Public Comments at Pasadena City College Hearing
February 20, 2019

1. I hope the 30 million comes but it may not. As a counselor, I need GPA increases to be the last move. It is easier for us to plan with students around a list of classes instead of GPA. If GPA changes, we need to counsel students to change majors from business to psychology. At the last conference I attended on your campus, counselors discussed the new application. It seemed like an enrollment strategy: if you don’t complete the application right, you won’t get in. Students need to know the Golden Four and if a class counts or not, therefore a lot of mistakes are made which means that lots of students do not get in. How about adding additional class requirements instead? (Counselor at PCC)

2. When major specific criteria is ready you must ensure it is available. It has to be commonly available for each major. Will transfer student guarantees be available in June too? I hope so. (Counselor at another community college)

3. Giving priority to freshmen means you are not encouraging community college path. What if you tell the freshmen to go to community college to open more space for transfer students? I can’t imagine being unable to transfer after being at a community college for six years. I would be miserable. Do you give priority to freshmen more than transfers right now? The GPA requirement will go up. With that how about recruitment? Will big firms come to Cal State LA now? Like they do to UCs? (Cal State LA student)

4. My concern is veterans. There was an unprinted agreement that if veterans missed one of the Golden Four they could get an exception. That is gone. Engineering major is a concern. Vets are out of the college track. Engineering is a high unit major. I’ve been told to get veterans to a four year ASAP but they will run out of the GI Bill. Will they quit due to having no money to transfer with? What allowances are being made for veterans? (Vet Services staff member at PCC)

5. Glad Patty spoke as her husband is a graduate of Cal State LA. The administration says it’s a money crisis. In 1967, it was said there is not enough money. In 1969, EOP was funded statewide. That was a solution. This impaction plan is not a solution. It kicks the can down the road. California is the fifth largest economy. Fees were $100 in the past. Now they are $6,000. Go to notoimpaction.com. We want a one-year moratorium so we can campaign the legislature. We cut out of area and community college students. Failing to plan is like the climate change crisis. (Cal State LA staff member)

6. I have two high school students who are taking college classes. This sounds discouraging. They have friends also taking classes. What will be their fate if transfer students are reduced? I didn’t get into the Nursing program. I was given Public Health. What is the school doing to improve that? (Cal State LA student and mother)

7. We need more classes on weekends as it is crowded. Would that reduce the amount of money that is spent? Is it better to cover more students by doing online classes? (Cal State LA student)

8. I have been a professor at Cal State LA for 24 years. I was the Outstanding Professor. It is great to see so many people here. This is the only chance for the public to hear the shift that is taking place. Permission is being asked of the Chancellor to raise admission index but it could be raised even higher. Lots of people oppose it. 1000 students signed a petition. The proposal did not include meaningful discussion. 90 faculty signed too. We need conversation and a one-year moratorium. (Cal State LA Professor)

9. If a transfer student applies and they don’t get in due to impaction and they apply the following year, will they get priority? (Cal State LA student)

10. I am here in solidarity with those asking for a moratorium. Impacted CSUs are elitist. How open are you to exploring other options? (PCC student and mother of high school student)

11. I’d like to thank the students for coming. If you have questions, come up and ask them. I can’t see the public comments webpage. What is the process for those comments? Who reads them? I have been a counselor for 18 years. CSU and UC GPAs have increased. Usually, Cal State LA does not increase their GPA requirements. Thank you for that. As a counselor, it’s tough if there is a GPA requirement, student who is CSU eligible but has a 2.0 GPA will only have one option, CSUDH. Talented students will be in this situation. There won’t be a place for them. I’m thinking long term about what will happen. (Counselor at PCC)
12. I’m concerned for the children who were promised a seat at Cal State LA. What about a bridge program created by administrators for those students? Will there be public engagement at future meetings to discuss those students? (PCC alumni and current Cal State LA student)

13. Faculty urged the administration not to increase enrollment years ago. They were told to wait until we get the money. Now we are squeezed. Who do we throw off the boat? Undocumented students don’t get Pell. We built a movement to get Cal Grant. Go to notoimpaction.com. (Cal State LA staff)

Public Comments at Cal State LA Hearing

February 21, 2019

Comments before Public Comments portion:

- Seating for a public hearing should be enough for the public.
- No power point presentation! It’s on the web.
- Spanish translators need to be provided for the community at the hearings.
- No consultation was actually taken before creating the new admission plan.

1. I am transfer from LACC. It is difficult to graduate in 2 years. I’ve had to advocate for myself to get through LACC, and the same here at Cal State LA. Why impaction if Cal State LA can’t get current students to graduate on time? Academic requirements keep changing – GE criteria is a secret – this is why we can’t graduate. (Cal State LA student)

2. The faculty was not consulted. Cal State LA should serve marginalized communities; economic and mental struggles negatively affect GPA. Call for one year moratorium to analyze data and its implications – unwittingly or wittingly. Impaction will affect equity – it is exclusion. Use administrator salaries to cover the funding gap. (Cal State LA student)

3. I am a parent and student vet. My son was denied FTF admission because of low GPA. He was not given the opportunity to explain the low GPA. My PTSD affected my son’s first two years of high school. It was not his fault. I will graduate with a 3.00 this year, but my son cannot come to Cal State LA. School issues are not always the student’s fault – there are family/environmental factors that need to be considered. Don’t close the door – it’s their only way out of a bad situation. Do the right thing. (Cal State LA student)

4. I am working on MA in Latin American Studies, and taught some 101 courses. Community College is not an option – transfer rates are low. Students are not numbers – they are children. Success is found in the college classroom, and the university is putting up barriers. Cal State LA is turning back on these children. [Recited Cal State LA Mission Statement] How will you build partnerships without students? You say “student first” but no students were involved in this proposal. You say “transparency” but there was no collaboration. You may hear us, but you are not listening. Changes to campus policies should only be done with students and educators. If you are not listening, you are being complacent – it further proves that students do not come first. Be ashamed. (Cal State LA Graduate student)

5. Cal State LA prides itself on Upward Mobility, which just means that we went from “poor” to “a little less poor.” The mobility is because is because we work jobs, not because of school preparation. Students fought for state funding - it was approved and Covino got a raise. Students are hungry and homeless. There is too much police presence on campus – we don’t feel safe. Black students have already been impacted – our numbers went from 5% in 2016 to 2% in 2018. Black and brown students don’t have resources to get high SATs. You ask us to graduate by a certain time but don’t know our struggles. We work many hours, and sleep in our cars. By excluding 600 first generation students, you are taking away their dreams. Why are you snatching opportunity from 600 students? (Cal State LA graduate student)
6. We must be here otherwise we’ll be pushed out of the school. I am concerned with reducing student enrollment. Students’ civil rights are being violated. We will make demands and follow-up with action. We spend $84,000 on prisoners every year. Impaction makes administrators richer. We must organize in the community or they won’t listen. We are tired of opportunities being taken away from our communities. California is a police state. We must have courage to fight for your fellow students and community. Let the system know that they can no longer beat us down. The schools are not working for us. (Cal State LA faculty – Chicano Studies)

7. Graduation Initiative 2025 from the CO is to push people to graduate in 4 years. Newsom is giving money, but it’s being allocated in the wrong places, not for the students. $300 million for GI 2025, student enrollment, employee compensation, and mandatory costs, and another $270 million for maintenance, but only $15 million for student needs. Mahoney and Enders are from CSULB, where impaction has already occurred. I am an EOP special admit and now work for Admissions. I want to give others the same opportunity I got. In Fall 2016, Covino made the decision to over enroll even though staff and faculty told you not to. You didn’t listen, so now listen. We demand a 1 year moratorium to let the faculty, staff, students, and community have input. We are not numbers. We are people who deserve to be considered. (Cal State LA student)

8. I was a transfer student that worked graveyard to pay for school. Cal State LA is great because of the people around me – except for those who want to deny admission to 600 students. I will be graduating soon but I don’t think the school is student-minded. What we are doing now is the opposite of opportunity. You get salary raises but for students, the dream of an $80k job is leaving. We are going backwards, and funds are not being directed to student needs. (Cal State LA student)

9. I am a parent with Inner City Struggle. Parents have worked hard to get K-12 schools to give quality A-G education, and improve college attendance. Now their dreams of college and better futures are being taken away with this plan. You should listen to the community first and inform them better. Word wasn’t spread about the change or public hearings until the last minute by students. Listen to this community, don’t kill dreams for students – don’t act like a criminal. With your salary, graduation should be at 100%. You should include, not exclude. (Community member)

10. I was a transfer student and graduated with my Psych BA. I am now in the MFT and School Counseling program. I want to approach this with unconditional positive regard, and assume that you are doing this only because you don’t understand where we come from. I grew up undocumented but only know American culture. I worked and paid my way through school – it took me 15 years to complete my bachelor’s degree. It took 10 years for me to heal from my life of poverty – if I stayed in the community, I would not have been able to overcome the obstacles. I can’t help my own family and have survivor’s guild. Please take one year to think about what you are doing. (Cal State LA grad student)

11. It is my dream to graduate from this institution with my MA. I got my BA from Cal State Bakersfield but they didn’t have my desired MA program. Cal State LA is supposed to be a beacon of hope; but impaction will make it no longer true. Where is your support for students? Not all CSUs have what students need/want. I am the first person in my family to get a master’s degree and I need to speak out against injustice against my community. What have you learned from hearing from us? We don’t want pity – we want you to understand. We need people that look and think like us in the Administration – people who understand our struggle.

12. In the plan, you say, “just not now, later.” We can’t wait later. We don’t have that luxury. We’re homeless, living paycheck to paycheck. You are making 6-figures, but we are struggling. Cal State LA’s historical mission is student achievement; upward mobility is student achievement. Students need to advocate and make space for ourselves – for survival. You are complacent in a broken system. We will fight. (Cal State LA student)

13. I am an immigrant and a transfer student. Getting an education is important for myself and my family. As a transfer student, I know it’s hard to transfer out. Parents and students work hard for college – impaction will take away opportunities. K-12 schools are under-funded and under-served so parents worked hard to improve them. Now with impaction, you are taking education from the students who need it most. This is our
community, our school – do not turn your back on us. Slow down, and be transparent; allow the 1 year moratorium. (Cal State LA student)

14. Do repeat past administration’s mistakes. We fought to create EOP, we fought for AB540, and now we need to fight to get money back from the State to save the 600. It can be done. We need to be woke and fight the white leadership. Don’t be complacent and don’t work for Trump. Fight it! Get the funding and save the 600! (Cal State LA staff)

15. I am a mother fighting for better education. Where is the promise of Go East LA? Covino came to the community promising the students had a spot at Cal State LA, now you’re breaking that promise. Listen to us. (Community member)

16. I was an EOP special admit and now a graduate of Cal State LA. I am originally from Fresno, and EOP allowed me to go to college – no other school admitted me. In Fall 2006, we had 11% Black students and now it’s just 2%. Impaction will decimate the Black population. I was fortunate to have found Cal State LA. Blacks are being pushed out of communities and schools. I challenge Administration to be champion for these communities, and to be on the right side of history. Be the example for other schools – be a trendsetter.

17. I am a grandmother/mom and part of Promise Boyle Heights. You promised “cradle to college” pathway, and HS graduation rates have grown. Now you are building walls – the faces of color need the most help. I am asking for what our students deserve. One year moratorium because we were not consulted on this decision. We are a united community, fighting for a better future. We only hear about their accomplishments/graduations, but not the struggles that they endured. (Community member)

18. Due to housing fee increase of $1000 and more, I had to be dependent on my parents again. They want me to be independent. Now you want prestige. I was rejected by all schools except for Cal State LA and CSUDH. I had a 3.50 GPA but low SAT because I didn’t have the money for SAT prep courses. They cost a lot of money that many people can’t afford. This decision cannot be rational, emotional – it must be wise and open-minded. Listen to the community – check ratemyprofessors.com for Cal State LA reviews. (Cal State LA student)

19. Why weren’t students educated about the impaction plan? It was difficult to learn about the impaction and hearings. I had to learn from friends and other students. The language is empty, and the plan is a skeleton. It does not provide any information. Black student numbers are still low despite efforts to raise numbers. The local area stops before black communities - it is excluding black populated areas. How many transfer students will you accept later on? There is no mention of this. The enrollment increase was Covino’s gamble to get money, and he lost. Housing is also increasing so only high socio-economic students can afford it. Administration is always reacting and not being proactive. I see impaction as part of rebranding—changing Cal State LA. (Cal State LA student)

20. I am a 4th year student, and when I entered, it was a quarter system. I changed my major 3 times, and I’m still 6 units short from graduation. I drive 300 miles every day to go school. There is violence at home, so school is my escape. I am homeless. Why is Housing building 1500 dorms if it still can’t take all students on the waitlist? College should not be inaccessible. It should be supported by Administrators. We can get arrested for sleeping in cars – students should not be arrested! Impaction is not going through – we will resist. Impaction is the problem, and we are the solution. (Cal State LA student)

21. At Cal State LA we’re learning in class how to serve the underrepresented youth. But now you’re excluding them. K-12 system is terrible, so kids are working hard to get out. Cal State LA is a way to get out of poverty – you are shutting the doors on them. We need to follow the money. Someone decided to over enroll, and they need to be fired. You are not representing us or the future. Students are struggling, you are not. Make the right decision if you want to keep your job. (Cal State LA grad student)

22. Impaction is like Trump’s wall. How about we impact your salary? (Cal State LA student)
23. I started as an EOP student, and grew up in an abusive household with bipolar disorder. I travel 2 hours daily to get to school – and sometimes I have to choose between getting to school or eating. Not both because I don’t have enough money. My husband is an alum, but suffers from PTSD because grew up in refugee camp. I cannot graduate because there aren’t enough classes. My husband is depressed because he works 2-3 jobs and still can’t adequately provide for me. Why is there $100,000 for police, but not the food pantry?! The food pantry is inadequate –there is no real food. (Cal State LA student)

24. I am a sociology major with the office of disabilities. I worked really hard as a black woman to get here. Put your salaries to students. We should shut down Cal State LA since the government shutdown affected a lot of people. A shutdown so administration can fix the problem. Do not ruin it for our community – I will take your job. You are not better than us. You have no respect for students. Minorities built this school on their backs. It is unethical/immoral to do this. (Cal State LA student)

25. Hope this proposal does not pave way for gentrifiers to apply and get to Cal State LA. Do not romanticize the local East LA community. Impaction is an elitist attitude. Why aren’t the public hearings at local high schools? These extra obstacles will discourage students from applying – inform local students now so they will be surprise when they are rejected. Gentrification will change who is local. Do not get rid of ethnic/gender studies classes. Students feel connection because those classes are about them. Gentrification = White. White students take STEM classes... which in turn will lead to the elimination of ethnic/gender studies classes, like what is happening at CSUN. Impaction will shut out low income students who grew up in this city! (Cal State LA student)

26. Impaction is only a done deal in a dictatorship. This campus and Cal State LA is not a democracy. I support court battles, but have little faith in them. I have faith in students – this cannot happen. I challenge all to vow to put a stop to this – you have the power and we need to do it. Challenge the bureaucrats to join and force California to fully fund education. If you decide to continue with impaction, distribute admission based on need, not to those with political ties. Get rid of the richest white students – they have other options. Cal State LA is the only option for the 600 that impaction will turn away. (Community member)

27. Denying higher education is denying students the chance to get ahead. What plan will be made to ensure access for low-income, non-English speaking, 1st gen students? Is it limited because of space or funds? Funding is limiting services. (Cal State LA EdD student)

28. What black student recruitment is being done? Recruitment teams are not black – just white. Student will not talk to someone who doesn’t look like them. This is not a safe environment for blacks – we get pulled over by campus police. You are denying transfer students the right to change majors because you want people to graduate faster. We don’t need to put our trauma out there for you to listen to us. Pay and hire more faculty! (Cal State LA student)

29. I chose Cal State LA because it felt like home in this community. I was pushed out because I was undocumented – I had to go to ELAC because of no money. I was limited to ELAC because I had to live at home. Impaction will force transfer students to stay out of school. I ask you to use your power to represent us. We deserve to be Golden Eagles. I will serve our children. Cal State LA is the only option for many students who are undocumented, 1st generation, and understanding the complicated admissions process is hard. Housing isn’t affordable elsewhere. Students will fall behind farther with the plan. The system is dysfunctional. (ELAC student)

30. You failed this community, but we are strong and resilient. I will stand my people, and I will be a counselor that will serve students that you will deny. I call for a one year moratorium – this is a threat to our university. This is our university, not yours. (Cal State LA grad student)

31. Administration knows the stories told by students/faculty/staff, will hold some meetings and hope will just let it go. They know our problems and how gentrification has displaced us from our homes. They are aware but don’t
care. They claim to be doing things for our best interest, and create programs that don’t exist. Homelessness is at an all-time high at Cal State LA. We have hope, and we will keep going despite obstacles. We have been harassed by police for living in our cars – threatened by violence on our own campus. Administration is getting rid of all the blacks, and once we’re all gone, they will target the Latinos. They want a white and STEM major campus. We are judged by our color – these issues have gone on for nine years. It is important to mobilize, to ensure success by any means necessary. Hopefully students will create alliances and coalitions to increase black students. Brown and black students build this school. (Cal State LA student)

32. I take these students’ stories home and it affects me. The institution and my peers continue to make micro-aggressions against students. What moved you to this impaction decision? Try to understand students and their stories because you don’t live it. I informed Mahoney on December 3 about this and you did not listen. You have not consulted (or you used the colonized definition of consultation). These videos will be shared and will go viral. Your faces will be associated with this. Fight for more money so we don’t have to turn away students. Black student numbers are shameful. Change your reputation and work for the community. Share these stores with the Chancellor – this may not be what you intended, but this is how it is perceived. (Cal State LA faculty)

33. I am a former gang member and graduated with a MA in Latin American Studies. I will be attending a PhD program this fall. I am also an afterschool advisor at Jordan HS in Watts. The school is poor. We give grants to students for college, and help them get into college, like Cal State LA. What do I tell my students about impaction? They work hard but may be able to make it to Cal State LA. You need to talk to them. If we can’t get it, we will shut it down! (Cal State LA alum)

34. I work with LA promise and I don’t know what to tell them now. I will contact the CC chancellor and the state chancellor to address this. We will shut this down so you won’t get paid. Will our transfer students get affected by this? Our transfer numbers have declined for 5 years. LA Valley transfers will have no access to Cal State LA. You need to sympathize and work with us. I will fight you. (Cal State LA student)

35. I grew up in South Central and know this will affect black students. I don’t support it, and I feel a 1 year moratorium is a generous offer. I need you to meet us in the middle. (Cal State LA student)

36. Explain why we are in Lancaster? I’m an ambassador and am committed to Cal State LA and to share my positive experiences. I am committed to my community, and should not lose my job over this. The service area is determined by the legislature and politicians – and it has not been revised in over 50 years. Administrators should fight to redraw the local area to include Black communities. Impaction is already in place – there are three groups – Group 1 (local, meet A-G, and EI is above 3200 – ADMIT), Group 2 (local and non-local, not meet CSU requirements – DENY), Group 3 (local, meet A-G, EI is 2950-3200 – Submit Senior Year Progress Report – if not pass A-G core classes, will not be admitted). I am the most informed person on campus because of my job. (Cal State LA student)

37. I am an educator at Torres HS. Maybe there won’t be a decline in the black/Latino population, but there will be a decline in the poor/homeless population who need it the most. Is the plan to raise the graduation rate merely by bringing in the stronger students? You’re trying to remove the bottom level of students. People should not be dismissed. When students of poverty are provided mentors, a community becomes his/her support, and they become successful. Do not dismiss us – give us the opportunity to succeed. (Cal State Alum)

38. I am a SURGE board member, and am frustrated by this. I came to the US at age 5, and became depressed at age 9 because of undocumented status. I gave up on college until a teacher told me about PCC. At PCC, I didn’t trust counselors and did everything on my own. For a while, I did auto shop because a counselor said I couldn’t be a lawyer because of immigration status. At Cal State LA, I was lucky and met faculty who helped and supported me. Last Spring, I took 9 classes, trying to graduate. During that time, ICE was very active, and I made the choice to fight AG Sessions, and not let ICE use local law enforcement for immigration purposes. I ended up failing all my classes because I devoted time to being an organizer and helping my community. I don’t understand how
someone like you in a position of power, cannot support us. I can shut stuff down. I can put my body on the line. We shouldn't have to share our traumas in public. No moratorium. Shut it down. (Cal State LA student)

39. I am a first gen Spanish student, but I’ve learned to look and sound white. Code switching is survival. Cal State LA keeps making students jump through hoops to get in and graduate. Can you promise transfer students that they will get in and graduate in two years? And why did you get rid of our faculty advisors? Mine were helpful and cared, but now we have MacDonald’s advisors who don’t know anything. I got the run around, and it delayed my graduation. I have to go to several offices to get something done – this is not right, the advisors should be doing this for me. Getting in is a lottery draw. I love Cal State LA because of diversity. Don’t destroy the culture of Cal State LA. Respect the culture, and don’t focus on rebranding and becoming an elite school.

40. I have been at Cal State LA for 20 years on the Women/Queer Studies faculty. I should be happy because I have an office – a former closet. The Clinton Administration was a master in Town halls. They say “I feel your pain,” and then militarize, cut welfare, and etc. We are getting the same message now. You say there is no funding, and now is not the time to push back. I want leadership – moral leadership – not fiscal responsibility. Impaction is a plague spreading through the CSU. We will not follow the domino. It stops here. This is not the right decision. Can you commit today to stop the train and allow this conversation to be brought to the community? One year moratorium? What is your answer? Timeline for an answer? (Cal State LA faculty)

41. Our stories are not enough for you to make a decision? (Cal State LA student)

42. All we hear is numbers from you. We want moral leadership. (Cal State LA faculty)

43. It don’t matter to you now, but when those kids get rejected, they will come for your check, our house, money, etc. Those will be the repercussions of your actions. (Cal State LA student)

44. Why aren’t the online comments public? It’s supposed to be public comments! Our stories are not jokes. Listen to us. (Cal State LA student)

Public Comments at East Los Angeles Community College Hearing
February 21, 2019

1. (During K. Dominguez/ELAC ppt about increased transfer rates) We understand the numbers and funding issue, but don’t want the improvements made to be reversed. Are there sufficient students at ELAC to determine the impact of these policies on working class students and the CA Master Plan? I call for a one year moratorium for homework and study on these agreements. (ELAC Faculty)

2. Boyle Heights Promise should be honored. There is no transparency or community input. I just found out about it a few weeks ago. I spoke to Principals and Assistant Principals, and the schools don’t know about the plan. The 600 student reduction will have a ripple effect. Generations, not just these 600 students, are being excluded. Cal State LA already has become more stringent in the application process – reducing numbers and additional summer melt. How do we prepare our students for this? If you move forward despite dissent, you are showing you are against us. Make a choice- either stand with us, or against us. It is triggering for me to have Sheriff deputies in the room, majority of the people inside are already being racially profiled. (Promesa Boyle Heights Coordinator at Roosevelt HS, Mendez HS, and Hollenback MS)

3. At last night’s forum (at Cal State LA), we insisted on the Administrators to hear our stories and to take a moratorium on impaction. Many of the people have similar stories so it’s crucial to open doors to the community and keep them open for vulnerable communities. We are supposed to advocate for students, not
shut them out. It is reasonable to extend time for discussion. The CA Master Plan must be upheld, not erodes, especially with the inequalities happening right now in the nation. It’s criminal to take access from those most vulnerable and you need to involve the voices of those most affected. Have open dialogue with students and the community. Listen and treat with transparency and respect. Give time to explore alternatives not yet explored. Be on the right side of history. (Cal State LA Faculty)

4. ELAC and Cal State LA are neighbors, but the plan isn’t neighborly. It’s building a metaphorical wall impacting black/latino/low income students directly. It’s gerrymandering - the new local area is excluding 4 community colleges with “LA” in the name but keeping Santa Monica College – a school that does not reflect the community? We need to address this not just with Cal State LA, but with the LACCD for allowing this to happen, and the state legislature for not funding Cal State LA. We need to get them out. If the proposal is truly transparent, then we should have the opportunity to change it. No to gentrification of Cal State LA. (ELAC Faculty, Social Science Chair)

5. Taking away EOP special admits; the people fought for this in the 60’s, and it is being taken away from students who need it. The CO made the Graduation Initiative 2025 to rush college graduation rates because graduates are needed. $300 million from Newsom isn’t being allocated for students’ best interest; just $15 million for student basic needs?! We have money but not being used in the right way; students should be first. In Fall 2016, Covino made the decision to over enroll, against faculty/staff wishes. And now, fixing it at the expense of students, faculty, and Cal State LA. He needs to take responsibility for his mistake. Covino needs to do better and tell the truth – otherwise, it’s a waste of time. I demand a one year moratorium. Give an answer now/today! (Cal State LA student)

6. As part of the GO East LA Promise, we worked together to challenge students to seek higher education. Covino emphasized only 7% of people had a degree, so the people stepped up and have been working to meet the expectations to get into Cal State LA. We should put the pressure on the CA legislature, not on students who are doing what we asked them to do. The promise needs to be remembered – how will you address students and parents about the Promise? How can Covino move forward with the plan without consulting the community? (EOP Special Admit Alumnus and ELAC staff)

7. I met Covino last night at Cal State LA. The community deserves respect, especially the Spanish-speaking community. The Lucha de Pueblo has been fighting for better schools, the A-G, and education so our kids can get to the university. I am an activist, and the proposal must include a meeting with the community, working together for our students. No to the proposal – speak to the community, parents, teachers, and do it with respect, united, together. Show us love for education, not politics. Si se puede. (Spanish-speaking community member – Promesa and Inner City Struggle)

8. We are worried about the plan and require 1 year to have Cal State LA talk with the community. I volunteer at schools, and talked to teachers and counselors about A-G for my kids. They went straight to 4-year universities (CSUSB, CSUF). It is possible if parents and schools work together. (Spanish-speaking community member/parent of 5 – Promesa and Inner City Struggle)

9. ELAC and Cal State LA have been crucial to my life – my father transferred from ELAC to Cal State LA, and met my mom at Cal State LA. Cal State LA is the People’s University – but the plan was made without staff, faculty, and student input. The guarantee is deceptive; we know impacted CSUs have higher requirements, and create elitist universities with drops in Black, Latino, and Native American student enrollment. These decisions should not be made without us. (Cal State LA Faculty – History Professor)

10. I spoke last night, and you did not give me eye contact. Respect me and look up. Administrators talk about data and numbers, you are forgetting the human aspect of this – and I don’t want that happening to anyone. There are mental health issues in my community. It is dehumanizing to tell these traumas – please realize this is serious, and our realities are hard. I refuse to believe you are heartless. Take 1 year to think about this – this is a
human decision, not a number decision. When you reflect on your life, will you say this was worth it? (Cal State LA student)

11. I am not brown or black, but have been low and high income. I watch students every day and teach them that we cannot have mistakes in Engineering because one mistake will kill people. As a student, I saw tuition increase, and the former President performed renovations on the Baseball field, Basketball gym, and soccer fields – but no money on Education or Buildings. Now, there are more renovations to the soccer field and the baseball field, but King Hall is falling apart?! How do you explain this to students, parents, faculty, and neighbors? When you go back to the 8th floor, looking down on campus, how can you made these decisions? (Cal State LA Alum and ELAC faculty-Engineering)

12. I did not go to college but under current US administration, I will fight for you to involve the faculty/staff/community in decisions before moving forward with the plan. Our kids have socio-economic challenges, and now they will have additional challenges in college admissions. Boyle Heights will fight to be included in your plan. This is like a divorce without thinking about the kids. We want to be a part of the conversation. (Community member)

13. Son of single mom and I grew up in LAUSD (Westlake/MacArthur Park) and transferred from PCC to Cal State LA– I can spot a bandito and Cal State LA administration are banditos. I’ve dealt with politicians who never call back, and seen enough to know administrators are fake. Their actions are like public puppets pushing their own political agenda. Cal State LA is backing out of its promises like other politicians. We see through your falsehoods and we know you are banditos. (Cal State LA student)

14. Before hearing, I overheard Enders state how he worked 3 jobs before, and got his Master’s in opera. You are not qualified to make admission decisions at Cal State LA. Decisions should come from the community, FYE, professors, counselors, and people who are passionate about student success, not opera singing. (Cal State LA student)