

Resolution to Maintain the Linux Lab in BEC 315 or a Comparable or Enhanced Location

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Sponsoring Senator(s): *Emma Peters, Lukas Diazgranados, Angelica Gaupman, Brooke Cluster, Zevin Attisha, Andrea Arvizu, Paulina Gaitan*

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WHEREAS, all other Shiley Marcos School of Engineering (SMSE) majors have machine shops, labs, and work spaces to support their learning. The Linux Lab is the only space that makes sense for computer science students to work in besides the Ideation Space, which has limited space shared by all majors.

WHEREAS, Computer Science is the largest major in the SMSE and is continuing to grow. Thus, a space is required to support a large population of SMSE students.

WHEREAS, pre-pandemic, the Linux Lab was the hub for all computer science students working on their projects and homework. While the space isn't as popular as it once was, students need time to become familiar with the space again.

WHEREAS, computer science students would prefer to not be relegated to a much smaller and windowless room in the basement of Guadalupe Hall, which also experiences considerable overcrowding during finals and midterms as a result of several professors' office hours being held nearby.

WHEREAS, upon comparison of the spaces, it is clear that the new space in Guadalupe Hall (see Figure 1), would be of much reduced quality to the current space (Figure 2). Furthermore any intention to renovate the new space would also result in an unacceptable displacement of the resources that the Linux Lab provides.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

WHEREAS, the Linux Lab is multipurpose. Students visit the Linux Lab for computer science tutoring, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) events, and to work on projects when their personal computers won't suffice. Furthermore, it serves as a space for conducting research when working with faculty members.

WHEREAS, all engineering students must take at least one computer science course and utilize computer science tutoring services hosted in the Linux Lab. When projects are due, the Linux Lab is nearly full and the new room will be too small to host tutoring.

WHEREAS, student retention for computer science students will be difficult if the university prioritizes spaces exclusively geared toward other groups of students at the expense of computer science students. Moving the Linux Lab to an undesirable location and not funding efforts to improve these spaces sends an underlying message that other engineering majors are more important.

WHEREAS, the University has promised to strive to provide a quality education and access to resources for *all* students, through its mission of academic excellence and inclusivity.

WHEREAS, a draft of this resolution received over 200 petition signatures by concerned students and alumni, including both computer science and non-computer science majors.

BE IT RESOLVED, the SMSE keeps the Linux Lab in BEC 315 or moves it to a space of comparable or enhanced quality, that can be determined in consultation with student leaders going forward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be delivered to the following individuals for comment and action: Dr. James T. Harris III, *President, University of San Diego*; Dr. Gail Baker, *Senior Vice President and Provost*; Ms. Charlotte Johnson, *Vice President for Student Affairs*; Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves, *Vice Provost, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*; Dr. Byron Howlett, *Assistant Vice President for Student Life*; Dr. Nicole Whitner, *Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students*; Dr. Chell Roberts, *Dean Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering*;

Steve Sumner, *2023-24 Chair of University Senate*; Elizabeth Silva, *University Registrar*; Dr. Imane Khalil, *Chair of Computer Science*; Michael Lovette-Colyer, *Vice President for Mission Integrations*; Ky Snyder, *Vice President of University Operations*, Richard P. Virgin, *Vice President of University Advancement*.

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May 17, 2024

Gunner Kolon, ASG Speaker of the Senate

Date



May 20, 2024

Andres Fernandez Perez, ASG President

Date