



Resolution to Enhance Transfer Student Housing Support

24-25-04

Whereas: as outlined in its mission to provide access to quality education for all students, the USF Inclusion Statement reads: “The University of San Francisco strives to promote safe, affirming, and inclusive communities for all students, faculty, and staff to learn and work together...we welcome, expect, and encourage the continued pursuit of knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to build a more inclusive community which celebrates diversity and works toward justice¹”; and

Whereas: the campus housing crisis is a national issue, affecting students’ financial, emotional, and academic well-being, with research showing that stable housing is crucial for student success and retention²; and

Whereas: research from the University of Connecticut demonstrates that students who live on campus during their first and second years have higher GPAs, are 21 percentage points more likely to return for their second year, and graduate faster than those living off campus³; and

Whereas: transfer students face unique transitional challenges, including difficulties securing housing that aligns with their academic and personal needs; and

Whereas: many transfer students arrive on campus without prior connections, often competing for limited housing resources or navigating unfamiliar off-campus options without adequate guidance, which leads to academic stress^{4 5}; and

Whereas: Community Themed Floors are both considered high-impact practices, fostering higher grade point averages, greater retention, and improved graduation rates by providing students with shared academic and social interests, faculty support, and tailored programming⁶⁷; and

Whereas: peer institutions such as UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and Georgia Tech have implemented intentional transfer student housing programs, such as transfer-specific residence

¹ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/adei/inclusion-statement>

² <https://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/articles/the-campus-housing-crisis>

³ https://bpir.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3452/2022/08/1.Update_CampusHousing-1-1.pdf

⁴ <https://ucsa.org/housing-struggle/>

⁵ <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1093903>

⁶ <https://www.usnews.com/education/articles/living-learning-communities-what-to-know>

⁷ <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/living-learning-communities/>



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hall floors, guaranteed housing for transfers, and Transfer-Year Experience programs, to promote inclusion, success, and engagement for transfer populations⁸; and

Whereas: UC Davis guarantees housing for all incoming transfer students, offering on-campus apartments or residence halls for their first year, and extends this guarantee for a second year if students remain in university housing⁹; and

Whereas: UC Berkeley reserves the sixth floor of Maximino Martinez Commons exclusively for transfer students, including a transfer specialist Resident Assistant, and offers co-op and affordable housing options for first-generation and low-income transfers¹⁰; and

Whereas: Georgia Tech's Transfer-Year Experience program provides transfer students with dedicated housing, social and academic support, and access to campus resources, helping them transition and integrate more effectively into university life¹¹; and

Whereas: the University of South Florida and other institutions have developed “transfer villages” to provide transfer students with peer support, academic mentorship, and community engagement opportunities, leading to improved student satisfaction and success; and

Whereas: current USF Living-Learning Communities such as The St. Ignatius Institute have demonstrated the value of intentional residential communities in supporting student success and engagement; and

Whereas: there is currently no Community Themed Floor specifically for transfer students despite their distinct needs¹²; and

Whereas: transfer students at USF and nationally have voiced the need for more intentional, community-based housing options, citing experiences of separateness, and a lack of targeted outreach compared to first-year admits¹³; and

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<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/campus-programs-and-support-services/transfer-students.html>

⁹ <https://housing.ucdavis.edu/guaranteed-housing/>

¹⁰ <https://ucsa.org/housing-struggle/>

¹¹ <https://housing.gatech.edu/transfer-year-experience>

¹² <https://myusf.usfca.edu/housing>

¹³ <https://ucsa.org/housing-struggle/>



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Whereas: as stated by an anonymous Transfer Student:

I love the idea of a transfer living-learning community. It would give us a chance to build friendships and support each other academically and socially. I wish this existed when I first transferred; and

Whereas: as stated by a second anonymous Transfer Student:

When I got my transfer admission, most of the housing options were already gone. I spent weeks searching for off-campus housing and missed out on orientation events. A transfer community would definitely help me feel more supported; and

Whereas: ongoing conversations with USF Student Housing and Office of Community Living have included specific, tentative plans to dedicate a floor in Lone Mountain North or Lone Mountain East to transfer students, establishing a community Themed floor modeled after successful programs at peer institutions. Housing and Residential Life have expressed openness to piloting this initiative in the 2026-2027 academic year, contingent on student interest and available space; 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 USF Housing and Residential Life develop and implement dedicated housing options for transfer students, specifically by designating a floor in Lone Mountain North or Lone Mountain East for the establishment of a Transfer Living-Learning Community ; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that this initiative will prioritize community-building, provide smoother transitions into campus life, and reflect USF's values of equity, care, and student-centered engagement; furthermore, be it

Resolved: that Housing and Residential Life will collaborate with student representatives to ensure the successful launch and ongoing support of this community, including the development of tailored programming, peer mentorship, and faculty engagement; furthermore, be it



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Resolved: that the Senate further recommends USF explore partnerships with academic departments, student services, and external organizations to secure additional resources, and programmatic support for transfer students¹⁴.

Submitted by:

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Supported by:

Dr. Aja Holmes, *Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Community Living*
Transfer Student Association

Presented To Advocacy on:

29 April, 2025

Presented To The Senate on:

30 April, 2025

Passed by the Senate on:

7 May, 2025

Signed by: