

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

Resolution #21-06

ASI Board of Directors' Support for Transfer Student Advocacy

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly); and
- WHEREAS The University currently lacks in supporting the transfer student population in their transition to Cal Poly from community college, and
- WHEREAS: The transfer student community adds value to our university and the transfer student admission system is crucial to meet university commitment to retaining diverse students and improving the campus climate for all, and
- WHEREAS: In Spring quarter of 2020-2021 the Transfer Center was interviewed on the cohort size which revealed transfer students made up 2,269 of Cal Poly's new and continuing undergraduates<sup>1</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: According to the Cal Poly Institutional Research in 2020, 50.7% of newly admitted transfer students identified as underrepresented minority students, compared to 32.5% of freshman students<sup>2</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: This impact on transfer students is especially important for low-income students, first-generation college students, and students from underrepresented groups such as African Americans and Latinos, all of whom are more likely to start their higher education journey in a community college<sup>3</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: A report from the Cal Poly Transfer Center in 2019, stated that 29% of admitted transfer students were First Generation compared to 7% for first time freshmen<sup>4</sup>, and
- WHEREAS: A Cal Poly senior project conducted research named "A Look at Transfer Student Resources at Cal Poly" surveyed a sample size of 23 transfer students, and the research revealed that 56.5% did not attend WOW, 78.3% did not know the Transfer Club existed, and the majority of participants said that they weren't familiar with resources

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1 2019 Cal Poly Transfer Student Enrollment - <https://transfercenter.calpoly.edu/about-cal-poly-transfers>

2 1

3 Public Policy Institute of CA Testimony - <https://www.ppic.org/blog/testimony-increasing-community-college-transfers/>

4 Cal Poly Persistence Rate Trends for New Transfers -<https://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/ir/1/images/Persistence%20Analysis%20-%20New%20Transfers%202020.pdf>

that could be available at Cal Poly and therefore could not comment<sup>5</sup>, and

WHEREAS: Of those students who couldn't attend WOW, some concerns were raised with the length and inability to attend due to personal responsibilities<sup>6</sup> however they still pay for the untargeted transitional experience. This may cause undue financial hardship on transfer students who may already have been working to pay their way through community college and into a university<sup>7</sup>, and

WHEREAS: The aforementioned senior project research also revealed that 91.3% of participants found their first quarter to be academically challenging and 47.8% said their first quarter was socially challenging<sup>8</sup>, and

WHEREAS: In 2020, the Cal Poly Institutional Research showed that in 2018 transfer cohort had a two-year graduation rate of 38.8% and the 2016 transfer cohort had a four-year graduation rate of 89%<sup>4</sup>. By 2025, Cal Poly is expected to reach a two-year graduation goal of 45% and a four-year graduation goal of 93% as set by the CSU Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025, and

WHEREAS: Creating a robust program for transfer students could help them become more successful at Cal Poly and aid the university diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, increase retention and graduation rates, and improve social wellbeing for the transfer student community, and

THEREFORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: University financial support is requested to implement a robust transfer student program including but not limited to transfer events, National Transfer Student Week, and Transfer Graduation, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors urges New Student and Transition Programs to develop an opt-in process for "Transfer Week of Welcome" in terms of social programming and a condensed timeline, while also making academic and key resource information readily available. The ASI Board of Directors also requests enhancements such as a focus on key campus resources and "Learn by Doing" training during academic day sessions, and

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5 A Look at Transfer Student Resources at Cal Poly, Garcia et al

6 5

7 College Board-Transfer-Part time students - [https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/public/pdf/rd/working-paper5\\_transfer-part-time-student.pdf](https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/public/pdf/rd/working-paper5_transfer-part-time-student.pdf)

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors urges the Office of the Provost to work with Academic Senate to establish a process for revising curriculum to achieve the GI 2025 goals related to transfer student graduation rates, and

FURTHERMORE  
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution will be sent to University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong; Provost Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Senior Vice President Cynthia Vizcaino Villa; College of Engineering Dean Amy Fleisher; College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences Dean Andrew K. Thulin; College of Architecture and Environmental Design Dean Christine Theodoropoulos; College of Science and Mathematics Dean Dean Wendt; College of Liberal Arts Dean Philip Williams; Orfalea College of Business Interim Dean Al Liddicoat; Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Keith Humphrey; Academic Senate Chair Thomas D. Gutierrez; New Student and Transition Programs Director Andrene K. Kaiwi-Conner, Dean of Students Joy Pedersen; Transfer Center Coordinator Heather Domonoske,

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 21<sup>st</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 19<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

Authored By:  
Ricky Chavez, College of Engineering Representative  
Alan Chavez, Mechanical Engineering Student