

## A Resolution in Support of Improving the Affordability of Metro's College Universal Pass (U-Pass) Authored by: Marcos Montes, VP for External Affairs and Advancement

Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors of California State University, Los Angeles Associated Students, IncorporatedResolution Number FA-18-002Submission Date: TBDApproval Date: TBD

*Whereas*, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) established the U-Pass as a transit pass that allows unlimited access to local public transit through the use of student's campus identification cards<sup>1</sup>; and

Whereas, the U-Pass was established as a 2-year pilot program to end Fall 2018; and

*Whereas*, Metro's Board of Directors will consider a request in January 2018 to make the U-Pass a permanent program; and

*Whereas*, Cal State LA Parking and Transportation Services sold 1,899 passes in Spring 2017, surpassing the sold expectation of 500 passes; and

*Whereas*, students not enrolled in the U-Pass enroll in a Metro College/Vocational Pass that costs students \$43 per month, or about \$10.75 per week; and

*Whereas*, Metro's U-Pass Spring 2017 rate was determined by a weekly rate of \$10.03, only a .72 cents savings from Metro's Vocational Pass; and

Whereas, for Fall 2017 Metro's rate for the U-Pass is \$220 for 23 weeks, or \$9.57 per week; and

*Whereas*, Metro is offering the U-Pass for \$1.18 per week less than the rate of the Metro College/Vocational Pass; and

*Whereas*, in order for the U-Pass to truly be sold at a better discounted price, schools are left with the task to subsidy the passes for their students; and

*Whereas*, Cal State LA offered the U-Pass in Spring 2017 for \$95, but due to an increase in enrollment in the program, the increase of covered weeks, and lack of resources to subsidy the program Cal State LA will sell the U-Pass for Fall 2017 at \$125 per student and the projected cost for Spring 2018 is \$140; and

*Whereas*, Cal State LA requested A.S.I. to help subsidy the program for Fall 2017 resulting in a \$70,000 allocation from the FY 2016-2017 A.S.I. budget; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Metro U-Pass Pilot Program (https://www.metro.net/riding/colleges/u-pass-pilot-program/)



*Whereas*, A.S.I. like many other student governments in the Los Angeles County area collect fees from the student body, resulting in students indirectly absorbing the cost of the U-Pass through subsidies; and

*Whereas,* with more than 1.4 million public college students in Los Angeles County, only 14,000 (1%) are actively participating in Metro's reduced fare college pass programs, the College/Vocational (C/V) Pass and Institutional Transit Access Pass (I-TAP) programs<sup>2</sup>, and

Whereas, clause about Measure M; let it be

**Resolved**, that Associated Students, Inc. at Cal State LA requests for Metro to further evaluate the U-Pass and provide a more student affordable program that does not rely on subsidies from the institutions enrolled because many of those subsidies come from students, and students end up paying for these programs, and further

**Resolved**, that Associated Students, Inc. at Cal State LA will not allocate any more resources to the U-Pass from our budget until we see efforts from the Metro Board and/or the State of CA to create affordable and sustainable transportation for students, and further

**Resolved**, that a student delegation, organized by A.S.I., from Cal State LA will attend Metro's Board meeting in September and January to advocate for more affordable transportation programs for students, and further

**Resolved**, that A.S.I. of Cal State LA will seek to create a coalition with neighboring colleges and institutions, and transportation non-profits to advocate for a more affordable U-Pass, and let it be finally

**Resolved**, that copies of this resolution will be shared with Cal State LA Parking and Transportation services, Cal State LA University President Bill Covino, Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti, Metro Board, CSU Board of Trustees, Transportation Non Profits, Student Associations in the LA County Area, and the Cal State Student Association.

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David Zitser President Associated Students, Incorporated Date

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Source – Transportation News & Views (http://thesource.metro.net/2016/05/26/agenda-for-todays-meeting-of-the-metro-board-of-directors-2/)



Jazmin Ortiz Secretary/Treasurer Associated Students, Incorporated Date