

Resolution Number: 303-2026

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

Reference Committee Assignment: Membership & Governance

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

Financial Impact: \$13,000

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

Board Vote: Unanimous

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

Reference Committee Comments:

Background:

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

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

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

RESOLUTION

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

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

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