

## GSA Resolution No. 2017-01

### Resolution in support of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Students at the University of California, Merced

- 1) Whereas, in 2012 President Obama issued an Executive Order providing certain undocumented people who arrived in the United States before the age of 16 deferred action from deportation as well as access to work permits.
- 2) Whereas, under AB 540 (Chapter 814, Statutes of 2001) undocumented students in California may seek an exemption from paying nonresident tuition if they have graduated from a California high school.
- 3) Whereas, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-16) has said that “By terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, the Administration has taken a significant step backwards by threatening to force nearly 800,000 young immigrants from the country they call home”
- 4) Whereas, University of California President Janet Napolitano has stated that “The University and the state of California stand together in our belief that students should be admitted to UC and other institutions of higher education based on their records of achievement and without regard to their immigration status. President Trump’s decision undermines the ability of affected students to support themselves while at UC”
- 5) Whereas, Chancellor Leland has said that “The decision to end DACA is a cruel bait-and-switch for the many young adults who are living, learning, and working here under its protections”
- 6) Whereas, there are nearly 800,000 young immigrants in the United States of America who take part in the DACA program of which 242,339 call California home.
- 7) Whereas, according to the Migration Policy Institute approximately 72,300 undocumented students are enrolled in California public colleges.
- 8) Whereas, there are approximately 600 DACA students attending the University of California, Merced and 1000 attending the California State University, Fresno.
- 9) Whereas, research by University of California, Merced professor Whitney Pirtle Ph.D. has shown that DACA recipients show better psychological wellbeing, and lower stress levels.
- 10) Whereas, University of California campus police have been directed to not contact, detain, question or arrest individuals based on suspected undocumented status, or to enter agreements to undertake joint efforts to make arrests for federal immigration law violations.

Be it resolved, that the Graduate Student Association of the University of California, Merced supports the following policies for undocumented members of our campus community

- Refuse campus access to Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials
- Prioritize mental health services to undocumented members of our campus community
- Provide legal clinics and services to affected community members
- Guarantee the privacy of educational and medical records
- Offer student housing during Spring and Winter break for students who cannot return home due to the risk of deportation

Be it finally resolved, that the Graduate Student Association shall transmit this resolution to the UC Merced Chancellor, UC Office of the President, UC Board of Regents, and any other persons or organizations deemed appropriate by the Graduate Student Association President.