



**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

Campus Laundry Enhancement and Accessibility Negotiation (CLEAN)

Sponsors:

- Timothy Lu, College Council Representative Class of 2026

Signatories:

- Juan Simon Angel, College Council Representative Class of 2026
- Luz Montiel, College Council Representative Class of 2026
- Aman Majmudar, College Council Representative Class of 2024

WHEREAS the University of Chicago acknowledges the financial burden that laundry costs can pose for many students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, and recognizes the importance of providing accessible and affordable laundry services to ensure an equitable campus experience for all, as a clean and comfortable living environment is vital for the academic success and overall well-being of its students,

WHEREAS a recent comprehensive survey of more than 100 UChicago students, representing a diverse range of backgrounds and academic pursuits, revealed that an overwhelming majority of students, almost 90%, did not do laundry as often as they would like due to the prohibitive cost of laundry, with less than 11% feeling that the cost of laundry was not a barrier, demonstrating a clear financial challenge that affects the day-to-day lives of our student community,

WHEREAS the same survey indicated that the proportion of First-Generation, Low-Income students was nearly twice the general population and a greater proportion of respondents received financial aid, thus illustrating that laundry costs disproportionately impact those students who are already under greater financial, mental, and emotional burden, exacerbating the existing inequalities within the campus community,

WHEREAS the survey also highlighted concerns about the quality and reliability of laundry facilities, with respondents reporting that laundry machines are often broken or out of order, leaving clothes sopping wet, and drying machines not adequately drying clothes, further compounding the issue for students who may already struggle to afford laundry services, and negatively impacting their ability to maintain a clean and presentable wardrobe as well as their overall satisfaction with their living conditions,

WHEREAS peer institutions such as Washington University in St. Louis (ranked as the best-rated college dorm by students; Princeton Review¹), Northwestern University, the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Princeton, and Stanford have implemented more accessible laundry pricing structures that are either more affordable or have no extra charge for students, setting an inspiring precedent for other esteemed institutions to follow suit and demonstrating their commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive campus environment,

BE IT RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government, with unwavering dedication to the wellbeing and success of its constituents, recognizes the significant impact of laundry costs on the financial wellbeing of students and is committed to exploring opportunities to reduce or subsidize these costs in order to increase overall accessibility and create a more inclusive campus environment, so that no student feels left behind or unduly burdened by such necessities,

BE IT RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government, in its tireless pursuit of addressing this critical issue, intends to collaborate closely with the Dean of Students, Wash Laundry Services, and other relevant stakeholders to explore innovative opportunities for reducing and/or subsidizing laundry costs for students, thereby making it more affordable and ensuring that all students, regardless of their financial background, have equal access to essential services that contribute to their academic success and overall quality of life,

BE IT RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government will proactively and rigorously address concerns regarding the maintenance of laundry facilities, including the effectiveness of washing machines and dryers, lint buildup, and potential fire hazards, in order to ensure a safe, efficient, and satisfactory laundry experience for all students, as highlighted by the survey results, while also promoting sustainability and eco-friendly practices in our campus laundry operations,

BE IT RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government, understanding the paramount importance of collaboration, communication, and the consideration of diverse perspectives, emphasizes the need for a comprehensive, data-driven approach that takes into account the diverse needs of the student body, as well as the illuminating survey findings, and will work tirelessly, with unwavering determination, to advocate for an equitable, effective, and sustainable laundry solution on campus, thereby enhancing the overall UChicago experience for current and future generations of students.

¹ “Best College Dorms.” The Princeton Review. Penguin Random House. Accessed April 29, 2023. <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings?rankings=best-college-dorms>.