Transfer Student Support Services
ASUSF Resolution 16-17-08

Whereas: The University of San Francisco has a responsibility to provide equitable and adequate support and guidance for all transfer students; and

Whereas: The University of San Francisco has appointed a Director of Transfer Advising, and a Center for Academic and Student Achievement; and

Whereas: Transfer students have expressed that they do not feel they are adequately being supported nor do they feel there are enough advisors that can address specific transfer needs such as: consistency in prior undergraduate credit attributions, or current residency credit requirements.

Whereas: University of San Francisco transfer student cohorts ranging from Fall 2005 to Fall 2012 exhibits retention rates that suggest an average of 73% of transfer students graduate within four (4) years, despite the minimum incoming transfer requirement of twenty-four (24) semester units or thirty-six (36) quarter units—essentially making the university experience longer than intended for transfer students; and

Whereas: The University of San Francisco’s courses are traditionally 4-units, while most colleges and universities utilize a 3-unit system per class—A unit difference that inherently puts transfer students at a credit/unit-requirement disadvantage; and

Whereas: Transfer students often cannot study abroad or involve themselves in extracurricular activities because they are confronted with credit requirements that interfere with their prospective graduation date, and where one student stated,

“Besides the articulation agreement I was not sure which classes would transfer. So I only took university core courses and the first thing they said at orientation was "...Save all your cores for when you study abroad!" Now, I am not able to study abroad because I only have business core left and major classes.”

and;

Whereas: Transfer students find themselves having to consult between several advisors to seek advice and guidance, and are often given conflicting information regarding University resources, opportunities, and best options to where several students stated,

“My major advisor claims he is not responsible for reviewing/creating an academic pathway regarding major and claims that job is done through CASA. My CASA advisor claims she is there as a "social" relations advisor addressing student concerns at USF.”

“The transfer experience is very difficult,... many things we had to learn by trial and error which is more negative than anything…”

“Meeting with admissions counselor prior to applying, I was told that all my classes would transfer easily. We even went through my entire transcript from my last school and checked off everything that would transfer and what requirement each class would meet. Upon transferring, I was told otherwise.” and;
Whereas: Transfer students at the University of San Francisco have shared their experiences regarding their transition into the university and have provided potential options that would have made their experiences less daunting, stating the following:

“In order for USF to even acknowledge my transfer credits, I had to call multiple people that gave me the run around. It would help for the transfer office to provide credit services.”

“Advising during the summer or semester prior to enrollment”

“CLEAR details about what credit requirements are here, someone to argue for you with department deans for credits you already have, etc.” and;

Whereas: Transfer students in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Management, School of Education, and School of Nursing and Health Professions find themselves facing similar advising and issues; therefore, be it

Resolved by ASUSF Senate of the University of San Francisco, representing all the undergraduate students of the University: that the University of San Francisco provide adequate advising resources for the growing population of incoming transfer students by providing a transfer student office that assists undergraduate students with subjects including but not limited to academic, social, and extracurricular needs in order to make the most of their limited undergraduate experience, while allowing them to graduate on time; furthermore, be it

Resolved: That the University of San Francisco establish an office that contains several advisors who are aware of transfer needs and credit requirements in all Schools and Colleges of the University of San Francisco in order to account for the diverse circumstances that transfer students in different schools find themselves in; and,

Resolved: That the University of San Francisco Admissions Office institute a post-acceptance and pre-enrollment program that reviews prospective students’ prior courses to determine how many credits are eligible towards the University’s academic standards; and,

Resolved: The University of San Francisco offer a transfer-specific “USF 101” course that offers subjects including but not limited to navigating University of San Francisco academic structure, requirements, and opportunities, identifying campus resources available for specific help which a student may need, and articulation of personal, academic, and career goals in relation to the time available for transfer students before intended graduation.

Submitted by: Jannely Rodriguez, ASUSF Transfer Student Representative
Francesca Bitton, ASUSF Vice President of Internal Affairs
Presented: Tuesday, January 31, 2017
Signed: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Shaya Kara. ASUSF President