



FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION TO: Advocate for the Hiring of a Full-Time Employee for Undocumented Student Affairs

WHEREAS, In Michigan there is estimated to be around 102,000 undocumented immigrants, approximately 9,000 of which are college-aged and are currently enrolled in postsecondary education¹; and,

WHEREAS, Undocumented students in Michigan are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, and often cannot apply for private loans²; and,

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic undocumented students have experienced additional economic, psychological, and academic stresses, including increased concerns about on-time graduation and legal status, aggravating existing inequalities³; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan State University was given the lowest “least accessible” ranking in a 2017 study in regards to admissions, financial aid and general support for undocumented and DACA students, and a “somewhat accessible” ranking in relation to tuition; other schools, like Grand Valley State University, Oakland University, and the University of Michigan received the highest ranking of “most accessible” across all areas⁴; and,

WHEREAS, Both Grand Valley State University⁵ and the University of Michigan⁶ have a designated employee to support and advise undocumented students; and,

WHEREAS, The Michigan State University Diversity Equity and Inclusion Report and Strategic Plan acknowledges that it is “highly difficult to navigate” financial aid and residency status for undocumented

¹ Migration Policy Institute, [Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Michigan](#), (2018).

² One Michigan for Immigrant Youth and Michigan Immigrant Rights Coalition, [“Aspire Higher: An Undocumented Student Guide to College.”](#) (2021).

³ TheDream.US, [“TheDream.US 2019-2020 Scholar Survey Report: *In Their Own Words*”](#) (September 2020), pp. 4, 9, 14; Laura E. Enriquez, et. al, [COVID on Campus: Assessing the Impact of the Pandemic on Undocumented College Students](#), AERA Open eScholarship, University of California (July 2021).

⁴ John A. Vasquez, et. al., [“Building Institutional Support for Undocumented and DACA-eligible College Students in Michigan,”](#) *Journal of College Access* vol. 6, no. 3 (2021), 183-84.

⁵ [Resources for DACA and Undocumented Students](#), Grand Valley State University (2021).

⁶ [Undocumented Student Support](#), Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, University of Michigan (2021).

Faculty Senate

Draft Resolution
November 16, 2021



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students; recommends “more inclusive student support services;” and, includes “formalized services offered through an identified central office to support DACA and undocumented students” as a metric of success⁷; and,

WHEREAS, DreaMSU, a student organization advocating for more inclusive policies for immigrant and undocumented communities at Michigan State University, has been advocating for an employee to be hired for undocumented students since 2019; and,

WHEREAS, The Associated Students of Michigan State University passed Bill 57-78 in March 2021, “A BILL TO: Advocate for the Hiring of a Full-Time Employee for Undocumented Student Affairs;⁸” therefore be it,

RESOLVED, The Faculty Senate supports Michigan State University hiring a full-time employee specifically for undocumented, DACA and vulnerable immigrant student affairs; and,

RESOLVED, The Faculty Senate urges Michigan State University to hire this employee by the conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year in order to expand recruitment of and support for undocumented, DACA and vulnerable immigrant students; and,

RESOLVED, The hiring of this employee shall be decided by a committee that includes students affected by the current lack of resources and representation for undocumented, DACA and vulnerable immigrant students, as well as staff and faculty knowledgeable in the issues facing undocumented, DACA and vulnerable immigrant student populations; and,

RESOLVED, This employee shall have a designated workplace to create a safer space for undocumented, DACA and vulnerable immigrant students to seek support and advice.

⁷ DEI Steering Committee, [Diversity Equity and Inclusion Report and Strategic Plan](#), Michigan State University (2021), pp. 29, 64, 65.

⁸ “A BILL TO: Advocate for the Hiring of a Full-Time Employee for Undocumented Student Affairs,” Bill 57-78, ASMSU General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, March 2021.