

76th Senate

Fall Session



S.R. 23J

Resolution Type:
Positional

A Resolution Calling on UC President James Milliken to Reinstate Recurring Meetings with Student Leaders

A resolution, authored by Aditi Hariharan, brought by **Senator Noah Luken** joined by **Senator Melanie Jones** and **Senator Mira Than**, to call on UC President James Milliken to reinstate recurring meetings with student leaders.

Endorsed by the following student sponsors:

Le Anh Metzger, President of the Associated Students at UCSB

WHEREAS: The UC President, a position of great power which oversees the 10 UC campuses and drafts policies and procedures for systemwide UC functioning, consistently impacts the lives of all UC students; and,

WHEREAS: Timely, transparent, and consistent communication from the UC Office of the President (UCOP) is essential to maintaining student trust as delays in communication from UCOP impede student leaders' ability to address urgent issues on their campuses; and,

WHEREAS: In a shared governance structure such as the UC, students are a vital stakeholder, impacted by almost every aspect of university culture and environment, precisely why administration must meet regularly with students to discuss and tackle timely and long term concerns and to ensure that policy is accurately addressing student needs; and,

WHEREAS: Students are a non-monolithic, diverse body and efforts must be made by both campus and systemwide administration to meet with multiple student groups; and,

WHEREAS: For the past 12 years, the UC President met quarterly with all undergraduate External Vice Presidents and the UC Student Association (UCSA) President for 1 hour; and,

WHEREAS: For the past 12 years, the UC President met quarterly with all graduate External Vice Presidents and the UC Graduate and Professional Council (UCGPC) President for 1 hour; and,

WHEREAS: For the past 12 years, the UC President met quarterly with the Council of Presidents, consisting of all undergraduate and graduate student body presidents, for 1 hour; and,

WHEREAS: For the past 5 years, the UC President met monthly each with the UCSA President and UCGPC President for 45 minutes; and,

WHEREAS: President Milliken has only met once with the UCSA and UCGPC Presidents for just 30 minutes during the month of September and has not planned consistent monthly meetings; and,

WHEREAS: President Milliken has not confirmed any meetings with the Council of Presidents and has not planned quarterly meetings for the rest of the school year; and,

WHEREAS: President Milliken has met once with both the undergraduate and graduate External Vice Presidents but has not planned any other quarterly meetings for the rest of the school year; and,

WHEREAS: The Associated Students Senates are an integral part of the student representation process and should be met with on a regular basis, in addition to the other entities mentioned throughout this document; and,

WHEREAS: President Milliken is actively involved in federal government conversations and university policy decisions that impact students deeply, and, without scheduled meetings, students do not know when their concerns can be heard next and have no way to reach systemwide administration about timely concerns, causing student leaders to be unable to advocate effectively for their constituents, especially as many student concerns are directly related to systemwide University policy; and,

WHEREAS: Students overall end up less informed about university administration thought processes, leading to a large divide and distrust between students and administration, and, if the systemwide president is not meeting with student leaders, it sets a negative precedent for individual campus chancellors to not meet with student leaders.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Associated Students in the 76th Senate

assembled: The Association calls on President Milliken to reinstate one hour quarterly meetings with each of the following bodies: Undergraduate External Vice Presidents, Graduate External Vice Presidents, and the Council of Presidents. Students also call on President Milliken to reinstate monthly 45 minute meetings with the UCSA and UCGPC Presidents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Association calls for Chancellors to meet regularly with both External Vice Presidents and student body Presidents on their campus.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: The Association calls for Chancellors to urge President Milliken to reinstate meetings with systemwide and campus student leaders, to ensure that the student voice is present, heard, and addressed in vital UC conversations, especially in this current higher education context.