

Student Union Assembly of UC Santa Cruz



Fall 2014

A Resolution to Adopt USSA's Fund the Future Campaign

Author(s)

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- WHEREAS,** the need for increased college access and affordability has been magnified by the rising unemployment numbers and the current state of our economy; and,
- WHEREAS,** the average cost of tuition has gone up by 1120%, and four times the rate of inflation, in the past three and a half decades; and,
- WHEREAS,** students in the U.S. currently graduate with an average of \$29,400 in student loan debt¹; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Pell Grant subsidizes higher education for 9.4 million students around the country giving an average award of \$3555²; and,
- WHEREAS,** 64 percent of undergraduate students at UC Santa Cruz receive federal, state, local, institutional or other sources of grant aid; among which 41 percent of UC Santa Cruz undergraduate students receive Pell grants; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Pell Grant covers only 32% of average college costs, compared to the 77% it covered around the time of its inception³; and,
- WHEREAS,** for students of color, Pell Grants are particularly important. More than 60% of African-American undergraduates and half of Latin@ undergraduates rely on Pell Grants to attend school; and,

¹ Calculations by TICAS, The Project on Student Loan Debt <http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub/classof2012.pdf>

² U.S. Department of Education, "Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request: Student Financial Assistance."
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget15/justifications/q-sfa.pdf>. Page Q-20.

³ Calculations by TICAS on data from the College Board, 2013, "Trends in College Pricing 2013," Table 2,
<http://bit.ly/140Jvbw>, and U.S. Department of Education data on the maximum Pell Grant.

WHEREAS, the United States Student Association, representing over 1.5 million students across the country, had a historical role in the very creation of the Pell Grant; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Student Association's Fund the Future campaign is adamantly seeking to strengthen the Pell Grant by increasing the maximum award, creating a stable funding stream, making attainment more flexible, ensuring yearly increases, and extending it to more underserved and middle class families; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly formally adopt USSA's Fund the Future campaign; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly shall join students from around the nation in actively working to encourage the United States Congress to adopt our proposed changes to the Pell Grant program by engaging in (but not limited to) petition collecting, class announcements, campus events, advocacy visits, submission of opinion editorials to campus newspapers, call in days, social media blasts, and more; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Student Union Assembly shall enact a working task force consisting of at least one representative from each college, to oversee the implementation of campus programs that operate in conjunction with Lobby Corps and #FUNDtheFUTURE campaign initiatives.

Introduced: Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Approved: Tuesday, December 9, 2014