

Dear USF community,

I write to you a week after the incident that unfolded the night of November 24, with the knowledge that our community is still deeply hurting. Mistakes were made last week. The University argues the safety and wellbeing of our community is their highest priority but incidents like the one last week proves that there is still much work to be done.

I empathize with the students in our community who were directly impacted by the violent social media threats and disturbances made on Sunday. I empathize with the students in our community whose credible sexual harassment allegations were not initially taken seriously. I empathize with the students in our community who barricaded themselves in a dark room fearing for their lives. I empathize with the students in our community who saw armed police officers carrying machines of war across our campus. I empathize with the students in our community who have been directly affected or know someone who has been directly affected by the gun violence issue plaguing the United States.

At our core, our community will continue to have doubts about the Department of Public Safety's ability to address incidents like the one last week until major change is made. Students felt unsafe and we must validate the feelings of those students who were faced with this traumatic experience. Moving forward, what will the Department of Public Safety do to ensure all members of our community, including faculty and staff, are receiving accurate and timely information regarding the safety issues on our campus? How will the University and the Department of Public Safety include more students in the conversations about protocols and procedures?

Our community rightly demands more than a formal apology from the Department of Public Safety and administration for their **lack of communication** the night of November 24. We will not forget the threat imposed on our community last week by one of our own students. There was a serious threat to our community that night and the Department of Public Safety heightened this threat by not proactively communicating the severity of the situation to the members of our community.

ASUSF Senate will continue to work with the student body, administration, and the [Progressive Community Advisory Board](#), to address the list of demands set forth by a student group during the peaceful demonstration last Tuesday. We must ensure the safety of every single person in our community, and ASUSF Senate will not stand idly by until student demands are met by the University of San Francisco. We must take action now! We cannot wait until student lives are lost because of the University's lack of communication.

We cannot conform to the nation's response to mass school shootings. We cannot normalize the gun violence issues affecting our students, especially our black and brown students. The University and the Department of Public Safety must begin to foster a community of safety and respect for all of our students.

We must continue to hold the Department of Public Safety accountable. But most importantly, we must continue to hold the University of San Francisco's administration accountable.

As we move into a place of healing, I ask that we take good care of one another, and that our university responds accordingly to help facilitate this healing.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hector Bustos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H" and "B".

Hector Bustos
ASUSF President