

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

Resolution #21-03

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE PILOT CAL POLY SAFE PARKING
PROGRAM

- 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: According to the California State University (CSU) Basic Needs Initiative Report in 2018, 12% of the Cal Poly student body has experienced housing insecurity, which equates to 1 in 8 students¹, higher than the CSU average for student homelessness of 11%²; and
- WHEREAS: Nationwide, housing insecurity is experienced at some level by 46% of college students during their college experience and these numbers are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic³ which has created barriers to accessing hygiene facilities and socially distanced spaces; and
- WHEREAS: 18% of community college students report homelessness, and 60% reported being housing insecure⁴. It is likely those who are transferring to Cal Poly will continue to be homeless and housing insecure after they have transferred; and
- WHEREAS: The cost of living in San Luis Obispo is 13% higher than the California average with the average cost of rent being \$2,026 a month for a 785 sq. ft. unit⁵. Moreover, Cal Poly housing rates are estimated to increase by 6% for residential halls and 9% for on-campus apartments for the 2021-22 academic year, increasing financial strains on students; and
- WHEREAS: Struggling students may turn to Cal Poly for help, but they will find that the Basic Needs resource page is not easily navigable and financial assistance is limited by the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS: Housing insecure students have sought refuge at San Luis Obispo county shelters, however those facilities have been forced to limit their capacity due to the pandemic, leaving fewer spaces available for students to stay overnight, and vehicular living on public streets and parking lots is prohibited throughout the City of San Luis Obispo and considered a parking violation⁷; and
- WHEREAS: Consequently, students must constantly find new places to park and sleep, facing threats to their safety and continued deprivation of hygienic facilities; and
- WHEREAS: Basic Needs resources for Cal Poly students are severely limited and the primary resource available, Cal Poly Cares, is designed to assist in short-term emergencies and does not have the level of funding needed to assist students with housing insecurities and

¹ Cal Poly Basic Needs Taskforce Report - <https://content-calpoly-edu.s3.amazonaws.com/basicneeds/1/images/2018%20Basic%20Needs%20Report.pdf>

² California State University Basic Needs Initiative - https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy_phasel1_withAccessibilityComments.pdf

³ Washington Post Housing and Food Insecurity - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/02/20/housing-food-insecurity-affecting-many-college-students-new-data-says/>

⁴ USA Today Homelessness Among College Students - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/06/10/homelessness-among-college-students-growing-crisis/3747117002/>

⁵ Area Vibes Key Findings - <https://www.areavibes.com/san+luis+obispo-ca/>

⁶ Rent Cafe Rental Market Trends - <https://www.rentcafe.com/average-rent-market-trends/us/ca/san-luis-obispo/>

⁷ San Luis Obispo Municipal Code 10.34 - <https://sanluisobispo.municipal.codes/Code/10.34>

financial hardships worsened due to the implications of COVID-19;
and

WHEREAS: In attempts to assist students, Cal Poly has provided emergency grants to students demonstrating the greatest need over the past two quarters, through federal intervention. Grants ranging from \$250-\$1,000 were given to over 6,000 students during the Spring 2020 quarter, and more grants ranging from \$600-\$1500 given to over 4,000 students during the Winter 2021 quarter. Although these grants provided temporary assistance to the selected groups, they are not at all sufficient for students trying to meet their housing needs and overcome housing insecurity; and

WHEREAS: UC Santa Cruz and UCLA, have passed resolutions in support of safe parking programs on their campuses. Santa Monica Community College adopted its 2019-2020 budget with \$50,000 allocated to establish a semester-long safe parking pilot program⁸, and

WHEREAS: Utilizing Cal Poly's existing substantial parking infrastructure to establish a pilot safe parking program will allow Cal Poly to assess the benefits of a safe parking program to students. Testing on a smaller scale will allow the administration to determine its effectiveness before committing to an expanded program; and

WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors recognize that safe parking is only a short-term solution to homelessness and housing insecurity, but it is an important step towards providing safety, hygiene, and other basic needs for students; and

THEREFORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors urges Cal Poly to commit to the health and well-being of its most vulnerable students, including those who are newly housing insecure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and critically examine campus long-term plans to decrease student homelessness and housing insecurity; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: Students need a viable solution that addresses housing insecurity directly, which can be offered through a safe parking program; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: The ASI Board of Directors calls upon Cal Poly to establish a pilot safe parking program by converting one of its parking lots into a safe parking lot for overnight parking with appropriate safety provisions and access to hygiene facilities. for the 2021 fall quarter and 2022 winter quarter; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: That Cal Poly run the safe parking pilot program through the 2021 Fall and 2022 Winter Quarter assess this program during the 2022 Spring Quarter for overall effectiveness and continuation; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution be sent to University President, Jeffrey D.

Armstrong, Vice President of Student Affairs, Keith Humphrey, Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance, Cynthia Vizcaino Villa, Director of Operations, Jennifer Haft, Associate Vice Director for Student Affairs & Executive Director of University Housing, Jo Campbell, Dean of Students, Joy Pederson, Executive Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Gerrie L. Hatten, Chief of Police, George Hughes, & Parking Services Director, Marlene Cramer.

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 7th day of May 2021.

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

Attest: _____

Signed:
ASI Chair of the Board

Signed:
ASI President

Authored By:

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