



**Author:** Graduate Student Government Senator Christopher Records

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**RE:** Establishment of a GSG Social Justice Fund

**Whereas**, the mission of the University of Southern California is to develop “human beings and society as a whole through cultivation of the human mind and spirit” and the mission of Graduate Student Government is to serve and represent graduate and professional students,<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas**, the creation of a more just and equitable society is necessary to the cultivation of the human mind and spirit, and represents a core concern of all students and individuals,

**Whereas**, race, social class, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, national origin, and other variables unjustly and inequitably continue to influence the life trajectories of people, with gaps persisting between groups to their unmerited advantage or disadvantage,

**Whereas**, the demographic profile of USC does not reflect the demographic profile of Los Angeles as a whole, in terms of race, social class, and other variables, reflecting the influence of barriers that keep many students of color from being admitted and persisting at USC,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> University of Southern California. “University of Southern California Mission Statement.” Accessed September 22, 2015. <https://about.usc.edu/policies/>. USC Graduate Student Government. “Constitution and Bylaws.” Accessed September 22, 2015. <http://gsg.usc.edu/constitution-bylaws>.

<sup>2</sup> University of Southern California. “Facts and Figures.” Accessed September 22, 2015. <http://about.usc.edu/facts/>. US Census Bureau. “Los Angeles- Quick Facts” Accessed September 22, 2015. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06037.html>

**Whereas**, the attention of the entire nation and the world has been refocused on issues of justice and equity by media attention to innumerable incidences of state violence against people of color, increasing income inequality, hostility against immigrants, and other incidents,<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas**, the attention of the entire campus community has been refocused on these same issues by many documented incidents of gender-based violence and racism at USC,<sup>4</sup>

**Whereas**, it is a core concern of the university and of graduate and professional students to better understand social injustice and inequity, and to actively work to combat them, on campus and beyond,

**Whereas**, the university has an obligation to meaningfully foster and promote diversity and inclusion and to ensure the safety and inclusion of all its constituents, regardless of their race, social class, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, citizenship status, national origin, or other marker of identity,

**Whereas**, Graduate Student Government directly funds various core student activities and initiatives, in keeping with its mission to serve graduate and professional students,

**Let it be resolved**, that the USC Graduate Student Government will set aside a specific portion of its budget, amounting to 1.623% of its total budget, for programming focused on social justice and equity, with the stated goal to promote diversity and inclusion and to encourage direct action to resolve racial and socioeconomic disparities and other inequities that persist, on campus and in society at large,

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<sup>3</sup> Institute for Policy Studies. "Income Inequality." Accessed September 22, 2015. <http://inequality.org/income-inequality/>. *The Guardian*. "The Counted: People Killed by Police in the US." Accessed September 22, 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2015/jun/01/the-counted-police-killings-us-database#>. Southern Poverty Law Center. "Anti-Immigrant Hate Groups." Accessed September 22, 2015. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/anti-immigrant>.

<sup>4</sup> Lindsey Bever, "The Shocking Racial Epithet Hurlled at USC's Student Body President." *Washington Post*, September 21, 2015. Accessed September 22, 2015. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2015/09/21/the-shockingly-racist-campus-salute-for-uscs-student-body-president/>. Teresa Watanabe, "One in Four Female Undergraduates Report Sexual Misconduct, Survey Finds." *Los Angeles Times*, September 21, 2015. <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sexual-assault-survey-20150920-story.html>.

**Let it also be resolved**, that the USC Graduate Student Government will amend its Bylaws to add a “Social Justice and Equity Fund,” adding the following under Section 4:

“4.2.8. Social Justice and Equity Fund

This fund promotes events with a focus on social justice and equity.

Eligible events will be designed to educate or provide a space for discussion of equity issues, with a specific focus on justice and equity as they relate to race, socioeconomic class, gender, or other marker of identity. Social events without a specific educational or discussion component (such as mixers and banquets) are ineligible.

To qualify an event for funding from the Social Justice and Equity Fund, applicant organizations must provide a description of how the event will educate participants or foster dialogue among participants that relates to social justice or equity. Requests for these funds must follow the request process as outlined in Section 4.6.1. The request will be approved according to the approval process as outlined in Section 4.7.”