
Resolution Re-Establishing Membership in United States Student Association

Sponsor(s):

Kevin Sabo (UCSA President, ASUC)

WHEREAS, The University of California Student Association represents nearly 240,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students of the UC system;

WHEREAS, The United States Student Association (USSA) represents nearly 1.5 million students throughout the United States through direct membership of campus associations and indirectly through membership of statewide student associations;

WHEREAS, The UCSA Board of Directors terminated its membership in USSA following a closed session discussion at its April 2015 meeting in Sacramento¹ after presenting a list of concerns to USSA at its September 2014 meeting at UC Berkeley;²

WHEREAS, UCSA continues to believe the current model of indirect versus direct membership creates a free-rider dilemma in the former wherein some campuses benefit above their contribution level and a double-whammy in the latter for campuses who pay dues to UCSA and also to USSA;

WHEREAS, A closeness among the 2014-2015 members of the USSA Board of Directors often left the perception meetings were more an opportunity for cultivate friendships than address a growing list of concerns regarding the organization's effectiveness;

WHEREAS, All organizations must avoid mission creep, stagnation of momentum, and decline in relevance among constituents and thus continuously revisit core values, governance structure, and current operations so as to avoid degradation;

WHEREAS, UCSA recognizes the importance and effectiveness of coalitions in uniting organizational capacities to actualized desire outcomes;

WHEREAS, UCSA expects its limited resources to be used responsibly and efficiently, especially considering the high standard the organization holds itself to as the fiscal custodian of several hundreds of thousands of dollars paid in large part by student fees; and

WHEREAS, UCSA recognizes past achievements secured by USSA by and for students in the United States that have incontrovertibly improved the lives of countless individuals and will continue to work to this end.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association agrees to fund the expense of the obligations of its USSA Liaison for the 2015-2016 academic year;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association agrees to allocate SAGE revenues towards re-establishing membership through full payment of dues should SAGE be implemented for the 2016-2017 academic year although nothing in this shall be construed to prohibit future Boards from reviewing, renewing, and/or terminating membership in USSA;

¹ <http://ucsa.org/ucsaprod/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Minutes-04.17.15.pdf>

² http://ucsa.org/ucsaprod/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/UCSA-BoD-Minutes_Sept-2014.pdf

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THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association stipulates that this resolution be enacted on the condition that USSA agrees to recognize UCSA as a member association in good standing for the 2015-2016 academic year through the direct contributions of SUAUCSC, ASUCSB, and ASUCI with full membership privileges for all students of the University of California system regardless of their campus;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association stipulates that this resolution be enacted on the condition that USSA agrees to continue the direct membership benefits of SUAUCSC, ASUCSB, and ASUCI for the 2015-2016 academic year; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association stipulates that this resolution be enacted on the condition that USSA agrees to establish a working group comprised of non-Board members with diverse geographic representation, including representatives from non-member associations, to develop and submit recommendations on the improvement of USSA operations for review by the National Student Congress in August 2016.