



September 21, 2018

Dear members of the Undergraduate Student Association Council,

I have recently watched the broadcast of the September 4, 2018 USAC meeting and reviewed USAC's "IFC Statement" published on September 7, 2018. I appreciate the council's public support of Jane Doe and its condemnation of sexual violence on our campus. However, I ultimately found that the nature of your conversation at the meeting and the published statement did not add anything of value to the campus conversation surrounding sexual violence.

I think it is a disservice to the entire undergraduate student body to continue to solely focus the conversation regarding sexual violence in the context of in-house fraternity events when sexual violence is not confined to these facilities. When the conversation regarding sexual violence focuses only on occurrences in these spaces, it effectively invalidates the experiences of members of the undergraduate student body who have been affected by sexual violence within other campus communities or in other physical locations on or near our campus.

In my experience, conversations surrounding sexual violence at UCLA tend to lose or inadequately acknowledge the voices and experiences of survivors. Frequently, these conversations result in retroactive action against perpetrators without properly taking into consideration the complex and residual emotions of survivors. The policies of a single campus community are not the sole factor that perpetuate a culture of sexual violence at UCLA, and focusing on the presence of sexual violence in more easily identifiable communities does not accurately consider the widespread culture of sexual violence, or take into account assaults that occur in apartments, dorms, and other on-or-near campus locations.

Sexual violence continues to be a significant issue within our Bruin community, the UCLA Panhellenic Association prioritizes and will continue to prioritize the discussion of sexual violence, not only in our Panhellenic community but in the Bruin community as a whole. Through our shared values, the UCLA Panhellenic Association continues to work to create an environment that supports *all* survivors. In March 2018, I wrote a letter to the UCLA Panhellenic community to reaffirm my commitment to expanding dialogue surrounding the issue of sexual violence, as I recognized that there were significant gaps in the community conversation. It can be found here: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/68b6aa_12939e536de3453daf65db4ba581a9d2.pdf

It is not my intention to invalidate concerns of the Undergraduate Student Association Council regarding the sexual violence that exists at in-house fraternity events; I share similar concerns. At its root, sexual violence is a cultural issue and cannot be solved through one policy change or by one community alone. I believe in order to work towards creating a safer Bruin community we must expand the scope of the conversation by recognizing that sexual violence exists in other spaces, and addressing factors other than fraternity policies that contribute to a culture that perpetuates sexual violence. If the Undergraduate Student Association Council is truly committed to combating a culture that perpetuates sexual violence, it must formally recognize and support survivors within *all* campus communities.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Lewis".

Emily Lewis
Panhellenic President

Panhellenic response to USAC conversation regarding sexual assault

Emily Lewis <president.pan.ucla@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 21, 2018 at 7:04 PM

To: Arielle Yael Mokhtarzadeh <usapres@asucla.ucla.edu>

Cc: usaivp@asucla.ucla.edu, "Rafi Sands, UCLA Ext. Vice President" <usaevp@gmail.com>, usarep1@asucla.ucla.edu, usarep2@asucla.ucla.edu, usarep3@asucla.ucla.edu, usaaac@asucla.ucla.edu, usacec@asucla.ucla.edu, usacac@asucla.ucla.edu, usafac@asucla.ucla.edu, usafsc@asucla.ucla.edu, usaswc@asucla.ucla.edu

Bcc: vpc.pan.ucla@gmail.com

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