

Introduced to the Senate Floor on December 10, 2020.



## ASUCD SENATE RESOLUTION #5

Authored by: YOUEDON  
Co-authored by: Krueger  
Introduced by: Elizalde

An ASUCD Senate Resolution to oppose campus administration's decision to eliminate the Physical Education (PHE) program, urge that the program, including all current PE lecturers, be reinstated by winter quarter 2021, and urge that administration solicits faculty and student input;

WHEREAS, over 4,000 students and alumni have signed onto the "Save the UC Davis Physical Education Program" petition. There are over 100 comments in support of PE. This petition is an expression of the student body's will in overwhelming opposition to the cancellation of PE; and,

WHEREAS, the ASUCD Senate table's emails have been flooded with messages from UC Davis students and faculty urging ASUCD to take action against the administration's decision to remove the PHE program; and,

WHEREAS, sports and recreation clubs at UC Davis such as the Taekwondo Club and Swim Club oppose the elimination of the PHE program, along with State Senator Bill Dodd and Senator Connie Leyva who is the Chair of the Senate Education Committee<sup>1</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, the UC Davis administration has directed students to the ARC Recreational classes as an alternative to PE. However, these classes are currently limited with only 15 classes offered each week, with limited seats, and lack of diversity in activity as the PE courses offer (tennis, boxing, etc.)<sup>2</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, as we are in the COVID-19 pandemic, the ARC, Rec Swim, and Craft Center often close and are an unpredictable and unreliable source of exercise for UC Davis students; and,

WHEREAS, UC Davis ranks the 5th nationwide in sexual-assault crimes<sup>3</sup> and the elimination of the PE program would result in the elimination of vital self defense classes; and,

WHEREAS, on behalf of the undergraduate students of UC Davis, the Associated Students of University of California, Davis (ASUCD), the destruction of the PHE program will hurt students seeking exercise during the COVID-19 pandemic, coaches who will lose their jobs, and students under the ICA program; and,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://i.redd.it/p11rk9o6qj161.png>

<sup>2</sup> <https://campusrecreation.ucdavis.edu/recreation/living-well/registration>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/crime-fire-courts/report-ucd-ranks-5th-nationwide-in-sexual-assault-crimes/>

WHEREAS, according to the UC Davis Budget Overview for the Council on Student Affairs and Fees, UC Davis's budget for 2018-2019 was \$5.2 billion (dollars)<sup>4</sup>, after cutting PE, the administration will only be saving \$1.2 million dollars according to the PE Program Paper in the UC Davis's Budget and Institutional Analysis<sup>5</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, the PE program falls under a "Special Academic Program."<sup>6</sup> Thus, the disestablishment of the PE program falls under the authority of the Academic Senate. A quote on the UC Davis Academic Senate page states, "The establishment, revision, and disestablishment of Special Academic Programs require Academic Senate approval"<sup>7</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, the Davis Faculty Association published a letter regarding the administrative decision to remove the PE Program. One line reads, "We were quite surprised to read in the Davis Enterprise about the proposed elimination of the Physical Education Program...there is also the fact that the Academic Senate has formal authority in decisions of this nature"<sup>8</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, a current UC Davis Vice Chancellor sent an email to the ASUCD Senate and many other members within UC Davis regarding the discontinuation of PE courses on behalf of Chancellor May and Provost Croughan. The email states, "This decision is not related to budget implications brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a concerted effort to modernize our programming based on steadily declining enrollment in PE over the years (i.e., enrollment declined from about 4,600 students taking PE courses in 2014-15, to about 2,800 in 2019-20)."; yet from 2014 to 2020, PE 1 course sections were reduced by 13.2 percent and other PE course sections were reduced by 61.3 percent. Therefore, the drop in enrollment seems at least partially attributable to the reduced number of course options<sup>9</sup>; and,

WHEREAS, there are many PHE-1 classes with waiting lists, indicating substantial interest in PE remains;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, on behalf of the undergraduate students of UC Davis, the Associated Students of University of California, Davis (ASUCD) Senate-

- (1) Firmly objects to the administration's decision to end the PE Program.
- (2) Urges the administration to immediately halt the cancellation of PE, and form a working group of stakeholders containing both students and faculty to approach the future of PE carefully, thoughtfully, and democratically.
- (3) Calls for any decision pertaining to the status of PE to be decided only after a workgroup has formed and has rendered a decision.
- (4) Affirms the student body's authority to have input in decisions that directly affect students.
- (5) Invites campus administration to maintain its decades long culture of collaboration and trust with the student body by taking the aforementioned actions.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, copies of the resolution be sent to UCOP, the Regents, the Chancellor, Provost, Dean of L&S, Chair and Executive and Undergraduate Councils of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, UC-AFT Davis, Local 2023, Executive Board of the Davis Faculty

4 <https://cosaf.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk1561/files/inline-files/COSAF%20Budget%20Overview%20092419%20to%20post%20on%20website.pdf>

5 [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1puBK1hNywEuz9g4Z\\_I4VgaFEsjqbKWJtI25rLm2lNM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1puBK1hNywEuz9g4Z_I4VgaFEsjqbKWJtI25rLm2lNM/edit?usp=sharing)

6 [https://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk3876/files/local\\_resources/docs/committees/undergrad\\_council/sap/list\\_specialacademicprograms.pdf](https://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk3876/files/local_resources/docs/committees/undergrad_council/sap/list_specialacademicprograms.pdf)

7 <https://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/committees/undergraduate-council/special-academic-programs>

8 <https://ucdfa.org/2020/10/letter-opposing-elimination-of-pe/>

9 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dM3SS5gmVKpA74WlNYCiu2uIDHAdBuBR/view?usp=sharing>

Association, Senator Connie Leyva, State Senator Bill Dodd, State Assembly Members Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and Tasha Boerner Horvath, the California Aggie, the Davis Vanguard, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle, and the Davis Enterprise.

Finance: No

Appropriation: None

Vote: Majority

DO PASS AS AMENDED, 11-0-1, BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE ASUCD SENATE ON DECEMBER 10, 2020. YES: BOBDE, ELIZALDE, FONG, GANDHOKE, MANRIQUEZ, MIFSUD, NAVARRO, SAHNI, SHAHAB, SMITH, YOUEDON. ABSTAIN: RODRIGUEZ IBARRA.



12/10/2020

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Kyle Krueger  
ASUCD President

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Date