



Menstrual Product Equity

24-25-01

Whereas: a core Jesuit value of the University of San Francisco is *Cura Personalis* - care of the whole person, including the physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual well-being of USF's students; and

Whereas: *Cura Personalis* recognizes that health is at the core of overall well-being, which necessitates access to comprehensive healthcare resources; and

Whereas: the University of San Francisco as a Jesuit institution believes in "[a]cknowledging the importance of supporting the whole student and the interconnectedness and value of all people, communities, and faith traditions, we embrace the Jesuit values of *Cura Personalis* and *Cura Apostolica*,"¹; and

Whereas: *Cura Apostolica* emphasizes our University's value for care of the community as a whole, which necessitates providing public resources for community health; and

Whereas "Wellness is commonly viewed as having seven dimensions: *environmental, financial, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and spiritual*. These dimensions are interdependent and influence each other. When one dimension of our well-being is out of balance, the other dimensions are affected,"² as stated by the USF site for Student Wellness Center; and

Whereas: the University's Well-being mission statement says:

The Health & Wellness Committee at USF collaborates with campus partners and creates opportunities and programs for long lasting well-being that maintains the overall wellness of all USF community members. All programs and opportunities are tailored to encourage and empower personal accountability for one's own health and wellness. We achieve this by:

- Providing resources, support and creative opportunities to discover wellness practices that meet their wellness needs.
- Fostering an 'each one, teach one' process that enables and encourages members to support their own wellness as well as others.
- Engaging individuals and the USF community at large in an effort to improve the quality of life, inclusion, and well-being of our community³ ; and

¹ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/student-life>

² <https://myusf.usfca.edu/universitywell-being/students>

³ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/universitywell-being>



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Whereas: the call to action statement of the Okanagan Charter, with whom USF is affiliated, reads: “Build health and wellness by caring for the whole person (*Cura Personalis*), a Jesuit tradition, that inspires our proactive and compassionate approach to health and wellbeing by promoting access and equity to all⁴”; and

Whereas: the ASUSF Senate created a Resolution in October 2022 that called for it to be mandatory for the University to provide menstrual products in campus restrooms⁵; and

Whereas: in the summer of 2024, USF started a chapter of the PERIOD organization, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending period poverty and stigma through service, education, and advocacy; and

Whereas: a study published in BioMed Central Women’s Health journal conducted surveys of 471 colleges in the United States and found that “14.2% of women had experienced period poverty” in a year. The study also found that women who experience “period poverty were the most likely to report moderate/severe depression” compared to those who do not experience period poverty⁶; and

Whereas: Georgetown University, a Jesuit university, has committed to “working [toward] the installation of new machines providing free menstrual products” and increasing the number of menstrual products provided in restrooms. This change is driven by a petition written and signed by students as a part of a student organization’s Menstrual Equity Campaign in 2019⁷; and

Whereas: while various factors affect menstruation, 65.1% of USF students were assigned female at birth, the majority of whom menstruate⁸; and

Whereas: the “pink tax” significantly impacts college students by forcing them to pay more for everyday items like personal hygiene products, clothing, and other goods marketed towards women, which can strain their already limited budgets and create financial stress, especially when facing the added cost of tuition and living expenses. This can further limit their ability to invest in education or other necessities; and

⁴ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/sites/default/files/users/lrsackett/Okanagan%20Charter%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

⁵ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/sites/default/files/users/bmantovani/Pads%20in%20Bathroom.pdf>

⁶ <https://bmcmwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-020-01149-5>

⁷ <https://georgetownvoice.com/2020/01/17/not-a-luxury-a-right-menstrual-equity-on-georgetown-campus/>

⁸ <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-san-francisco-1325/student-life#:~:text=University%20of%20San%20Francisco%20has,students%20and%2065.1%25%20female%20students.>



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Whereas: providing free menstrual products to students strengthens our university's Basic Needs Program. The Basic Needs Program has experienced significant growth in recent years, with the USF Food Pantry serving as a cornerstone initiative. By integrating the provision of free menstrual products into this program, you could further centralize these services, enhance visibility and promotion, and create a cohesive connection point for students accessing other components of the program; and

Whereas: as stated by Karolyne Lajera who helped bring the PERIOD Chapter to USF campus:

As the Co-President of PERIOD on campus, I have seen firsthand the ways that students have taken action into their own hands regarding menstrual products. I myself have gone to the bathroom, realized I had gotten my period, and found no period products in sight. In those instances, I've had to rely on people in my class or my friends to give me a pad or tampon. I even remember once going into the bathroom and seeing brand-name products, so I knew students had put them in there. While many times, the school is doing a good job of providing period products, oftentimes students are still receiving the short end of the stick; and

Whereas: USF has committed, as an institution, to allow all individuals who come onto its campuses (students, faculty, staff, administrators, visitors, etc.) to use whichever bathroom facilities they feel most comfortable using, regardless of the gender they were assigned at birth or whether or not their current gender identity aligns with the gender they were assigned at birth; and

Whereas: providing free menstrual products consistently in all bathrooms across campus enhances the university's appeal to prospective students and families - underscoring the university's commitment to being progressive, inclusive, and student-centered. This initiative creates a positive impression for prospective students and their families, showcasing a thoughtful and supportive campus environment during their visits; and

Whereas: the mission of USF Facilities Management is to “provide a functional, aesthetic environment that supports outstanding learning opportunities throughout the University in an environmentally sensitive, economically effective, and sustainable manner”⁹; and

⁹ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/facilities>



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Whereas: Facilities Management, in conjunction with the third-party custodial services who clean and stock the bathrooms across the USF campus, does not currently stock menstrual products in *all* bathrooms, including the Men's bathrooms; only the Women's bathrooms and a majority of the All-Gender bathrooms are regularly stocked with menstrual products.

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 Facilities Management shall enforce the importance of checking menstrual product supplies regularly and ensuring that all restrooms— Women's, Men's, and Gender Inclusive restrooms— are continuously stocked by implementing a system for janitorial staff to restock products upon daily routine bathroom cleanings; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that menstrual disposal bins are to be installed in all of the Men's & All Gender bathrooms on campus, in addition to Women's bathrooms; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that Facilities Management do their part to respond promptly to Work Orders submitted by students, faculty, and staff regarding period product shortages by refilling them within 24 hours of submission of the Work Order; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that Facilities Management print, laminate, and post signs in all restrooms to inform the community that menstrual products are provided for their convenience, encourage people to be considerate while taking menstrual products, and provide a work order QR code for students to submit when menstrual products need to be restocked. Please see the reference photo below from a UCSF restroom in the appendix (Figure 1).

Submitted by:

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Supported by:

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Presented To Advocacy on:

18 February, 2025

Presented To The Senate on:

3 March, 2025

Passed by the Senate on:

19 March, 2025

Signed by:

Kiannah-Nicole Karani,
ASUSF President



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Appendix:

Fig. 1

