

**Austin College**  
**Student Assembly**

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**American Sign Language Program Resolution**

Sponsor: Bryan Carter, Representative

Sponsor: Nick Pernik, Representative

Co-Sponsor: Nesh Maniam, Student Body Goal Coordinator

- Having seen** that American Sign Language (ASL) is an increasingly common language that is used primarily by the Deaf community to communicate,
- Whereas** the Austin College curriculum does not include any classes that pertain to American Sign Language,
- Being that** Austin College students wishing to learn ASL must take summer or online classes to reach the necessary three semester language credits that are required to graduate, which can provide insufficient instruction and practice time for students to achieve true fluency,
- Understanding** that 447 signatures have been obtained from Austin College students in support of an American Sign Language program,
- Deeply convinced** ASL is a beautiful, unique language with a culture and literature all its own, and Austin College would be furthering the education and cultural awareness of its students by including ASL in its curriculum,
- Be it resolved** that Student Assembly asks the Austin College administration to give serious consideration to this proposal to make ASL a fifth language option here at the College.
- Note:** most ASL classes are taught by a Deaf professor because it allows for complete immersion into the language.
- Note:** there may be possible government funding available for the college to take advantage of, and there may be private sponsors/donors willing to help fund the program.