

Resolution to improve conditions for undocumented students at UC Merced

To: Academic Senate, Merced Division

Whereas: The University of California is committed to enrolling undergraduate and graduate students from all over the world. It is then “consistent with our Principles of Community that once the UC has enrolled these students, we have a moral and ethical obligation to help them attain their educational, career, and developmental goals and dreams.”¹

Whereas: UC Merced has the highest percentage of undocumented students in the University of California system. These unique considerations, associated with legal status, must be addressed in our efforts to support our students’ goals for degree attainment.

Whereas: Local, state, and federal issues combine to pose multiple barriers to undocumented students seeking to further their education. These issues and barriers include:

- Undocumented students, and their families, face threats of deportation and an uncertain future;
- Work permits and student internships for undocumented students are limited, which contributes to instability;
- Campus legal and counseling support is limited and not highly accessible;
- Private and secure space for undocumented students (and others concerned for such students’ welfare) to assemble or receive guidance is highly limited;
- Student records or students’ families’ immigration status are particularly sensitive information and should be highly protected by campus units;
- Faculty, staff and administrators are unevenly prepared to support the needs and aspirations of our undocumented students.

Be it resolved that: The Academic Senate calls on the Chancellor to engage these campus barriers by initiating an annual report process that systematically and critically examines resources, student welfare, and campus climate for our undocumented students, with attention to a wider context of historically underrepresented students. Institutional vigilance is essential to ensuring our commitment to our undocumented students is met. Important stakeholders would include, but are not limited to, undocumented students, faculty and staff allies, Senate-Administrative leadership, and specialists from undocumented services.

Be it resolved that: A working group would be established during May 2018 as a basis to establish dialogue, goals and action plans for the upcoming academic year. Subsequently, this annual report would be offered at the spring meeting of the Division² to inform leadership and affirm continued priorities. These institutional channels would ensure and facilitate regular consultation between the faculty and administration regarding campus support for undocumented students. This annual process would continue until it is determined that significant barriers to undocumented students are resolved on a campus level.

¹ Academic Council Statement in support of undocumented students enrolled at the University of California (31 January 2018) <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/SW-JN-aspirational-statement-support-for-undocumented-students.pdf>

² Bylaw I.V.3.A (<https://senate.ucmerced.edu/bylaws-merced-division#p1t5s2>) “The Division holds two regular meetings each academic year, one in the Fall term and the other in the Spring term when the Divisional Council presents its State of the Campus Message.”

Approved April 16, 2018 by the Divisional Assembly

Submitted by:

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