

1 **Resolution Number:** 404-2025

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3 **Title:** Establishing Pilot Grant Program for Give Veterans A Smile Events

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues and Governance Reference Committee

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7 **Sponsor(s):**

8 Adam Yang, 2023-2024 ADA GVAS National Advisory Committee Appointee, Harvard

9 Bree Zhang, 2024-2025 ADA GVAS National Advisory Committee Appointee, Columbia

10 Asli Pisano, First Delegate, Harvard

11 Brendon Anderson, Second Delegate, Harvard

12 Alexon Tiem, First Delegate, KCU

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14 **Financial Impact:** \$5,000 in 2025-26 leadership year

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16 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a substitute resolution.

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18 **Reference Committee Comments:**

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20 **Background:** The Give Veterans A Smile (GVAS) initiative, launched by the ADA at SmileCon®
21 2024, is a national program aimed at providing dental care to underserved veterans, who are
22 60% more likely to experience tooth decay compared to nonveterans.

23 Modeled after the successful Give Kids A Smile program, GVAS addresses a critical gap in oral
24 health services. Of the 9 million veterans eligible for medical care through the US
25 Department of Veterans Affairs, 7.4 million veterans (85%) are ineligible for VA dental benefits, exacerbating
26 the shortage of accessible dental care for this population.

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28 Despite widespread interest among dental students, 79% of student leaders surveyed across 62
29 dental schools indicated a need for more financial resources to host GVAS events.

30 Establishing a pilot grant program would empower ASDA chapters to initiate or expand their
31 GVAS events, providing essential care to veterans. This program would, in turn, foster
32 increased student engagement, strengthen collaboration with dental school administrations,
33 and further solidify ASDA's commitment to public health and community service; therefore, be
34 it

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36

RESOLUTION

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38 **Resolved,** that the 2025-2026 Board of Trustees be tasked with investigating and allocating at
39 least \$5,000 in annual funding to support the establishment of Give Veterans A Smile
40 (GVAS) events at dental schools. This funding will be distributed to five to ten ASDA chapters
41 through a structured grant program aimed at empowering student leaders to
42 collaborate with their respective administrations to organize GVAS events and provide dental
43 care to underserved veterans.

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45 **Resolved,** that the pilot grant program shall be established with an appropriate application and
46 selection process, overseen by the Council on Professional Issues. Sponsors of this

47 resolution, along with the ASDA representative on the ADA GVAS Advisory Council, will actively
48 participate in the deliberation process as part of the working group. The program shall be
49 implemented no later than August 1, 2025.

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51 **Resolved**, that the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the Council on Professional
52 Issues, will establish metrics to evaluate the success and impact of the pilot GVAS program.
53 These metrics may include the number of veterans served, student participation rates, and
54 participant feedback to inform future program improvements.

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56 **Resolved**, that the Council on Professional Issues may increase the funding for this pilot
57 program beyond \$5,000 if deemed necessary, but any reduction in funding or modification to
58 the 2027 funding goal must be approved through a new resolution presented to the House of
59 Delegates for explicit approval.

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61 **Resolved**, that the Board of Trustees shall provide an initial progress report to the sponsors of
62 this resolution, the ASDA representative on the ADA GVAS Advisory Council, and the
63 Council on Professional Issues chair and members, by August 1, 2025, detailing the
64 development of the grant program. If the Board of Trustees decides against establishing the
65 pilot program, it shall present alternative proposals earmarking at least \$2,000 in annual
66 funding for GVAS events, along with a clear plan for gradual growth toward \$5,000 by 2027.
67 This report shall be delivered to the sponsors, the ASDA representative on the ADA GVAS
68 Advisory Council, and the Council on Professional Issues chair and members by Fall Council
69 2025, and presented to the 2026 House of Delegates at the Annual Session 2026.

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71 **Resolved**, that a long-term sustainability plan for the GVAS grant program shall be
72 developed by the Council on Professional Issues, with support from ASDA staff, outlining
73 strategies for continued funding and support to ensure the program's growth and longevity
74 beyond the pilot phase. The program will be evaluated by the 2028-2029 Board of Trustees to
75 determine the feasibility of expanding into a more comprehensive initiative.

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77 **Action:**