September 28, 2017

President Hicks, Members of the TUSD Governing Board and Superintendent Trujillo,

The purpose of University High School Student Council (UHS StuCo) is to advocate on behalf of the student body of University High School (UHS). It has come to our attention that the needs of the Penguin student body are not being met due to the lack of available space on our current residence. Therefore, UHS StuCo endorses and supports the proposal for UHS to have its own campus. Below is a list of issues due the sharing of one campus that effect our ability to support our student body.

1. Currently, the Rincon/UHS campus is at 113% capacity. This means that is extremely challenging to schedule events to provide our student body with a well-rounded high school experience. It is nearly impossible to hold assemblies where all students can attend. It requires adjustment in the bell schedule so that multiple assemblies can be held.

2. Lack of identity. The UHS student body does not have a sense of identity because we share space with another high school. This means that when we attempt to represent our student body and advocate for our needs, we are viewed as Rincon. The needs of Rincon students are different than the needs of University High School. When UHS StuCo attended Yell – Up at Flowing Wells High School, we struggled because we did not have a school cheer. It may seem simple, but it was disheartening to just sit in the stands listening to all the other schools cheering and being proud of who they were and their school.

3. The bell schedule. UHS student body has advocated numerous times to UHS StuCo the desire to have a "block" bell schedule. A "block" bell schedule is defined as 105-minute classes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday where classes officially start at 9am. Wednesday would remain as is per TUSD Governing Board policies. From 7:45-8:45am, Conference Period would take place. Our students value the Conference Periods because they are afforded time where they can meet with teachers, receive additional support, and make up missed work from extra-curricular commitments.

4. Transportation. Currently, UHS does not have school buses for their student body. This places an undo burden on our diverse population to get to school. Most of our students resort to car pooling and using the city busses to get to campus, which places time constraints on their already demanding schedule.

"You come here because you fit in" (Felix, 2017). University High School is growing and we need the space to properly and effectively support our student body. Every student deserves to have a place where they fit in. Sharing one campus has placed an undue burden on both University High School and Rincon High School.

Sincerely, Jahaziel Felix

Veronique Vellalba

Leamon A Crooms IV

Anisan Meyer

Rafael Lomeli

Katrina Morales

Dylan Carothers

Jessica Diggs

Kassandra Mardaro

Mark Santiago