



## Statement in Solidarity with Student Athletes

Authored by Andrea Soto, Dylan Gillespie, with input from Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30th, 2025 – The Associated Students Board of Directors stands in unwavering solidarity with the student-athletes, coaches, faculty and supporting members impacted by the recent decision to eliminate three vital athletic programs at San Francisco State University which consist of: **Women's Indoor Track & Field, Baseball, Men's Soccer.**

We recognize that this decision has not only disrupted the lives of student-athletes but has also diminished opportunities for leadership, community building, and student representation through sports. These decisions not only threaten the futures of dedicated athletes but also erode the spirit, culture, and equity that college sports bring to our campus and community along with visibility across the CSU and beyond. The Associated Students of San Francisco State University wish for our student bodies' educational career pathway to continue to succeed with dignity and grace.

Student-athletes give their time, energy, and heart to represent SFSU with pride — balancing rigorous academic commitments while competing at high levels. Their contributions to the university go far beyond the scoreboard. As a campus, we are facing a possible total of an 11% cut to our university per the Governor's Budget and a re-allocation of funds due to the declining enrollment. The proposed increase in fees brought to the students would then divert the expense of the general fund, costing basic needs, and supportive programming, its staffing and more, but rather rebuild what has been exhausted. We wish to fulfill our student-athlete's career, while also preserving every holistic student experience. By continuous equitable



advocacy of voices – our future baccalaureate holders– shall not sacrifice what has curated them to be, and what they strive for in continuing a higher educational career. To see their opportunities reduced or taken away is more than a budget cut; it is a loss of dreams, goals, and of a sense of belonging.

Athletics plays a vital role in the student experience, and the loss of these programs—particularly in a time when equity in opportunity must be upheld—raises deep concerns about student voice in institutional decision-making. We call for transparency, accountability, and ongoing engagement between university administration, informing ahead of time the initial \$32 increase attributing to the '25-26 fiscal year, following a \$25 increase over the course of three years (fee increase capping at \$175 in fiscal year 2028), encompassing currently enrolled students, incoming freshman, and transfer's *cost of attendance* letter. For further context, if the fee increase for athletics kept pace with the Consumer Price Index, the current fee would be \$150. This cofunctioning with our students' will support long-term solutions and assist in meeting to protect programs critical and imperative to the campus of *San Francisco State University*, exploring every alternative before making irreversible decisions to our campus identity and student life. These cuts do not just affect the present — they impact the future of SFSU athletics and the legacy of what it means to be a San Francisco Gator.

Associated Students of San Francisco State University support this increased fee because as elected officials, we wish to streamline solutions in times of disparity, yet still achieve the grouping of one of the CSU's lowest athletics' fees for our constituents. It would continue the strive for academic and athletic representation for our campus. To the athletes affected: we see you, we support you, and we will stand with you in the fight for your voices to be heard and the remaining sports to not go unrecognized and diminished.



In solidarity,

**The Associated Students Board of Directors**

San Francisco State University