

## **Opinion Poll: *Students for Sustaining Black Wellness***

### **Introduction:**

UCSC students are known nationwide for creating and advocating for justice and community. Since the founding of this campus, students have pushed UCSC to better serve every student and to offer an education that reveals the sources of injustice and empowers us to be effective agents of change.

Students' efforts to improve our campus are often not validated when the campus makes important decisions concerning student life. As a result, students have watched their needs go unsupported while resources get allocated to new administrative positions or programs favored by administrators. This disproportionately impacts students from minoritized communities.

Today, Black students at UCSC are leading the fight for accountability and the allocation of resources necessary to counter the institutional racism embedded in every educational institution in this country. There are many issues to address; however, these are two urgent needs we would like the student body to weigh in on:

1. Of 13 counselors, only 1 is Black-identified. Students often have to wait weeks to see them. For the past 11 years, the Black Student Union (BSU) has advocated for sufficient BIPOC diversity in the university's counseling staff. To date, the University has failed to meet this need.
2. For over 30 years, the African American Theater Arts Troupe (AATAT), the only Black, student-led theater group in the UC system, has lacked University support. In 2011, the student body stepped in and voted to tax themselves to keep student-led diversity theater alive. Still, AATAT's request for necessary university funds has not been addressed.

Students, please offer your voices on these two critical issues

- I feel the University administration needs to listen to students and move quickly to increase the number of BIPOC counselors at Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS).
- I feel the University administration needs to listen to students and invest permanent resources that support the cultural diversity theater of the African American Theater Arts Troupe (AATAT).

Scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither disagree nor agree, Agree, Strongly agree

[Endorsement List](#)

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## **Opinion Poll: Inclusion of Student Voice in Campus Decision Making**

### **Introduction:**

The University of California, Santa Cruz's Principles of Community include the essential values of being: open, caring, just, diverse, disciplined, purposeful, and celebrative. As stated in the campus Strategic Academic Plan of March 2021, "[t]he campus seeks to enhance its longstanding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion to better support our diverse community."<sup>1</sup>In order to fulfill this commitment, campus decision-makers need to listen, respect, and include the ideas and voices of students. Equity begins with listening with deep respect to experiences that are not our own.

However, students have historically been left out of conversations regarding student experiences. This has been a continued source of frustration for students and has become a critical issue in the context of a pandemic. Over the course of these waves of COVID, the constant back and forth of administration in their decisions, with little to no input from the student body, has left students feeling uncertain and unassured about the campus. Campus decisions appear to prioritize profit over students' health and safety, compromising students' accessibility to a quality education. The university's actions (and lack thereof) have significantly burdened students physically, economically, and emotionally.

### *The purpose of this opinion poll*

This survey is a vehicle for student voices to be heard and demonstrate the value of student participation in campus decisions which directly impact students' lives. It also serves as an avenue to keep administration accountable.

### *How the data from the opinion poll will be used*

The responses to this opinion poll will be used to get a sense for how our campus body has been feeling about the administration's campus decision making processes. We will take the responses back to our SUA Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the SUA Office of the President, as well as to the overall SUA space, to figure out ways to bring awareness to administration as to how students feel in being left out of conversations and the importance of including students' input.

Students, please provide your thoughts through the following questions.

1. Based on UCSC's Principles of Community, how would you rate administration's commitment to these principles? Would you say administrators are doing an excellent,

good, only fair or poor job?

2. How much trust and confidence do you have in our UCSC administration when it comes to managing COVID protocols -- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?
3. How often do you think you can trust the UCSC administration to take students' experiences and feedback into consideration when making decisions? -- just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or not at all?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement -- As a student, I feel as though I have a say about what the University does.

Scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither disagree nor agree, Agree, Strongly agree

5. I trust UCSC students have the necessary skills and insight needed to contribute to campus decision making processes that will bring about change benefiting our campus community.

Scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither disagree nor agree, Agree, Strongly agree

6. I think the UCSC administration needs to do more to include student ideas and voices in campus decisions.

Scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither disagree nor agree, Agree, Strongly agree

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### **Opinion Poll: *Campus Election 2022 Enviroslug Opinion Poll Language***

#### **Introduction:**

Waste is a key element in addressing the climate crisis. Every year we see stories of plastics in our oceans and foods, we face challenges with greenwashing from companies, and since the start of COVID-19 we have seen an increase in wasteful practices on our campus.

## UCSC Opinion Polls - 2022 Ballot Language 4

UCSC was recently ranked #3 in the Princeton Review as a green college across the nation. However, our waste diversion remains the lowest across the UC campuses all of which also failed to reach their Zero Waste by 2020 goals. As students concerned for our future, this is unacceptable and we need urgent action. We are asking students for their opinion on the following questions:

- a. Waste issues we've seen across campus include greenwashing of products that are not accepted by our local waste management facility and the lack of adequate waste management such as overflowing trash bins. Do you feel that the university should stop purchasing and distributing products that are not accepted by the local waste management facility and end up in the landfill?

Scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither disagree nor agree, Agree, Strongly agree

- b. Moving forward, do you believe that students should have a say in future campus development plans that impact student life? This would include:
  - i. A committee of majority students that set annual priorities for campus sustainable developments
  - ii. Setting zero waste initiatives
  - iii. Receiving quarterly updates on zero waste initiatives from UCSC administration

Scale: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither disagree nor agree, Agree, Strongly agree

### *How the data from the opinion poll will be used*

The results of this opinion poll will be used in the No Time To Waste campaign to advocate for zero waste issues at UCSC.