

**R W2017.09**

**A Resolution to Establish the Committee Advocating for Transfer Students (CATS)**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

8 March 2017

Sponsors: Auston Cook, Nicholas Fadanelli & Reid Klootwyk

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business; and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG recognizes the need for amendments or additions to the Bylaws to improve its function and reflect current practices; and,

**Whereas**, there currently exists the Transfer Student Initiatives Task Force (hereafter TSITF) within LSA SG that has advocated for improved programs and resources for transfer students through partnerships with LSA Deans Office, the Office of New Student Programs, Transfer Connections and UROP Changing Gears; and,

**Whereas**, TSITF has shown great promise in connecting with administrators and promoting the improvement of programs and resources for transfer students; and,

**Whereas**, the establishment of a Committee Advocating for Transfer Students (hereafter CATS) is widely supported by LSA and University administration; and,

**Whereas**, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (hereafter LSA) has a substantial population of transfer students - with an incoming group of 809 undergraduate transfer students for the Fall 2015 - Winter 2016 academic year;<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas**, as part of the LSA Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Plan (hereafter DEI Plan) there is a section dedicated to transfer students - including plans to increase the number of undergraduate transfer students accepted into LSA in the near future; and,

**Whereas**, LSA does not currently have adequate resources for its population of transfer students; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ro.umich.edu/report/15fa116.pdf>, <http://www.ro.umich.edu/report/16wn116.pdf>

**Whereas**, this is a topic that is of an importance and scope that merits the creation of a fully-formed Committee to work towards making transferring to and succeeding at the University and the College of LSA an easier process for prospective and current transfer students.

**Be it therefore resolved**, LSA SG will establish the CATS which shall be housed within the Academic Affairs Committee block; and,

**Be it further resolved**, the duties and procedures of the CATS are articulated in Chapter Nine of the Bylaws; and,

**Be it further resolved**, the CATS will hold its first official meeting the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, LSA SG will adhere to all Bylaw amendments, will approve these changes, and that they will take effect immediately.

### **Committee Advocating for Transfer Students**

9.03.00 **Purpose.** The purpose of the Committee Advocating for Transfer Students (hereafter CATS) shall be to improve the experience of transfer students - both inside and outside of the classroom.

9.03.01 **Cooperation.** CATS shall work with the LSA Transfer Student Initiatives Manager, Undergraduate Admissions Office, the Office of New Student Programs (ONSP), the Central Student Government Transfer Student Resources Commission, UROP Changing Gears, Transfer Connections, the Student Veterans Association and any other relevant bodies.

9.03.02 **AAC Representation.** The ARO or another member of AAC shall attend CATS. Likewise, the chair or any representative of CATS shall represent CATS in AAC.

9.03.03 **Duties.** CATS shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) **Transfer Student Orientation.** The committee shall work to improve the overall quality of transfer student orientation.
- (b) **Transfer Credit.** The committee shall work to update and improve the process of transferring credits to the University and increase the ease of doing so.
- (c) **Transfer Student Success.** The committee shall advocate for increased academic resources for transfer students and the availability and publicity of said resources. It shall also work to reduce transfer shock and the stigma surrounding transfer students.
- (d) **Recruitment.** The committee shall aid and advise LSA and the Office of Admissions in achieving their goals for increased diversity among transfer students, and shall also advocate to ensure proper publicity of the ability and process to transfer to the University and the College of LSA to high-achieving students state and nationwide.
- (e) **Housing and On-Campus Community.** The committee shall work to better accommodate transfer students needs in finding on-campus living accommodations and building a community at the University of Michigan.
- (f) **Social Integration.** The committee shall work to ensure transfer students feel a sense of belonging and community on campus by working with Transfer Connections and promoting events held for transfer students.