

Associated Students, Inc.  
California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #21-04

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CSU TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH  
DEPENDENTS THROUGH FORMALIZED DATA COLLECTION

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo; and
- WHEREAS: According to the Institute for Women’s Policy (IWPR) Research, 1 in 5 college students nationally are student parents yet we know little about this population<sup>1</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: The IWPR also notes, “Despite the large numbers of college students with children and their unique needs, most campuses, state data systems, and national higher education datasets do not count students with children or document their progress toward completion<sup>2</sup>”; and
- WHEREAS: In California, a report by California Competes found that while there are over 480,000 student parents in the state of California, college-based net price calculators, often times are used as cost estimates for federal and state aid allocations, dramatically underestimate the cost of attendance for student parents considering their unique needs<sup>3</sup>; and
- WHEREAS: Specifically, within the CSU, estimates from the Chancellor’s Office cited 5.6% of undergraduate students reported living with dependent children, while 17.3% of postbaccalaureate students reported living with dependent children in 2020<sup>4</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: While these insights are helpful, CSU data is self-reported and not directly asked, meaning many student parents are excluded from initial data collection such as students who do not fill out supplemental portions of the CSU application, or students who become pregnant or caregivers after their initial application; and
- WHEREAS: 33% of student parents have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, compared to 31% of independent nonparents and 26% of dependent students proving them to be vital assets to the campus community<sup>5</sup> and
- WHEREAS: While campuses like Cal Poly have groups to advocate for better conditions for students with dependents, there is a need for CSU systemwide data on student parents to ensure they receive equitable treatment on campus; and
- WHEREAS: IWPR also notes that data on student parents would help higher education institutions assess the needs, target supports and

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1 Cruse, L. R., Holtzman, T., Gault, B., Croom, D., & Polk, P. (2019) - <https://iwpr.org/iwpr-issues/student-parent-success-initiative/parents-in-college-by-the-numbers/>  
2 1

3 California Competes - [https://californiacompetes.org/assets/general-files/CACompetes\\_Clarifying-the-True-Cost-of-College-for-Student-Parents\\_Final.pdf](https://californiacompetes.org/assets/general-files/CACompetes_Clarifying-the-True-Cost-of-College-for-Student-Parents_Final.pdf)

4 Nathan Evans, Chair of the Board, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor, Academic and Student Affairs - <https://www.cacollegeguidance.org/who-we-are/advisory-board/>

services, understand student outcomes, and measure what works to promote student parent enrollment, persistence and completion<sup>6</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The CSU recently created Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025, an “ambitious plan to increase graduation rates, eliminate equity gaps indegree completion and meet California’s workforce needs,” by collecting data and providing resources for underrepresented minority students<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS: However, despite evidence that only about eight percent of students with dependents in college will obtain an associate’s or bachelor’s degree within six years, students with dependents were not included into GI 2025<sup>8</sup>; and

THEREFORE  
BE IT  
RESOLVED:

The Cal Poly ASI Board of Directors calls upon the CSU system to create a comprehensive data collection program to track students with dependents; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT  
RESOLVED:

Future updates to and iterations of GI 2025 should explicitly include student parents as a recognized group needing additional support to increase retention and graduation rates; and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT  
RESOLVED:

This resolution be sent to CSU Chancellor, Joseph I. Castro; Director, Student Programs at California State University, Chancellor’s Office, Ray Murillo; University President, Jeffrey D. Armstrong; Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Keith Humphrey; Dean of Students, Joy Pederson; and CSSA President Zahraa Khuraibet.

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7 GI 2025 - <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025/What-Is-Graduation-Initiative-2025>

8 Wladis, Claire. Alyse C. Hachey, and Katherine Conway. - [https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1101&context=bm\\_pubs](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1101&context=bm_pubs)

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

Attest:

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ASI Secretary

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Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board

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Signed:

ASI President

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