Save the Cal Grant: USF Stands Against the Proposed 11.3% Cut in Cal Grants

Resolution 14-15-07

Whereas: 1,057 undergraduate students at the University of San Francisco (USF) benefit from the Cal Grant program, each receiving at least $9,084 in tuition assistance totaling a large sum of $9,099,798 that supports students in their educational endeavors; and

Whereas: The Cal Grant recipients with greatest need also receive $1,648 in stipend assistance to help them with the cost of books and other educational materials; and

Whereas: In May 2015, Governor Jerry Brown is proposing an 11.3% cut in Cal Grants at non-profit, private institutions like USF that will greatly affect its students decision to continue at this institution; and

Whereas: USF, as a faith-based institution dedicated to social justice, is uniquely positioned to respond to this issue, and despite the high cost of education, the University is committed to keeping USF accessible to all deserving students; and

Whereas: The Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), of which the USF is a part of, is attempting to rally the broader AICCU community to protest this decision; and

Whereas: The ASUSF Senate is devoted to the mission of keeping USF accessible for all students, and is fully in support of the goals of the AICCU; and

Whereas: This is not the first cut to Cal Grants, the proposed 2012-2013 California State budget for contained provisions to reduce the maximum Cal Grant program amount awarded to students at independent, non-profit California colleges and universities from $9,708 to $5,472, a decrease of 44%; and

Whereas: This proposal was an effort to reduce California’s deficit and balance our budget, but threatened to do so at the expense of students desperately in need of financial assistance to continue their education.

Whereas: Our state and country should prioritize higher education and ensure that no qualified and motivated students is excluded from a college education because of their socio-economic background and cost; and

Whereas: The Cal Grant program provides essential assistance, especially to under-represented, first generation students who might not otherwise have access to college; and
Whereas: USF’s Cal Grant recipients are more diverse than the student body as a whole; being: 37% Hispanic/Latino, 28% Asian, 25% Caucasian, 6% African American, 3% Native American and 1% Other/Unknown; and

Whereas: 12 of USF’s Cal Grant recipients are undocumented students and 54% of all Cal Grant recipients are the first in their families to go to college; and

Whereas: Higher education is extremely important, and for most people a college education has become the necessary admission ticket to good jobs and a middle-class lifestyle; and

Whereas: A 11.3% cut in the Cal Grant would limit the available options of institutions that would support their personal, professional and academic endeavors; therefore, be it

Resolved by the ASUSF Senate of the University of San Francisco: That ASUSF Senate urges the USF community and broader California community to rally behind this critical issue and advocate for the importance of keeping our non-profit, independent California colleges and universities accessible for all deserving students.

Submitted by: Eva Long, ASUSF President

Signed on this day, (05 May 2015):

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Eva Long
ASUSF President