



Resolution: **Reinstatement and Subsequent Modification of the University Student Fee Advisory Committee**

Author(s): J. Andrew Clark III, Acting Campus Affairs Director

Sponsoring Senator(s): Anthony Wong, Senator for WorldMed

Date:

RE:

WHEREAS, the University Student Fee Advisory Committee was last utilized in its intended capacity during academic year 2013 to 2014 at the University of Southern California to allow voting members of Graduate Student Government, Undergraduate Student Government, and Faculty Senate to identify, discuss, and consent to any and all adjustments for the subsequent academic year as they relate to tuition, student programming fees, and/or student services fees;

WHEREAS, the Assistant Provost for Student Engagement, the Director of Campus Activities, and the Associate Director of Campus Activities in addition to any other ad hoc representatives participate as nonvoting advisory members;

WHEREAS, a recent survey conducted by Undergraduate Student Government revealed that over 98% of 1,902 respondents do not understand why undergraduate tuition increased by \$2,000 USD between the 2014 to 2015 and 2015 to 2016 academic school year at the University of Southern California;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned survey further revealed that 93% of 1,902 respondents do not understand how their tuition dollars are being financed at the University of Southern California;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned survey further revealed that 84% of 1,892 respondents believe that a “Tuition Freeze” would be desirable to alleviate financial burden for all students;

WHEREAS, the Senior Administration of the University of Southern California expressed to Graduate and Undergraduate Student Government representatives on Thursday, October 8th 2015 that Senior Administration had no understanding that current student body’s perception of tuition increases and financing of said tuition dollars is generally poor and disconcerted;

WHEREAS, the student body's generally poor and disconcerted perception is a result of the University of Southern California's lack of financial transparency in relation to the financing of tuition dollars;

WHEREAS, the most recent tuition and ancillary fee increases for the 2015-2016 academic year were not made public knowledge to students prior to indications on the student e-bill;

WHEREAS, the annual financial report published by the University of Southern California is neither easily accessible nor comprehensive for the student body;

WHEREAS, ancillary fees such as the "Sunset Clause" which should have expired years ago given that the Ronald Tutor Campus Center was projected to become financially self-sustaining;

WHEREAS, no such student representation currently exists that is sufficient enough to adequately and articulately discuss costs at the University of Southern California as they relate to financial adjustments to tuition, student programming fees, and/or student services fees incurred by the student body;

BE IT RESOLVED, the University of Southern California officially reinstate the University Student Fee Advisory Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University Student Fee Advisory Committee retain the express authority in perpetuity to either consent to, deny, and/or negotiate any and all adjustments to both the Student Programming and Student Services Fees as proposed by the University of Southern California;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Graduate Student Government recognizes Undergraduate Student Government's intent to pass a resolution with language identical to the purpose of this literature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University Student Fee Advisory Committee be expanded to five Graduate, five Undergraduate, and two Faculty Senate voting members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that three Graduate and three Undergraduate voting members be appointed by the Student Body Presidents from within their respective student governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two Graduate and two Undergraduate voting members be appointed by the Student Body Presidents from outside their respective student governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two Faculty Senate voting members be appointed at the discretion of the Faculty Senate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Government will release its own survey among graduate students to assess the aforementioned population's perception of financial transactions at the University of Southern California as they pertain to educational motives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Southern California must inform students about increases in tuition and fees by e-mail (or other appropriate means) that includes the total change in cost from the previous year and why the increase is needed at least thirty days before the changes go into effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to President C.L. Max Nikias, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Michael Quick, Vice President of Student Affairs Ainsley Carry, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs Division Initiatives and Operations Timothy Bessolo, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Engagement Monique Allard, and USG President Rini Sampath by GSG Acting Campus Affairs Director J. Andrew Clark III within 2 weeks of being passed by the Graduate Student Government Senate.