



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS SENATE

University of California, Santa Barbara

Senate Resolution

Title: Resolution to Oppose Munger Hall's Current Architectural Design			
Author	Jessy Gonzalez	Second	Caria Lee
Number	110321-25	FPP	
Bill Type	Positional	Vote	2/3rds

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS RECOMMENDATION

Grammatical Recommendations	
Structural Recommendations	
Legal Code Violations	
Pass with Amendments	
Table	

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Pass as Written		Pass with Amendments		Do Not Pass	
Refer to Committee					
Recommended by a Vote of			Chairperson's Initials		

STUDENT-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

Student Sponsor	<i>Esme Quintero-Cubillan, Geo Lucero, Sydney Evans, Gurleen Pabla, Riley Hull, Shannon Sweeney, Celine Washington, CODE</i>
<i>The Student Sponsored Liaison has ensured that this Student-Sponsored Resolution is correct in its form and adherence to the AS UCSB Legal Code.</i>	

FISCAL IMPACT

Amount	0	Account	N/A
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Resolution to Oppose Munger Hall's Current Architectural Design

WHEREAS: The consulting architect to the University of California, Santa Barbara's Design Review Committee recently resigned from his position on October 24, 2021¹, after realizing the internal isolation, unprecedented size and density, and detachment from physical settings that would result from adherence to Munger Hall's current plans would have pernicious impacts on student life; and,

WHEREAS: At the time of this resolution's submission, a recent petition on Change.org titled "UCSB Should Reject The Proposed 'Munger Residence Hall,'" 6,232 people have signed this petition in opposition of the building; and,

WHEREAS: The construction of Munger Hall is inconsistent with how the University of California, Santa Barbara regularly approves building designs through its Design and Review Committee: "The design was described as 100% complete, approval was not requested, no vote was taken, and no further submittals are intended or required;"² and,

WHEREAS: The living spaces are wholly dependent on artificial light and mechanical ventilation; the 8-person living units have no exterior windows or in 94% of the bedrooms proposed in the architectural plans, with no research or data to justify these peculiar living standards;³ and,

WHEREAS: A study published in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine* titled "Impact of Windows and Daylight Exposure on Overall Health and Sleep Quality of Office Workers: A Case-Control Pilot Study," compared the health and wellness of people who worked in rooms with and without windows, and concluded that workers in windowless rooms reported poorer scores on three Short Form-36 measurements. These workers experience role limitation due to physical problems and lower vitality. With reference to the global Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index score, researchers found that those with windowless work rooms experienced more inferior overall sleep quality with greater sleep disturbance. Workers with windows at the workplace showed a trend toward more physical activity, and longer sleep duration;⁴ and,"

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that a human's circadian clock, sleep, and alertness is sensitive to the Sun's light/dark cycles; there are crucial

¹ Hayden, T. (2021, October 29). *Architect resigns in protest over UCSB mega-dorm*. The Santa Barbara Independent. <https://www.independent.com/2021/10/28/architect-resigns-in-protest-over-ucsb-mega-dorm/>

² Faia, D. M. (2021). *Resignation Letter*.

³ Ibid

⁴ Boubekri, M. (2014, June 15). *Impact of Windows and daylight exposure on overall health and sleep quality of office workers: A case-control pilot study*. PubMed Central (PMC). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4031400/>

times during the day where exposure to sunlight naturally assists the body in getting ready to go to sleep or wake up;⁵ and,

WHEREAS: Vitamin D, predominantly received from sun exposure, helps the human body absorb calcium (one of the main building blocks of bone), and plays a significant role in the nervous, muscle, and immune systems; in that case, vitamin D deficiency can lead to a loss of bone density, which can contribute to osteoporosis and fractures; in adults, severe vitamin D deficiency leads to osteomalacia, causing weak bones, bone pain, and muscle weakness;⁶ and,

WHEREAS: The threat that windowless bedrooms pose to students' immune systems coupled with the massive intended population density of the building would leave students more vulnerable to COVID-19. This is in spite of the fact that we are currently uncertain how long COVID-19 is here to stay and whether the vaccines we have now will continue to be effective long term; and,

WHEREAS: There is no doubt, according to an ample amount of documented evidence, that the physical and mental well being of residents improves if their interior environments have constant access to natural light, air, and views to nature; and,

WHEREAS: The Munger Hall population density (221,000 students/square mile) is relatively 18 times that of Isla Vista (12,400 people/square mile). This is compared to the density of the Los Angeles urban area, which has just under 7,000 people/square mile, or the San Francisco-Oakland urban area, which has a population density of 6,266.4 people/square mile as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau; and,

WHEREAS: There is no precedent nor similar architectural designs featuring such peculiar features in student housing history. Thus, the proposed building's impact on students' personal development and physical or psychological well-being can only be predicted according to research on such architectural features, which challenge the building's design; and,

WHEREAS: Architecture is more than just the construction of buildings; it involves deep consideration on how such a building will affect its inhabitants, both physically and psychologically; and,

WHEREAS: The major contributor to the project, Charlie Munger has no formal education in architecture and perceives to view architecture as a game rather than an art. "Everybody loves

⁵ The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2021, June 28). *Effects of light on circadian rhythms*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/emres/longhourstraining/light.html>

⁶ *Vitamin D deficiency: MedlinePlus*. (n.d.). MedlinePlus - Health Information from the National Library of Medicine. <https://medlineplus.gov/vitaminDdeficiency.html>

light and everybody prefers natural light. But it's a game of tradeoffs," Munger said in an interview;⁷ and,

WHEREAS: This 11-story project's total cost is approximately \$1.5 billion⁸ in which Charlie Munger is only covering about 13% of the cost, thus it is undoubtedly unjust for the individual to have complete control over the design process; and,

WHEREAS: Numerous individuals have expressed their discontent with the proposed building on multiple online platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Reddit: "If this report is true, this design is a grotesque, sick joke—a jail masquerading as a dormitory. No, design isn't up to billionaire donors. How far UCSB has fallen since the days when it had architects like Charles Moore,"⁹ Paul Goldberger posted on Twitter; and,

WHEREAS: Experts from various fields have also expressed their concerns about the building through social media platforms: "It's one thing to put your name on a building, [and] it's another level of egomania to condition a gift on accepting the donor's architectural plan entirely without modification," wrote Stanford political scientist Rob Reich, author of "Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How It Can Do Better,"¹⁰ on Twitter; and,

WHEREAS: Charlie Munger's \$200 million dollar donation is not a philanthropic gesture; since, philanthropy concerns a desire to promote the welfare of others; the donation is doing the opposite, it is going to impact student health and well-being negatively; and,

WHEREAS: The University of California, Santa Barbara's campus is known for its picturesque environment; being located on cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean and being the only university with its own beach; no doubt, its beachfront location is a fundamental component of campus culture; however, Munger Hall intends to omit this feature: "The living units have no reference to the exterior; even the rooftop courtyard at the center of "Our Town in the Sky" looks inward. . .,"¹¹ and,

⁷ Albrecht, L. (2021, October 29). *'I'd rather be a billionaire and not be loved by everybody': Charlie Munger shrugs off controversy over \$200M donation for nearly windowless dorm*. MarketWatch. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/id-rather-be-a-billionaire-and-not-be-loved-by-everybody-charlie-munger-shrugs-off-controversy-over-200m-donation-for-nearly-windowless-dorm-11635547043>

⁸ Crippen, A. (n.d.). *There's a controversy over Charlie Munger's design for a big dorm at UCSB*. CNBC. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/10/30/theres-a-controversy-over-charlie-mungers-design-for-a-big-dorm-at-ucsb.html>

⁹ Goldberger, P. (n.d.). Twitter. https://twitter.com/paulgoldberger/status/1453921647736541187?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1453921647736541187%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bloomberg.com%2Fnews%2Farticles%2F2021-10-29%2Fcharlie-munger-defends-design-for-dorm-bashed-by-architect

¹⁰ Reich, R. (n.d.). Twitter. <https://twitter.com/robreich/status/1454105969458233346>

¹¹ Ibid

WHEREAS: The Munger Hall project displays a disregard for the expert input necessary for allowing disability-forward design to guide the development of this residence hall; and,

WHEREAS: The Associated Students 72nd Senate acknowledges that the University of California, Santa Barbara is undergoing a housing crisis; however, the solution to such an issue shall not be the construction of a building that is highly aversed by both the architectural and health communities; and,

WHEREAS: The Associated Students 72nd Senate acknowledges that the University of California, Santa Barbara—given the inaccessibility of our current housing and living infrastructure—must now prioritize the data-driven implementation of design operations and choices that include development strategies, building features, and operational policies that support accessibility and inclusion; and,

WHEREAS: The Munger Hall is no revolutionary or innovative project, but a mere unethical experiment on students; since, it neglectfully ignores student health and data-driven design practices; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS IN THE 72ND SENATE ASSEMBLED: Urge the University of California, Santa Barbara to disregard Munger Hall's current architectural plans, or encourage their alteration such that those plans align with accepted living standards and evidence-based design principles by the architectural and health communities; and,"

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED: That we, the 72nd Senate Assembled, yearn the University of California's Chancellor to reevaluate his role to support students and their needs—rather than financial desires—in interior environments, so they may comfortably continue their pursuit of higher education at the University; and,

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED: That we, the 72nd Senate Assembled, encourage the Chancellor to integrate the Design and Review Committee into the design process in order to respectfully follow precedent and incorporate local perspectives; and,

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED: That we, the 72nd Senate Assembled, urge all five (5) executive officers of the Associated Students to collaborate and roll out a campaign in opposition of Munger Hall's current architectural design; therefore,

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED: That we, the 72nd Senate Assembled, urge all Associated Students-affiliated organizations to commence and support ongoing efforts in opposition of Munger Hall's current architectural design.

CC:

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