Resolution: 07032415
Author(s): Brianna Thorpe, Commuter Senator
Chanelle Yang, Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation (SCALE) Representative
Maria Rodriguez, SCALE Representative

Sponsoring Senator(s): Brianna Thorpe, Commuter Senator
Aziz Akbari, Residential Senator

Date: March 24th, 2015
RE: In Support of a Living Wage for USC Campus Workers

WHEREAS, the University of Southern California is the largest private employer in the city of Los Angeles¹;

WHEREAS, in the 2014-2015 school year, USC employed 25,041 faculty and staff in total and 13,216 of those individuals are staff (i.e half time or more workers or hourly wage workers such as hospitality and facilities management)²;

WHEREAS, USC is a major employer, economic force and fixture in the City of Los Angeles and thus has a duty to be a socially responsible institution;

WHEREAS, the average annual salary for USC hospitality workers is $18,800³;

WHEREAS, The poverty line is $15,063 a year for a two family household with no children and $22,811 a year for a family of four with two children under 18⁴;

WHEREAS, many of our campus workers support households with multiple family members and are financial supporters of these families, thus placing them under the poverty line and

¹ USC Careers, http://usccareers.usc.edu/
² University of Southern California, http://about.usc.edu/facts/.
⁴ U.S. Census Bureau
forcing them into arduous conditions;

WHEREAS, USC had a $3.9 billion budget in the 2014-2015 school year and is currently on a $6 billion fundraising campaign to “expand the university's positive impact on the community and world”;

WHEREAS, a living wage for all campus workers, would be a great opportunity to expand the positive social impact USC can have in its own community and would fulfill USC’s Mission Statement to be a university that in its “surrounding neighborhoods...provides public leadership and public service in such diverse fields as health care, economic development, social welfare…”;

WHEREAS, USC has the responsibility and has shown it has the ability to protect and advance workers’ rights and the well-being of the Trojan community on-campus and throughout the city of Los Angeles;

WHEREAS, 750 USC hospitality workers of Unite Here Local 11 and the university reached an agreement to guarantee regular raises over the course of the five-year contract to reach a living wage of $15.60/hour or more, a $400 bonus upon ratification, health care coverage for $50 a month, and a maximization of hours;

WHEREAS, in a Qualtrics survey of 213 USC Undergraduate and Graduate students taken over a span of 25 days, 93% believe USC campus workers deserve a living wage;

WHEREAS, In the past, present, and future, advocating for campus workers’ rights has been done by student groups such as, the Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation, and has resulted in victories such as this one;

WHEREAS, in a Qualtrics survey of 213 USC Undergraduate and Graduate students taken over a span of 25 days, 92% support student involvement in efforts to encourage USC to pay its campus workers a living wage;

WHEREAS, several articles by student columnist in the Daily Trojan have been written in support of a living wage for workers such as: “USC workers deserve higher wage, regular hours”

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5 http://about.usc.edu/facts/
6 https://campaign.usc.edu/
8 https://usc.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0BZqudEAjxmdDv
9 Ibid
by Sonali Seth and “LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Nikias should raise wages” by the Daily Trojan Staff;

WHEREAS, the role of USG is “to represent the students of USC to its administration”\(^10\) and “maintain a forum for expressing students’ diverse views and interests”\(^11\);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Government stands in solidarity with all campus workers in their fight for a living wage and congratulates them on their recent victory;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Government fully supports and encourages the actions and efforts made by individual students and student groups in solidarity with our USC campus workers to address issues pertaining to workers on campus;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government commends the university for taking this big first step, and supports future efforts on behalf of the workers and students to address other issues pertaining to workers on campus;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to USC President C.L. Max Nikias, Interim Provost Michael Quick, Vice Provost of Student Affairs Ainsley Carry, Assistant Provost for Student Engagement Monique Allard, Assistant Provost for Student Support and Advocacy Lynette Merriman, and USG President Andrew Menard by Secretary Isabelle Albert within 2 weeks of being passed by the Undergraduate Student Government Senate.

\(^{10}\) http://usg.usc.edu/about-us/
\(^{11}\) USG Resource Handbook