

Subject: Alternative FAFSA Resolution

April 18, 2023

Attention: SLCC Financial Aid & SLCC Cabinet

From: Salt Lake Community College Student Association



Purpose: Part of the 2022 - 2023 SLCC Student Association Vision Statement ([SLCC Globe](#), September 2022) has focused on improving representation for all students, including eliminating barriers for students so they can have success here at SLCC. Due to its use of the SSN, certain populations cannot complete the FAFSA. As a result, certain scholarships and financial aid programs which require a FAFSA application are unattainable by these communities. One particular example is the Utah Opportunity scholarship. This has created an imperative for an “alternate FAFSA form” here in Utah so that students who otherwise would not be able to fill out the federal form can complete and be considered for resources that are needs based. As a result, we hope to increase access to higher education and enrollment at SLCC more feasible to underserved communities. *This letter documents the shared goals of the SLCC Student Association, SLCC Financial Aid office, Utah Dreamers Coalition, and the Utah Board of Higher Education to continue student input on these issues and seek out resolution.*

Background: In October 2022, SLCCSA initiated conversations with representatives from the SLCC Financial Aid office to ask questions about the current FAFSA form in Utah. We learned about other states that currently have alternate FAFSA forms and how those came into fruition. We learned when meeting with the Utah Board of Higher Education of concurrent strategies to develop an alternate FAFSA application process, though this is limited to the Utah Opportunity scholarship. We also connected with the Utah Dreamers Coalition, which has representatives across the state who support students who are undocumented, DACA-mented, and from mixed status families. Continued conversations are needed to understand the limitations in the recently launched alternative FAFSA form and identify additional opportunities to use this newly developed form.

Future strategy:

1. Continue meeting with the Utah Dreamers Coalition as well as SLCC financial aid, to highlight areas that an alternate FAFSA form can cover
2. Continue prioritizing this form with the Utah Higher Board of Education
3. Continue to share and promote initiative among SLCC Cabinet and Trustees
4. Support Financial Aid as they troubleshoot logistics and procedures

We want to recognize the efforts of Josh Montavon, Financial Aid, for bringing awareness to this alternate form, and giving us the information to bring this issue up to the Utah Board of Higher Education

SLCCSA Resolution Vote: 7 – 0 – 0

For – President Simons, Executive Vice President Mukaz, Vice President Ruelas, Vice President Wambuyi, Vice President Duran, Vice President Cherry, & Vice President Demille

Against – None

Abstain – None