



**Establishment of a Larger Black Resource Center**  
Resolution 23-24-06

**Whereas:** the core Jesuit values of the University of San Francisco call for *cura personalis*, or “care for the whole person,” including our obligation to treat all members of our community with respect and care; and

**Whereas:** the USF website states that “Whatever your creed, culture, color, country, identity, and orientation, you are welcome at USF”; and

**Whereas:** USF was ranked number 1 in ethnic diversity among national universities by U.S. News & World Report 2024<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas:** an Iowa State University assistant professor, Dr. Lori Patton Davis, conducted a study in 2009 that states “Students involved in my study indicated that out of all of the places on campus, the [Black Cultural Center] BCC is where they can go and feel a sense of comfort and relief,” and:

*“The results of my study and findings from additional research indicate that programming by black culture centers plays a primary role in acclimating first-year students to college. One of the most powerful opportunities for participation and involvement is the student ambassador groups associated with BCCs. At the University of Florida, for example, students indicate that their involvement in the BCC ambassador group has been the pathway to participation in mainstream activities such as student government, homecoming planning committees, and university-wide ambassador groups”<sup>2</sup>; and*

**Whereas:** the mission of USF’s Black Resource Center (BRC) reads as follows:

*“The Black Resource Center provides a safe, supportive space for undergraduate and graduate students of African descent to connect with each other to receive academic, spiritual, mentoring, and emotional support services. The Black Resource Center seeks to connect Black identified students not only to the varied supportive resources USF offers*

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<https://www.usfca.edu/news/usf-high-value-and-social-mobility#:~:text=In%20the%20U.S.%20News%20%26%20World%20Report%202024.for%20ethnic%20diversity%2C%20a%20rise%20of%20one%20spot>

<sup>2</sup> [abc.160](#)



*but to opportunities on and off campus that promote Scholarship, fosters Leadership development, and cultivates meaningful and impactful Community Engagement”<sup>3</sup> ; and*

**Whereas:** the current BRC does not possess the adequate space for students of African descent, along with Black-identifying students, to connect with each other to receive academic, spiritual, mentoring, and emotional support services; and

**Whereas:** “The BRC offers engaging programs and workshops that encourage students to tap into their cultural capital...It serves as both a communal space for hanging out but also as a place to study with peers and organize”<sup>4</sup> ; and

**Whereas:** these objectives are unable to be met with the current BRC because it operates on the second floor of the Gleeson Library, surrounded by multiple study rooms, making social events difficult to coordinate as to not cause disruption to other students studying in the library; and

**Whereas:** an anonymous testimony from a Black student who belongs to the Marshall-Riley Living-Learning Community states that “Having a more established BRC would greatly improve the social experience for black students at USF, as it could better act as a functional third space aiding in the social wellbeing of the black student population”; and

**Whereas:** an anonymous testimony from a Black student who does not belong to the Marshall-Riley Living-Learning Community, nor the Black Scholars Program states that “Having a permanent Black Resource Center would help to create a sense of security for black students on campus and will give these students a reliable source and space to confide in as a black person”; and

**Whereas:** as seen, the current space’s unsuitable environment does not meet the needs of Black-identifying students; and

**Whereas:** moving the Black Resource Center will benefit not only black-identifying students but all students. Not only would the BRC have adequate space, but it would also free up a study room for students to rent, allowing more students to have a private and personal space to study in Gleeson Library; and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://myusf.usfca.edu/base/black-resource-center>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.usfca.edu/academics/black-achievement-success-engagement/black-resource-center>



**Whereas:** Dr. Lori Patton Davis states that “Reasonable funding should be allocated to these focused centers to ensure the existence of updated facilities, resources, equipment, and the hiring of knowledgeable, friendly, and supportive staff members.”; and

**Whereas:** the BRC currently has donors from which they receive funds for operating costs and programs, and USF funds the salaries of BASE administration, the continued support of which is greatly appreciated; and

**Whereas:** the Senior Black Achievement, Success, and Engagement Initiative (BASE) Director Dr. Emille D. Lawrence has been doing incredible work with the BRC and has submitted a spatial request to move the BRC to UC 402 and UC 403 and writes:

*“I stand firmly with ASUSF efforts to find a permanent home for the Black Resource Center (BRC). The Black Resource Center is a safe space for student gatherings, events, or simply for students to be themselves. We have for the past 5 years appreciated the temporary space in the Gleeson Library. However, as the population of Black-identified students has grown to 13.4% in Fall 2023, the need for a larger BRC space also grows. Not only is physical space a concern, but also access. Gleeson Library policy prohibits student clubs from hosting meetings and gatherings, and it also prohibits food and drink except for in limited areas for certain events. Policies such as these make sense for a library. However, they will preclude many student activities one would expect to take place in a student resource center. For these reasons and others, we ask that the Black Resource Center be given a dedicated space on UC 4th near the Cultural Centers and other student engagement spaces. Frankly, we fear that as time goes on, our pleas for adequate permanent space will disappear into the background. Thank you for considering this urgent need”;* 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 provide continued support to the BRC to ensure its sustainability many decades in the future; furthermore, be it



**Resolved:** that the BRC be allocated additional space in this centralized, accessible location on the USF campus in order to build the level of trust and community necessary to build relations for all students who need or want to utilize its services; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the BRC use funds provided by donors to include:

- 3 Couches
- Fridge
- Cabinet for Storage Space ; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the permanent office space be located in UC 402 and 403, as this space will allow for current BRC objectives to be met and will create a gathering space for students of this constituency; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the space will maintain 4 wheeling desks and 8 ergonomic chairs from the current furniture layout in UC 402 and UC 403; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that when not in use for programs or events, the BRC remains accessible to Black-identifying students to use as a 24-hour study and social space and not available for reservation from any student; furthermore, be it

**Resolved:** that the BRC be officially moved to UC 402 and UC 403 before the beginning of the Fall 2024 semester.

**Submitted by:**

NyAshia Pressley, *Student of Color Representative*

Christian Faison, *Black Student Representative*

Aderet Parrino, *Vice President of Advocacy*

**Supported By:**

LaShirine Howard, *BASE Program Manager*

Kevin Collymore, *Assistant Dean of Persistence & Retention Programs*

Koyinsola Oyefeso, *BASE Intern*

Ashton Greene, *BASE Intern*

National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

**Presented to Advocacy on:**

March 26, 2024



**Presented to the Senate on:**

March 27, 2024

**Passed by the Senate on:**

April 3, 2024

**Signed by:**