

**Subject: Expanding Presidential Tuition Waiver designation**

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. In the beginning of the year, undocumented and international students were not able to access tuition waiver positions. In some instance, these student could qualify for hourly pay for similar roles, but in many cases undocumented and international students were uncompensated for similar service to the college. This is not equitable. *This letter documents discussions between SLCC Student Association and the SLCC Financial Aid office, Student Affairs Leadership Team, SLCC Cabinet, and input from President Huftalin.*

**Background:** In the 2021 – 2022 academic school year, a member of the SLCCSA Executive Council was uncompensated for their service while their counterparts received both an hourly wage and in-state tuition waiver. The September the following year, SLCCSA initiated conversations with representatives from the SLCC financial aid office to ask questions about who currently qualifies for tuition waivers on campus, and why undocumented students and international students do not qualify. We learned under Utah state law, undocumented students are classified as nonresidents, and most tuition waivers require Utah residency. With updated guidance from the Utah Board of Higher Education and support from the Utah legislature, we learned that certain tuition waivers are available at each college in Utah and can be awarded to non-resident student at the President’s discretion. As of Spring 2023, SLCC has only 29 tuition waivers under the designation, opening the door for additional waivers to fall under this criterion.

**Future strategy:**

- Continue conversation with SALT, SLCC Cabinet, and Financial Aid to expand the percentage of SLCC tuition waivers under the presidential tuition waiver distinction. This includes waivers beyond the Student Association.
- Encourage partnership between offices distributing the Presidential Leadership waiver and promotion strategies in the Dream Center.

We want to recognize the efforts of Josh Montavon, Financial Aid and Timothy Davis, Thayne Center, for giving more context about tuition waiver, and helping us to properly compensate all working students on campus.

**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