



## Establishment of a Latiné Resource Center

Resolution 24-25-02

**Whereas:** the essential Jesuit values of the University of San Francisco outline the attributes of *cura personalis* – the dedication to “care for the whole person” – similarly commits to treat all members of our community with genuine dignity and act in conscientious solidarity<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas:** the initiatives of the current US national administration usher forth a hostile environment for Latine students of all ages<sup>2</sup>, undocumented students, international students<sup>3</sup> from Latin America, and more community members from Latinoamerica, who all make up the diaspora of the Latine student body; and

**Whereas:** dips in enrollment of Latine students are likely to be expected, as the current President resumes office and rescinds the endeavors of Executive Order 14124<sup>4</sup>, which was signed under President Biden to advance “educational equity, excellence, and economic opportunity,” by means of strengthening programming for Latine students and bolstering aid to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI), or institutions wherein at least one quarter of students identify as Latino; and

**Whereas:** the Latinx Excellence and Belonging Initiative (LE&BI) cohort on USF’s Campus, a working group dedicated to researching ways to best support USF’s Latine students on campus, names the creation of a physical space with staff support to be created in their longer-term critical resources section of their report, stating:

“Create, and provide staff, for a physical hub on campus for Latinx students<sup>5</sup>,” and

**Whereas:** the LE&BI Working Group further published in their Spring 2023 report:

"We found that there is a lack of programs, mechanisms, initiatives and spaces to build community among members of the Latinx community at USF, which makes it difficult in particular for Latinx students to access targeted and culturally-relevant support<sup>6</sup>"; and

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<sup>1</sup> ["Our Mission and Values" | USFCA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Stanford University's Analysis of Strict Immigration Policies](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Impact on International Students](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Federal Register | 2024](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Latinx Excellence and Belonging at USF: A Report from the Working Group of the Latinx Excellence and Belonging Initiative at the University of San Francisco](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Latinx Excellence and Belonging at USF: A Report from the Working Group of the Latinx Excellence and Belonging Initiative at the University of San Francisco](#)



**Whereas:** anonymous input from USF Latine students, based on conversations across Latine Community Meetups through the years 2023-2025, makes clear that a lack of institutional support is simultaneously damaging their holistic university experience, but also expected based upon historically limited services and it is seen based on a plethora of outreach, the need for the gaps within resources for the Latine student body to be better seen and addressed; and

**Whereas:** the Latine community on USF's campus has demonstrated a significant need, as evidenced by increased dropoff in student retention rates for first generation Latine students (only 74.0% as opposed to 83.3% non-first generation retained), between their first to second year in 2024<sup>7</sup>; and

**Whereas:** the LE&BI Working Group contextualizes the aforementioned figures within a significant trend from earlier years:

“Since fall 2017, USF has retained first-time, first year Latinx students at lower rates than non-Latinx counterparts, a trend that has continued and been exacerbated in this past year where 77.6% of Latinx students starting in fall 2021 overall were retained into the next year. We lost larger proportions of Latinx students who were first-generation in college (71.6% retained) and low-income (71.4% retained)<sup>8</sup>”; and

**Whereas:** USF's Fall 2024 total enrollment of Latine students reached 23.7%, which is only 1.3% away from being eligible for recognition as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), whose qualifications maintain a need for 25% of the total population to be identified as Latine<sup>9</sup>; and

**Whereas:** such a significant number of the student population identifying as Latine on USF's campus warrants a similar aptitude of investment of those schools that have achieved or are working toward achieving the HSI caliber designated; and

**Whereas:** significant success of Latine students at another Bay Area Jesuit institution, Santa Clara University (SCU), where they have been awarded “Emerging HSI” status, can be traced to their investment and intentional efforts to support Latine students; and

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<sup>7</sup> USFCA Latine Student Database (via Calypso)

<sup>8</sup> [Latinx Excellence and Belonging at USF; A Report from the Working Group of the Latinx Excellence and Belonging Initiative at the University of San Francisco](#)

<sup>9</sup> USFCA Latine Student Database (via Calypso)



**Whereas:** the president of SCU has resolved to uplift institutional support of the Latine body, aiming to contribute to longevity and future success of the community served, as a whole, emphasizing the following, in a 2023 message to the community:

“...an advisory group, led by Enrollment Management Vice President Eva Blanco Masias...will help us keep our focus on the multi-year journey to attain full HSI designation, increasing our undergraduate Hispanic/Latiné-student enrollment to 25% and ensuring we are a community where [Latine students] thrive and flourish...”; and

**Whereas:** other campuses, including the University of California Davis, have demonstrated clear improvements in the Latine student community through the establishment of Latine-aligned resource centers. At UC Davis, the creation of El Centro in 2017<sup>10</sup> has allowed for the flourishing of a resource center designated for Latine students, offering services pertaining to Academic Support and Tutoring, Academic Advising, Emotional Well-being and Support, Professional Development, Community and Physical Space, Featured Annual Events, and more<sup>11</sup>; and

**Whereas:** Latine student leaders hold a significant responsibility to fill these voids in our academic and social community, with Latinas Unidas’ President Diana Silva-Corral expressing the following:

“Throughout my time at USF as a Latina student and leader serving in the Executive Board of one of the Latine organizations, Latinas Unidas, I’ve been able to notice and first hand experience numerous obstacles that the majority of the Latine community faces every day... All of these obstacles and many others that we, as Latine students face every day, have in some way created a broader division, lack of engagement and sense of belonging which have majorly impacted our community shown in retention rates, engagement, and unity as a whole. As a community with a major presence in our campus, we strongly believe that having the opportunity to access a Latine Resource Center would certainly help address all of these obstacles and tightly unite our community even more... Looking back to my years at USF, I am certain that this is something that my fellow Latine comrades, my family, the next future Dons, and those who were before and will come after me, would have appreciated throughout their college experience. A Latine Resource Center would be a major step forward for our community and inspiration for

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<sup>10</sup> [UC Davis El Centro Origin](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Center for Chicanx and Latinx Academic Student Success: Programs and Services](#)



many others and would unite us to create a space where everyone is able to succeed as their whole selves with the support and motivation we all deserve”; and

**Whereas:** students of Latine descent tend to be those tasked most with not only creating community, but also ensuring students have access to resources and other scholarly support on campus, encompassing many of the aforementioned initiatives a Latine Resource Center would take on. Latine-oriented organizations should not be the sole individuals responsible for such initiatives; and

**Whereas:** the Casa Madrí Living Learning Community (LLC) seeks to address these gaps for first year students, with Casa Madrí’s co-administrator, Professor Negrón-Gonzalez, affirming the following:

“Many Latiné students at USF struggle with affordability and what it means to navigate college as a first-generation student. We know from the research that a sense of belonging on campus is critical for the holistic success of marginalized students, and here at USF our Latiné students lack space on campus to connect to resources, other Latiné students, and Latiné faculty and staff. A Resource Center for Latiné students would help immensely in these efforts, not only in the pragmatic sense but also as a way to clearly communicate that Latiné students are seen and valued at USF”; and

**Whereas:** while not all Latine students have the opportunity to live in an LLC like Casa Madrí, they are still deserving of the same support offered to students therein; and

**Whereas:** the establishment of a Latine Resource Center has the capacity to counter the continuous lack of support Latine students are facing, by means of addressing factors that pertain directly to Latine community (including, but not limited to realms of: immigration, financial support, employment, first generation experiences, and other critical cultural components); therefore, be it

**Resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco Senate in its role as the sole representative body of all the undergraduate students of the University of San Francisco, the following be enacted:**

**Resolved:** that in order to uplift the USF Latine community, and to maintain the *cura personalis* of these students, we call for USF to establish a permanent Latine Resource Center (LRC) on USF’s campus that is nurtured sustainably, with recognition of and investment in the true needs



of the Latine community (including students of various legal statuses, first generation students, and more); furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the USF Latine Resource Center may comprise its main objectives within the breadth of three intersectional categories: cultivating a sense of student belonging, enhancing student professional development opportunities, and utilizing best practices for student retention rates, which may be supported via access to committed community and connections to career-planning; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the USF Latine Resource Center (LRC) offers the following, according to their mission:

The Latine Resource Center seeks to nurture the genuine Latine soul on campus, upheld by devoted administration, faculty, staff, alumni, Latine student leaders, and Latine undergraduate and graduate students, as a means of honing the cornerstone of a healthy university experience on and off the University of San Francisco for Latine community members. Cultivating a sense of student belonging by means of enhancing student academic support, community enrichment, professional development, and informed support, working for undergraduate and graduate students of Latine descent, the Latine Resource Center upholds academic, mentoring, financial, and emotional support services; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that to counter the current national political climate's inherent lack of concern for the Latine community, the Latine Resource Center must begin with at least one dedicated staff member, expanding alongside the growth of the Latine student population; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that, by Fall 2030, adhering to the needs of the Latine Resource Center, there should be an expansion to the center. There must be proper funding, at least one full-time paid staff member, paid student staff (at least three students), as well as a team made up of full- and part-time staff members (at least three staff members); furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that as space becomes available on the USF campus, movement into a permanent space is prioritized, with the same urgency of other established resource centers, maintaining that the space will remain accessible to Latine-identifying students to utilize for studying, socializing purposes, and Latine Resource Center programming; furthermore, be it



**Resolved:** that when not in use for programming, any space reserved for the LRC will still remain accessible for all Latine student organizations and any Latine students seeking study space or offered resources; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the support of Latine communities include intentional programming to foster support of Latine students across majors, through the regular collaboration with administration, as well as experienced faculty, much like the endeavors of SCU, UC Davis and the Casa Madriz LLC; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that this Latine-specific space will assist with financial needs, bolster outreach initiatives with parents and families, as well as offer assistance with any significant financial decisions that arise in the college process; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that this space will simultaneously be one to foster mental health focus and awareness, which will be assured through the intentional framework aforementioned, akin to UC Davis' El Centro programming addressing these struggles<sup>12</sup>; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the Latine Resource Center will act as a space and resource dedicated to and for Latine students, where students may rely upon genuine dedication to their wellbeing, among other community members whom they may rely upon and relate to; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that Latine students have access to a concrete space to build community within the Latine Resource Center, aiding in ensuring a network of understanding and support that bolsters student belonging and therefore increases the chances of student success; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the dignity of Latine students on campus will be ensured and uplifted by treating students of Latine origin not as an afterthought, but as whole individuals, worthy of investment and quality services that will ensure each student is fully equipped to enter the world as empowered individuals of a rich and vibrant cultural community.

**Submitted by:**

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Sofi Pardo, *Co-Communications Chair of Latinas Unidas*

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<sup>12</sup> [Center for Chicanx and Latinx Academic Student Success; Mental Health Resources](#)



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, 2025

**Signed by:**