrams has agreed to an outside investigation, however as of now there are no indications of any student involvement in such an investigation; and

Whereas the Mostafa Tabatabainejad is of Iranian ethnicity and Alette Kendrick is an African American female and circumstances in both incidents suggest racial targeting on the part of the police;

therefore be it resolved that

The UCSA demands the dropping of all legal charges and academic punishments against UC students Mostafa Tabatabainejad, Alette Kendrick, Steve Stormoen and UC alumnus Tanith Thole; and

UCSA demands the immediate suspension of all officers involved in the two incidents against whom there exists documented evidence showing use of force against students; and

UCSA demands third party investigations acceptable to and approved by student governments of the two respective campuses; and

UCSA demands that the said investigations be conducted in a professional and speedy fashion and findings be presented at the earliest available time with the final presentation not be made any later than the end of the academic year 2006-2007 and the findings of the investigation be made public and placed on the Internet; and

UCSA demands that the UC Regents authorize an additional, internal, system-wide committee be immediately formed to review Policies concerning possession and usage of weapons by University Police and Policies concerning hiring, training and performance evaluation of the conduct of University Police officers with the goal of absolutely eliminating any unnecessary use of force on campuses; and be it finally resolved that

UCSA demands that the said internal system-wide committee have guaranteed significant and meaningful student representation, including voting rights.