

A Resolution in Support of Combating Academic Inequities in the K-12 Education System

WHEREAS, nearly a third of youth from low-income families (29 percent) fail to earn high school diplomas, approximately three times greater than the percentage of youth from middle-income families (10 percent) and roughly six times greater than the percentage of youth from high-income families (5 percent)¹; and

WHEREAS, only one in ten youth from low-income families (10 percent) go on to graduate from a four-year college, compared with over a quarter (28 percent) of youth from middle-income families and half (50 percent) of youth from high-income families²; and

WHEREAS, less than half of youth from low-income families (44 percent) remain consistently connected to school and/or the labor market between ages 18 and 24, a lower share than among youth from middle- and high-income families (67 and 75 percent, respectively)³; and

WHEREAS, thirty years ago, America was the leader in quantity and quality of high school diplomas. Today, our nation is ranked 36th in the world⁴; and

WHEREAS, first-generation, low-income and minority students fare better when they have adequate access to financial aid, support programs that properly introduce them to and sustain them through the academy, and proper high school preparation that equips them to handle the rigor of college work⁵; and

WHEREAS, the data and evidence are clear that, for every equal child, there is neither equal treatment nor equal opportunity in the broader California education system; and

WHEREAS, these disparities in the educational system restrict access to what is, in this society, an increasingly mandatory University education; and

WHEREAS, to safeguard the prosperity and longevity of the state of California, we must take care to advocate for the access to a quality education for all students; and

WHEREAS, this students association has both the power to lobby policy makers on campus, in Los Angeles, and across the state for the prioritization of taking steps toward ending

¹ U.S. Department and Health and Human Services. "ASPE Factsheet."

² U.S. Department and Health and Human Services. "ASPE Factsheet."

³ U.S. Department and Health and Human Services. "ASPE Factsheet."

⁴ Coleman, Megan. "New survey ranks U.S. students 36th in the world - How do we improve?" CNYCentral.

⁵ Dr. Flores, Stela M., "Diverse Conversations: Supporting Underserved Populations in Higher Education". Huffington Post.

educational inequities and the ability to ensure that the awareness of these inequities is far-reaching;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council will mount an effort to combat these inequities by forming partnerships with student organizations, and local and state political bodies in order to raise awareness at the University of California, Los Angeles.