



# The University of California Rally Committee

November 15, 2018

Dear Campus Community,

As the ongoing fires across the state of California continue to threaten the homes, safety, and health of innumerable California residents, the UC Rally Committee would first like to offer our sincere condolences to all communities and individuals that have been and continue to be affected by these relentless fires. The tragedy and destruction caused by the Camp Fire in Northern California and the Woolsey Fire in Southern California have left a strong impact on all Californians, both within and outside our Berkeley community.

In light of these events and the smoke that is directly and severely affecting the air quality on our campus, it is with a heavy heart that we, the UC Rally Committee, have decided to cancel the Big Game Rally that was originally scheduled for Friday November 16, 2018. For the safety and health of the Greek Theatre staff, our committee members, student and alumni performers, supportive campus staff, and the general audience, we could not in good conscious proceed with this year's Big Game Rally.

Over the past few months, our Executive Committee and campus partners have worked tirelessly to make the Big Game Rally a success. In October, concerns regarding the safety of our traditional Bonfire lead to the creation of a Pyrotechnics Rally in the Greek Theater. Due to the devastation of the current fires, the pyrotechnic aspect was removed from the rally earlier this week and the Committee has been working diligently to attempt to add a laser light show portion to the rally. Over the past day, it has become increasingly evident that any outdoor event would jeopardize the health and safety of the aforementioned groups, and as such, we could not move forward with the Big Game Rally.

The Big Game Bonfire Rally has been a tradition witnessed and upheld by many generations of California Golden Bears, designed to bring the campus together to inspire spirit, pride, and community within our student body. The impact and importance of this rally is held in the highest regard, and we look to continue the tradition of this rally in the future. Although this year's Big Game Rally will not be happening, this sentiment persists through the support of one another during these tough times. The UC Rally Committee is tremendously proud to be surrounded by this community of students.

**Ryan Dana**  
*Chair*

**Dean Lewis**  
*Vice Chair of  
Membership*

**Alexa Tisopulos**  
*Vice Chair of Rallies*

**Claire Robbins**  
*Vice Chair of Publicity*

**Lauren Meyers**  
*Treasurer*

**Leeza Cruz**  
*Vice Chair of  
Community Outreach*

**Maria Martinez**  
*Director of Member  
Events*

**Emily Duda**  
*Director of Athletics*

**Jeremy Dworkin**  
*Director of Athletics*

**Sierra Abasolo**  
*Director of  
Communications*

**Eric Manzo**  
*Director of Stunts*

**Megan Wiener**  
*Director of Special  
Events*

**Hanna Hitchcock**  
*Director of Traditions*

**Andrew Pierce**  
*Director of Mixed Media*

**Scott McCrae**  
*Director of Mixed Media*

**Kate Montana**  
*UC Cannoneer*

**Douglas Wickham**  
*UC Cannoneer*

**KC Hunt**  
*Director of Security*

We finally would like to extend our utmost gratitude to all of those who have assisted and supported our endeavors—not only during these trying times but throughout the past decades. While we want to continue to host this event in the years to come—for now, we would like to send our support and love to the communities affected by the wildfires. As the California community unites, we continue to strive to keep the Spirit of California alive.

*“Stand for right, let there be light. California here’s to thee.”*

-Toast to California (1956)

Fiat Lux,

The UC Rally Committee