

S21.04.08 Free Community College

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Sponsor: City College of San Francisco, Foothill College

WHEREAS, tuition costs have been an educational barrier for underrepresented students, which make up 51% of the student body [1], and the community college education system has been historically underfunded and privatized through divestment, austerity cuts, and downsizing because of current funding avenues;

WHEREAS, the current climate of civil rights, and the push for public resources to rectify socioeconomic disparities indicates a need for tuition free education in all 116 California Community Colleges by working with local city governments;

WHEREAS, the Free City program for City College of San Francisco [2] has successfully been implemented in 2017, making community college free for all San Francisco residents from the use of city property taxes to provide free tuition and resources in through the Prop W measure; and

WHEREAS, the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) [3] may penalize low enrollment resulting in further loss of accreditation and financial barriers could cause low enrollment so seeking alternative funding can both increase enrollment and the overall economy as the community college system is the largest workforce training provider for the 2 million students [4] facing financial hardship due to COVID-19, with students attending or graduating doubling chances of employment [1]; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Senate for California Community Colleges will develop an action plan for free tuition through alternative funding in collaboration with Black, Indigenous and people of color and including a statement in support of ethnic studies, other relevant studies, and free education;

RESOLVED, that the Student Senate for California Community Colleges support any initiatives, campaigns and reforms that advocate for free education, redirect funding for police and military towards universal education, and advocate for ethnic studies and other relevant education initiatives;

RESOLVED, that the Student Senate for California Community Colleges advocate to have the Student Centered Funding Formula steer away from performance-based funding and make assessments on how the Student Centered Funding Formula has affected vulnerable student populations community colleges; and

RESOLVED, that the Student Senate for California Community Colleges advocate that all students regardless of immigration, resident, and citizenship status are included in this tuition free program.

Citation 1. <https://foundationccc.org/About-Us/About-the-Colleges/Facts-and-Figures>

Citation 2. <https://money.cnn.com/2017/02/10/pf/college/san-francisco-free-community-college/index.html>

Citation 3. <https://www.asccc.org/content/revising-%E2%80%9Cstudent-centered-funding-formula%E2%80%9D-in-centivize-student-focused-outcomes-033>

Citation 4. <https://edsources.org/2020/tuition-free-college-is-critical-to-our-economy/641232>