



CONTROVERSY ARISES DUE TO LIMITING COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

With over 75 students in attendance for this proceeding, the room was so overcrowded that the Senators had to call and find a larger facility within the Student Center to house everyone more comfortably. The majority of the room comprised of students who were in support of the Senate rejected Womxn's Hub Referendum, as well as those present in solidarity with Randy Yan.

The evening was far from smooth sailing. Although over 75 students were in attendance, the Senators raised some eyebrows among those present by limiting public comment to very few individuals. The ASUCI Senate also placed a strict time limit on their comments, allotting two minutes per speaker and eight minutes per topic. This meant that despite over 75+ students being present, many of whom hoped to speak to their representatives directly, that **only four speakers were allowed to comment at the podium per topic.**

An audible timer was set by members of the Senate, and those who exceeded the allotted limit were cut-off mid-sentence and asked to step down from the podium.

In our interview with one of UCI's two Mental Health Commissioners and the Interim COS to the ASUCI President, Isabelle Lee, she had a lot to say about the Senate's history of blocking public comment during meetings. "This is not the first time that [ASUCI Senators] cut public



comment down. This also happened with the Student Infrastructure Act." She then went on to discuss her disappointment with the ASUCI Senate when it comes to listening to and properly addressing the voices and concerns of the UCI student body. "The public is who the Senate serves. ASUCI serves the *public*, but the fact that they're not listening to the public says a lot about these [Senate] officials."