



February 11, 2022

Dear Chancellor Block
Interim EVCP Levine
Vice-Chancellor Bradley
Vice-Chancellor Gorden
Vice-Chancellor Beck,

As the UCLA Divest/Invest Faculty Collective, we write to express in the strongest terms possible that UCPD harassment and surveillance of Disabled Student Union, Mother Organizations Coalition, Black Student Athlete Alliance, and Undergraduate Students Association Council, currently engaged in a sit-in protest in Murphy Hall, is unacceptable and must stop immediately. The incidents that these organizations document in their 2/11/22 statement (included below) in which UCPD woke sleeping students at Murphy Hall are egregious. This statement also notes that UCPD have surveilled, stopped, and interrogated BIPOC students on other parts of campus, using the Murphy Hall protests as pretext.

That students of color are being profiled, stopped, and interrogated for documents by UCPD officers with their hands ready on their guns indicates the complete failure of the UCLA administration to address concerns about policing that have been documented, researched, and foregrounded by students, faculty, staff, workers, and community members. We can only assume that the current policing and surveillance of students and student organizations is taking place with your permission. **This must stop immediately.** Students have the right to engage in collective protest without police harassment. These incidents highlight that UCPD does not heighten safety for our campus, but instead creates violence and harm, and emphasizes the need for divestment from police and investment in programs that truly keep us safe.

UCLA Divest/Invest Faculty Collective

SUPPORT OUR SAFETY

On February 4th, the Mother Organizations, Disabled Student Union, Black Student Athlete Alliance, and the Undergraduate Students Association Council met with Chancellor Gene Block and various other campus stakeholders to discuss access, retention, and shared governance for and with underrepresented students at UCLA. **The treatment and surveillance that student organizers and strikers have been subjected to from UCPD and administration is unacceptable.**

Prior to the meeting, Student Affairs informed student organizers that there was a possibility of students needing to evacuate by 5pm that afternoon. Organizers decided it would be best to ask the Chancellor directly if they were to be confronted by UCPD. At the end of the meeting, a student organizer asked the Chancellor for permission to record and proceeded to ask if the students in Murphy Hall would be safe from police presence. The Chancellor gave very vague answers, but finally insinuated that students should leave, saying that he hoped students would “show good faith” and trust administrators and that he hoped “no one would get cited.” Finally, he said “You have been through enough and you do not want to go through more.”

On Friday at 5pm, no police arrived and students were able to stay through the night, but incidents with police contact began to surface throughout the weekend.

Incident 1:

Around 12 AM on Sunday morning, four student organizers were sitting on the corner of Charles E. Young Drive and Hilgard Avenue when they saw a police car circle twice. The police car then came around a third time with another. There was one white officer and one Black officer who got out of the cars and proceeded to interrogate the students. The white officer began by asking a Black organizer for their university ID. They then asked the students to empty their pockets and questioned why they were outside. The officer also asked the students if they lived on campus and if they knew what was going on inside Murphy Hall.

They then turned to an undocumented Latinx student in the group and asked them “Do you have an ID from another country?” The student responded no but the officer continued to press. He asked the student the same question and the student again responded no. Then, the officer asked the student where they were from and the student gave the name of their hometown. He then asked the student if they were certain and the student responded yes. Throughout the interaction, the Black officer stood behind the students with a hand on his holstered pistol. After an over 30 minute conversation, the officers told the students they were free to go. However, they continued

to follow the students down Hilgard in their cars. The students walked for about five minutes and the police continued to follow closely behind. The officers finally left, but the students were left scared and shaken.

Incident 2:

At around 2 AM on February 10th, five Black students and a Latinx student were at a bus stop on Hilgard and Wyton when they saw a police car near the Luskin School of Public Affairs. The group began to leave, but they saw the police car circle one more time. By the time the students had walked across the street to the law school, the officers were waiting. The students continued to walk back to Murphy and the officers followed the students all the way back until they reached the hall. After they entered Murphy Hall, the students continued to observe a cop car circling the building.

Incident 3:

On the morning of February 11th, UCPD arrived at 8:30 AM to wake up students sleeping on the second floor of Murphy Hall. Had organizers not been in a meeting in the early morning, it's likely their presence would've been even more startling. The two officers stepped over a bed and around a few students to make their way down the hallway. At this point, they began to wake up sleeping students and flashing flashlights towards them. They eventually walked down the hallway and out one exit out of the hall. Students who were near that door overheard people discussing the hours when the hallway was routinely less busy and how they wanted to avoid any photographs or videos from students.

Incident 4:

At around 11 AM on February 11th, a Black student was walking by the Astronomy Building on their way to Murphy and an officer waved to them. The striker ignored them and at this point the officer drove past her and told her, "I assume you are going to Murphy. Have a good day until 5:00"

Continual surveillance:

Throughout the entirety of our sit-in, we have all seen police surrounding the building. We have been informed by multiple sources that administrators know and are keeping track of the students who are participating in the strike.