



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

CourseShare: African Languages Development Resolution

Sponsors:

- Elijah Jenkins, College Council Representative Class of 2026
- Catherine C. Baumann, Director of the University of Chicago Language Center

Signatories:

- Organization of Black Students (OBS)
- African Caribbean Student Association (ACSA)
- Nigerian Student Association (NSA)
- Adaora Ezike, President of the NSA
- Ezinne Mba, Vice President of NSA
- Tyler Okeke, Trustee & Faculty Government Liaison
- Bianca Simmons, ACSA Senior Advisor
- Samantha Taylor, OBS Political Chair
- Charles Hendon, OBS Historian

WHEREAS Currently, The University of Chicago only offers one African language (Swahili), within the Linguistic Department, making African language courses inaccessible and limited within The College, and resulting in a failure to reflect the growing diversity of the student body.

WHEREAS Peer institutions of The University of Chicago, such as [Yale](#), [Harvard](#), [Stanford](#), and [The University of Pennsylvania](#), all offer more than nine African languages to their students, putting The University of Chicago at a disadvantage in terms of academic competitiveness and diversity of their language curriculum, despite the growing interest and demand among students to learn African languages.

WHEREAS Since Autumn 2015, [University of Chicago](#) has been strengthening its language offerings by being an active member of the CourseShare initiative. This initiative allows students within the Big Ten Academic Alliance—the fourteen Big Ten schools and the University of Chicago—to enroll in selected courses offered at other institutions. This expands the number of languages offered to our students while also strengthening enrollment in the least commonly taught languages.

WHEREAS In June 2016, the University of Chicago Language Center (CLC) received a [\\$2 million grant](#) from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the project “Transforming Language Instruction at the University of Chicago and Beyond Collaborative Curricula and Professional Development,” which provides an opportunity for the University of Chicago to expand its language offerings and promote diversity and inclusivity in its language curriculum, including the addition of African languages that are currently underrepresented or absent in the College's course offerings.

BE IT RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government is aware of the lack of African languages on campus, preventing current and future students from enrolling in their respective courses.

BE IT RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the importance of having additional African languages within The College and will work alongside the administration to improve current language offerings.

BE IT RESOLVED the Undergraduate Student Government will work in conjunction with The University of Chicago Language Center to increase accessibility to the CourseShare program in order to provide immediate opportunities for current and future students to engage in African Language coursework.