

1   **Resolution Number:** 303-2026

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3   **Title:** Adding an AS/IDP Advisory Position to the Board of Trustees

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5   **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership & Governance

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7   **Sponsor(s):** Utsavi Kapadia, District 1 Advanced Standing Co-Chair, Tufts 2027

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9   **Financial Impact:** \$13,000

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11   **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board appreciates the intent of the resolution. As there is  
12 already an AS/IDP National Leadership position on Membership Council, and any AS/IDP  
13 candidate is allowed to run for a role on the Executive Committee or the Board of Trustees, the  
14 Board believes the efforts would be duplicative of existing pathways for the AS/IDP voice to be  
15 heard. Therefore, the Board recommends a no vote.

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17   **Board Vote:** Unanimous

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19   **Summary of Board Vote:** Nothing to report as the vote was unanimous.

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21   **Reference Committee Comments:**

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23   **Background:**

24   Advanced Standing (AS) and International Dentist Program (IDP) students are a growing and  
25 noticeable part of the U.S. dental student population. In the 2024-25 academic year, around  
26 915 graduates from international dental schools were admitted to U.S. dental schools through  
27 advanced standing pathways. Non-resident aliens made up a significant portion of first-year  
28 (3.8%) and graduating classes (6.7%) [1].

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30   Foreign-trained dentists and IDP students often face educational, clinical, and logistical  
31 challenges that differ from those in traditional DDS/DMD programs. They need to navigate  
32 specialized admissions processes, adjust to U.S. clinical expectations, and handle the academic  
33 and professional transitions that come with re-entering dental education [2]. Existing research  
34 also highlights several systemic barriers for immigrant health professionals. These include  
35 limited access to resources, financial and language challenges, complicated credentialing  
36 requirements, and difficulties reintegrating into professional practice [3].

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38   As mentioned in previous ASDA resolutions, ASDA understands the importance of student  
39 representation in educational policy and governance. Current policy supports student  
40 participation on committees that affect dental education and professional training [4]. Creating  
41 a dedicated advisory seat would give these students a structured and sustainable way to share  
42 their experiences and insights while maintaining the integrity of existing governance  
43 frameworks; therefore, be it

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47 **Resolved**, that ASDA adds an Advanced Standing Advisory Representative to the Board of  
48 Trustees with the following criteria:

49     ● The representative serves in an ex-officio non-voting role on the Board of Trustees.  
50     ● The representative must be an active ASDA member enrolled in an Advanced Standing  
51         or International Dentist Program for the entire duration of their leadership term; and be  
52         it further

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54 **Resolved**, the 2026-27 Governance Committee determine the process for how this  
55 representative will be elected or appointed and report back to the 2027 House of Delegates.