

2021 2022 POLICY AGENDA

A Letter From The AS of SFSU Board of Directors President

Associated Students of San Francisco State University is the primary advocate for students at San Francisco State University. As the official voice of students, Associated Students is entrusted with advocating for student-centered policy that is grounded in equity. The Board of Directors are the elected representatives that advocate for the needs of the students, and defend the interests of the student body in conversations and in collaboration with faculty, campus administrators and government officials at the local and state level.

This year, the Associated Students Board of Directors has prioritized both local & state advocacy for the 2021-2022 academic school year. This policy agenda will be the guiding document for the next Board to continue the needed advocacy to ensure that the California State University systems prioritizes the needs of its students. We will continue to advocate for student-centered policies & principles that are guided by the principles of social justice and equity.

We are currently living through various pandemics, COVID and racism - all of which are serious public health issues. The economic and societal inequities that have been enhanced by the COVID-19 pandemic have to be proactively addressed. It is the duty of the Associated Students Board of Directors to actively address these systemic issues. We acknowledge that we can not do this alone, it must be in collaboration with campus partners, local and state advocacy groups, and the Cal State Student Association.

It is our responsibility to empower, uplift, and include various student voices in this process. We must open up spaces for student to voices and recognize the necessity of empowering students who are not in leadership positions in this process, because their voice is valued and needed. This policy agenda ensures the priorities for our advocacy for this upcoming term. We will hold ourselves accountable to it.

The Associated Students Board of Directors will continue to center student voices and perspectives in our advocacy. We will advocate for a more equitable San Francisco State and California State University System. That is our mission and we will hold ourselves to it.

- **Andrew Carrillo, AS BOD President**



VP of External Affairs / Director of Government & Community Relations Statement

In the past year, students have lost more than nearly any other cohort of students in decades. With the COVID-19 dealing irreparable damage to our student body, we have seen the exacerbation of existing problems that continue to be a burden. Whether that be the lack of basic needs resources and services, lack of access to academic resources, lack of access to adequate mental health services, lack of campus community, or the loss of friends and family due to COVID-19, students deserve more than what we're currently offered.

Associated Students stands as the organization that remains dedicated to advocating and pushing the boundaries of what students should expect when they arrive at SFSU's campus. Our collective voices are powerful in the fight for social justice, equity, and accountability. For years, many students have had to think about where their next meal will come from, where they'll lay their head at night, and how they'll raise enough tuition money for next semester. Historically, too, students have been left out of the conversation with regards to our elected officials on the Board of Supervisors, in the state Legislature, in Congress, and even on the ballot itself.

Students deserve to have their basic needs guaranteed to be able to focus on their education, and to graduate in four years with a degree that will improve their livelihoods. Students also deserve to have their voice integrated into the conversation and treated as an equal partner. We must keep our focus on this mission to ensure students are set up for success through advocacy, activism, and shared governance.

In Solidarity,

- **Joshua Ochoa**, AS Vice President of External Affairs

- **James Aguilar**, AS Director of Government & Community Relations

Our Mission & Values

Associated Students serves as the voice of student interests & promotes an enriched co-curricular university life experience. We are dedicated to the empowerment of SF State's diverse student body with the combined efforts of various programs and departments throughout campus, to provide student services and programs while encouraging external advocacy efforts. In order to achieve its mission statement, Associated Students believes that the following values must serve the foundation for all decision-making and student success:

Servant Leadership

Associated Students will pursue its mission by serving the San Francisco State community through responsiveness & compassion within their leadership role and as members of the campus community.

Social Justice and Equity

Associated Students will pursue its mission guided by the principles & demands set forth by the Black Student Union & Third World Liberation Front by continuously advocating for an equitable and transformative educational system.

Shared Governance

Associated Students will pursue its mission by practicing transparency regarding its daily operations and ensuring the student voice is being heard & acknowledged at all levels of the campus administration and beyond whenever possible.



AS Local Advocacy Priorities

Authored by the External Affairs Committee

Rebuilding and Expanding MUNI & BART to Serve Students

1

San Francisco State University proudly stands unique from the rest of the CSU system with our Gator Pass, which is a public transportation pass that gives all SFSU students unlimited access to ride MUNI buses and light rail, in addition to a 50% discount to and from Daly City BART. The Gator Pass is paid for via a \$180/semester mandatory student fee, and stands as an incentive for students to use public transportation instead of personal vehicles or ride-sharing services. In the years since the Gator Pass has been implemented, we have seen the use of public transportation to and from SFSU increase dramatically as students become more reliant on public transit to get to class, work, and home.

As we all know, our public transportation systems have suffered devastating blows due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and now is the time to push for rebuilding our transit systems to support students when we return to normal. While our GatorPass is incredibly useful for thousands of students, the advantages of this service are not fully utilized if our transit system is not serving all of our students' needs. While the Gator Pass covers universal SFMTA rides throughout the regular academic year, nearly half of all SFSU students live outside of San Francisco, meaning thousands of students are then obligated to fund the remaining cost of their campus commute. One-way or all day tickets may cost only a few dollars, but having multiple classes throughout the week on campus can result in students spending hundreds of dollars on public transit annually. While there are alternative solutions for other transit authorities, having to purchase a monthly pass in addition to paying the \$180/semester is unaffordable for many of our students.

For this reason, Associated Students strongly supports investing in our Bay Area public transit systems to ensure they are affordable, reliable, accessible, safe, & eventually free, in order to adequately serve SFSU & our local community.

Exempt SFSU Students From the San Francisco Parking Tax

2

The San Francisco Parking Tax is a 25% additional fee on top of the existing cost of parking, which has not been enforced on students at SFSU since the implementation of the parking tax in 1970 and its increase to 25% in 1980, 50 years and 40 years respectively. San Francisco then attempted to collect the fee from UCSF in 1983, but rested their case for the time being when the university objected. The City then sued in 2014 to require public universities in San Francisco to implement the tax on top of their existing parking fees, passing this financial burden onto students, faculty, and staff.

SFSU students currently already pay \$180/semester for the Gator Pass, as mentioned in the previous priority. Generating millions of dollars toward the City and SFMTA, the Gator Pass already strongly incentivizes students to utilize public transportation and invalidating the reasoning for the City to continue implementing this tax onto students. With the 25% SF Parking Tax having been implemented in June 2020, our SFSU community is expected to collectively pay nearly \$600,000 annually in additional parking fees, at full capacity. This cost increase forces the daily parking rate from \$8 to \$10 (without tax), and increases the current \$640/semester parking permit to a \$800/semester parking permit. This tax is unacceptable, especially considering that SFSU's parking passes cost more than two times the amount of any other CSU campus.

In order to protect our students, Associated Students strongly opposes this tax, and hopes to work with our SF Board of Supervisors to repeal this tax on our already struggling students, faculty, and staff.

CESAR CHAVEZ STUDENT CENTER



Invest and Provide Affordable Student Housing On-Campus and Off-Campus

3

San Francisco is unfortunately well-known for being unaffordable to many lower-income individuals who would love to call our city their home. The San Francisco affordability crisis impacts SFSU students significantly as students are often forced to choose between the limited yet most expensive on-campus housing in the CSU (\$13,462/year to \$23,458/year), or navigate the incredibly fast-paced renting market off-campus. SFSU's campus has less than 4,000 beds, with the vast majority of students lacking access to affordable housing both on-campus and off-campus. Because of this situation, 17.7% of our students are housing insecure or homeless, and the rest are forced to commute long distances from across the Bay Area to get to our campus.

In order to address this situation, we must provide more affordable housing initiatives that are inclusive to students. In a city with several major renowned universities, it's crucial for our community to support our young people to be able to achieve their academic pursuits. The construction of market-rate housing and failure to provide an adequate supply of affordable housing continues to make it increasingly difficult for students to find housing security. There are sad reflections of the SF affordability crisis all around our campus as homeless students seek shelter in our student center (pre-COVID), in their cars and RVs, and are faced with the constant anxiety of not having permanent, safe shelter. While building more affordable housing projects and units across the city can take years, any attempt to lessen the struggle of our students' housing insecurity would be incredibly beneficial to address this basic needs crisis.

With this information in mind, Associated Students strongly supports collaboration to invest and provide greater amounts of affordable housing for students both on-campus and off-campus, in order to eliminate student housing insecurity.



AS State Advocacy Priorities

Authored by the External Affairs Committee

Path Towards a Free California Higher Education for All by 2030

1

In the California Master Plan of Higher Education of 1960, the State of California took a bold stance in designating higher education in California as a right to all residents. This ambitious mission of the right to a higher education was through the creation of the three major public college systems here in our state: the California State University (CSU), the University of California (UC), and the California Community Colleges (CCC). While these systems were founded on the belief that all students in California should have the right to a high-quality college education, events in history have strayed far from that mission. As of now, all three systems have significant financial barriers as a large portion of the cost of higher education now fall onto the students and their families. To say the least, our current financial aid system is tragically broken and underfunded for millions of students across not only California, but across the nation. Without adequate funding for our college systems, working and middle class students will be forced to bear the brunt of the increasing cost of college, which will then lead to our hardest-hit students choosing to not get a degree.

It's clear that both our financial aid and higher education systems are critically underfunded. While CalGrants and PellGrants support millions of students today, over 40 million students continue to struggle with over \$1.7 trillion in student loan debt and are forced to work extreme hours to pay off their education. The system we have today is archaic and out of touch with the rest of the industrialized world, and we must aim to do better and support our young people.

As such, Associated Students strongly supports expanding the CalGrant, doubling the PellGrant, and putting California on the path to become the first US state to offer a free higher education to all by 2030.

Fully Fund CSU Basic Needs Initiatives Systemwide

2

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, basic needs crises across the CSU affected thousands of students who were experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and the lack of access to critical resources and services to support them through college. While the COVID-19 pandemic has completely turned our world upside down, one thing has become very clear: this pandemic didn't create new problems, it exacerbated existing ones. Our pre-COVID infrastructure repeatedly failed to address the lack of access to basic needs, and both the health and economic crises expanded this failure. It is even more clear now that our infrastructure needs wide-sweeping change to adequately equip the CSU to handle our students' basic needs. By fully investing in basic needs initiatives and expanding the resources available for students to take advantage of, we can end the many barriers that our students face during their college experience.

In 2019, 17.7% of SFSU students reported experiencing housing insecurity and 46.8% of SFSU students reported experiencing food insecurity, showing that the need is there for investments. These insecurities have negatively impacted students' motivation, academic performance, and overall mental & physical health (anxiety, stress, suicidal thoughts, etc.). SFSU has been a leader in the CSU by being at the forefront of the battle for more basic needs initiatives, but we can't do this work on our own. Thankfully, in the past decade, the CSU has expanded their focus on the issue of basic needs and investing in initiatives that will dramatically improve students' lives.

Associated Students strongly supports fully funding basic needs initiatives at all of our 23 CSU campuses to provide free and healthy groceries, access to emergency student housing, access to student jobs, access to reliable high-speed internet, & access to affordable student housing.





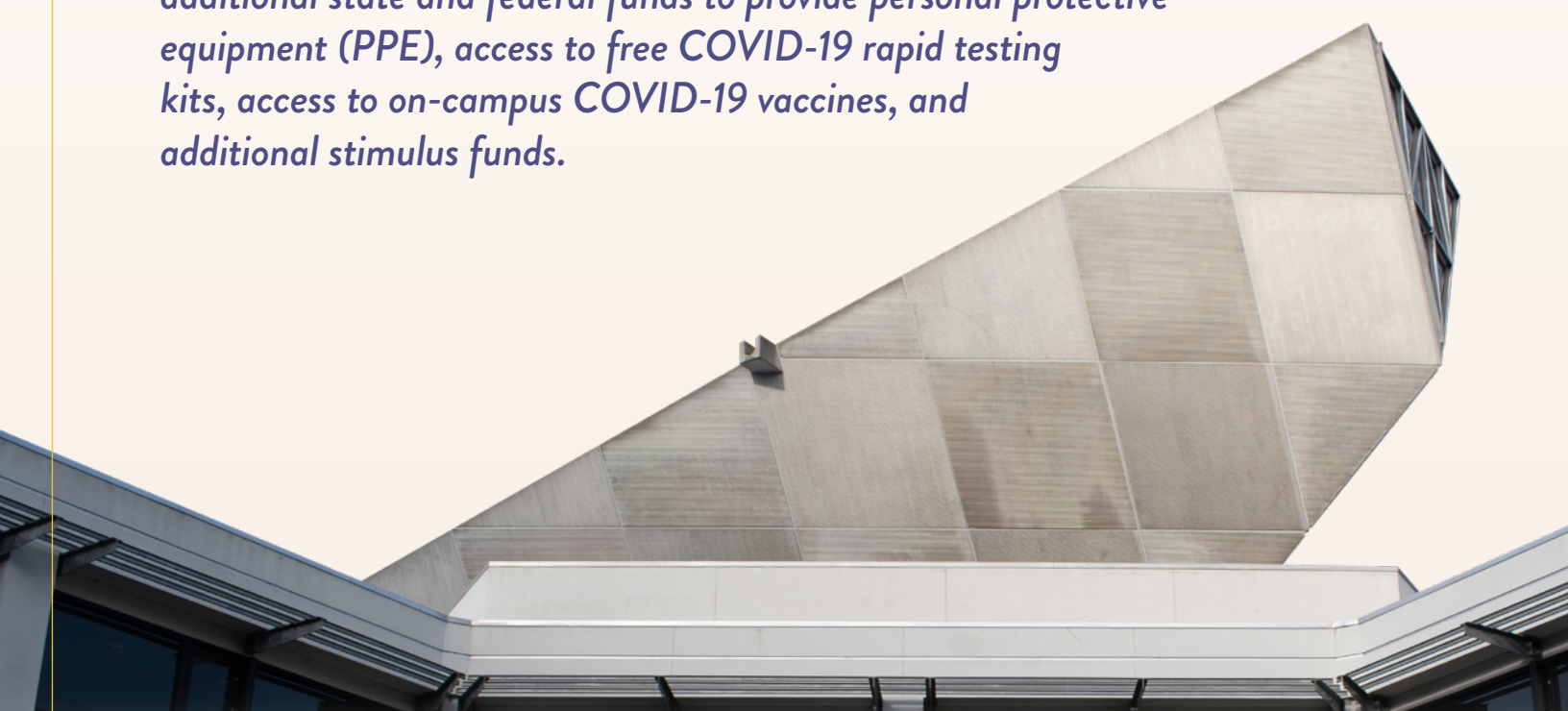
Ensure COVID-19 Services & Resources for Students

3

As we all know at this point, the COVID-19 pandemic has done immeasurable damage to our community, to our institutions, and to our society. Not only has this been a health crisis that has killed over 500,000 in the United States and over 2,500,000 across the globe, but it's also been the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression nearly 100 years ago. With millions of people continuing to be unemployed, facing eviction, and lining up at food distribution centers across the nation, it's clear that people are suffering from both of these crises and need crucial services and resources to meet their needs. San Francisco State is no stranger to these devastating effects as many students lost their jobs, lost nearly all access to critical on-campus services/resources, and many were left out of the stimulus check distribution from the 2020 CARES Act as adult dependents, international students, and undocumented students were ineligible.

As the CSU looks to start conducting face-to-face classes in the Fall 2021 semester, it's vital that we ensure COVID-19 services and resources to help protect students from the remaining dangers of the pandemic as we slowly reopen.

While a lot of federal funds were directed towards institutions of higher education from the federal government, Associated Students strongly supports securing additional state and federal funds to provide personal protective equipment (PPE), access to free COVID-19 rapid testing kits, access to on-campus COVID-19 vaccines, and additional stimulus funds.



AS Joint Advocacy Priority

Abolishing University Police Department of San Francisco State University

Authored by AS Ethnic Studies Representative Ja'Corey Bowens, AS Vice President of Internal Affairs Lee Lockhart, and AS Chief of Staff Tyler Lewis.

The Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University acknowledge the violent history of policing on our campus. This history dates back to shortly after the 1968 Ethnic Studies protest, in which students were brutalized at the hands of the San Francisco Police Department. These horrific encounters with SFPD in the 1960's fostered the need for individual police units at university campuses. The CSU University Police Department did not exist until its creation on October 1st, 1975, when the CSU established the police department, and armed officers, providing 24-hour law enforcement under Executive Order by Chancellor Glenn Dumke¹. In order to ensure the safety of our students, abolition of UPD must occur CSU wide.

Our students aren't just facing this oppression on campus, but also in their day-to-day lives outside of the university. To this day, SFSU students are confronted with police suppression in their everyday activism. This dates back to the 1960 SFSU student protest against the House Un-American Activities Committee at City Hall², and has now been nuanced by the violence perpetrated against students involved in social movements, such as Black Lives Matter. With this in mind, we are not only calling for CSU-wide abolition, but we recognize the need for more community resources to address the systemic issues of policing and lack of socio-economic support from our government. We do this in an effort to ensure not only the abolition of UPD, but also, the eventual abolition of SFPD as well.

Associated Students supports the abolishing of university police departments across the state, including it's home institution & finding alternatives to addressing public safety of campuses and students.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/1975/12/15/archives/12day-sitin-protests-arming-of-police-at-california-colleges.html>

² <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/190424>

Points of Contact

Associated Students Executive Director

Associated Students Departments & Programs

Offices of California State Assembly District 17 and 19

Office of California State Senate District 10

Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Office of Congressional District CA-12

Office of Congressional District CA-14

Offices of United States Senators from California

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Office of the Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

San Francisco Department of Elections

San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority Board of Directors

Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors

California State Student Association

Terms to Know

BART Bay Area Rapid Transit

BOS (SF) Board of Supervisors

CARES Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020

\$2.2 trillion stimulus bill passed by the 116th US Congress

CSU California State University

MUNI San Francisco Municipal Railway

PPE Personal Protective Equipment

SamTrans San Mateo County Transit District

SFMTA San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

SFSU San Francisco State University

UCSF University of California at San Francisco

External Affairs Committee Composition

Joshua Ochoa, Chair
(AS Vice President of External Affairs)

James Aguilar, Vice Chair
(AS Director of Government & Community Relations)

Jainam Shah, Member
(AS Science & Engineering College Representative)

Jennifer Valencia, Member
(AS Director of Retention & Graduation Initiatives)

Kevin Covarrubias Mercado, Member
(Student at Large)

Tatiana Orellana, Member
(AS Health & Social Sciences College Representative)