



“No Decisions without Adequate Representation”: Transparency Measures and Allocating Additional Student Representative Seats on the Board of Trustees

Resolution: 19-20-XX

Whereas the University of San Francisco student body has only one undergraduate representative at Board of Trustees Meetings;

Whereas the undergraduate student body is comprised of over 6,500 students¹, and having only a single student’s perspective being heard is inequitable and impractical, particularly given that this student is expected to quickly digest and disseminate information to the entirety of the student body;

Whereas the Board of Trustees by nature of the position typically do not have regular contact with students, thereby making the intentional inclusion of students particularly essential;

Whereas the additional inclusion of student voices and perspectives in these meetings has the potential to mitigate additional protests and disputes between the student body and the Board of Trustees;

Whereas the Board of Trustees has a duty to represent the students of the University of San Francisco, and students are the ones who are the most impacted by the decisions made in these meetings;

Whereas the students of the University of San Francisco bear the brunt of financial decisions made by the Board of Trustees, yet do not have adequate representation in rooms where decisions about their ability to continue at the university are made;

Whereas these provisions have been outlined in both the Dons for Fair Tuition List of Demands presented to the Board of Trustees in the Spring of 2019, as well as in the ASUSF Senate List of Demands presented to the Board in the Fall of 2019;

¹ From: <https://www.usfca.edu/about-usf/what-you-need-to-know/facts-statistics>



Whereas given the current uncertainty regarding retention of students during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a particularly crucial avenue to help afford students the transparency and communication they need in order to feel secure in their investment at USF;

Whereas given the situation surrounding COVID-19, additional student representation is a key avenue by which the university can show their care for the student population and solidarity with their struggles;

Whereas the author of this resolution has found no objections to this or restrictions on its implementation in the Board of Trustees By-Laws;

Be it resolved by the Associated Students of University of San Francisco Senate, as the sole representatives of the undergraduate student body, that the following be enacted:

Resolved that the University of San Francisco Board of Trustees shall reserve two additional guest seats for undergraduate students at their quarterly meetings, bringing the total number of undergraduate students to three;

Resolved that in order to mitigate concerns about the overwhelming of meetings with students, there will not be additional student seats allocated for committee meetings, and students will be adequately instructed on their duties and permissions as part of their role;

Resolved that one of these seats shall be reserved for the the President of ASUSF Senate, and the other two students shall be nominated and confirmed by the Associated Students of University of San Francisco Senate, following their internal processes;

Resolved that at the suggestion of trustees, all Board of Trustees meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, will be livestreamed and posted online for the student body to see;

Resolved that the Board of Trustees will produce a plan that outlines their commitment to continue to engage students in conversation moving forward.



Submitted by: ASUSF Vice President of Internal Affairs Cassie Murphy

Date: 3/31/2020

Supported by:
ASUSF Advocacy Committee