

Resolution in Support of Tuition Equity for Florida Gulf Coast University Students

Be it declared by the Florida Gulf Coast University Faculty Senate:

WHEREAS, the Florida Gulf Coast University Student Government Senate has a resolution pending in support of in-state tuition for all Florida high school graduates regardless of current immigration status;

WHEREAS, population estimates indicate that there are 2 million children in the United States who are undocumented immigrants; over 65,000 undocumented students who have lived in the United States for 5 or more years graduate from American high schools each yearⁱ; and 8.7% of these yearly graduates reside permanently in Floridaⁱⁱ;

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2012, President Obama ordered Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which granted prosecutorial discretion towards individuals who meet the criteria of being in the country before 2011 and graduated from high school or honorably discharged from the military;ⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS: to date almost 26,000 undocumented youth in Florida have come forward and have had their applications for (DACA) accepted^{iv}, although many others are still unable to apply due to financial hardship and limited reach of the knowledge of this program;

WHEREAS, the Florida Board of Governors passed and adopted a resolution on April 21, 2005 granting Non-U.S. citizens who fall within 14 categories, including individuals granted Temporary Protected Status, Deferred Action Status, Deferred Enforced Departure Status eligibility to establish Florida residency for tuition purposes;^v

WHEREAS, over the past decade more than 16 states, including Kansas, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Nebraska have passed in-state tuition policies for all students who have graduated from their states' high schools regardless of status;^{vi}

WHEREAS: Florida is the most populous state that does not allow undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition;^{vii}

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has an opportunity to address the issue of tuition equity for students who have graduated from a Florida high school or attained a high school equivalency diploma;

WHEREAS, The Florida House of Representatives on March 20, 2014 passed CS/CS/CS/HB 851 for Postsecondary Education Tuition and Fees, a bill which provides graduating students who have completed four years in a Florida high school the opportunity to receive in-state tuition rates at a Florida postsecondary institution;^{viii}

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Scott issued a statement of support for tuition equality on March 12, 2014;^{ix}

WHEREAS, Florida International University in summer 2013 extended in-state tuition to students who were part of President Obama's DACA program, by offering tuition waivers;^x

WHEREAS, The University of South Florida has passed resolutions through student government and faculty senate in support of tuition equality;^{xi}

WHEREAS, the Presidents of University of Florida and Florida State University have both made statements in support of tuition equality;^{xii}

WHEREAS: tuition at the Florida Gulf Coast University for out-of-state students is almost four times as high as tuition for in-state students;^{xiii}

WHEREAS: undocumented students are not eligible to apply for federal or state financial aid or to receive student loans to defray the cost of their tuition;^{xiv}

WHEREAS: a UNICEF report has concluded that education is a child's strongest tool to prevent poverty,^{xv} however, only about 5 to 10 percent of undocumented young people who graduate from high school continue on to college (compared with about 75 percent of their classmates);^{xvi}

WHEREAS, WHEREAS: a September 17, 2013 joint letter signed by Florida College and University Presidents states that for every undocumented student who enrolls in a college or university, an estimated \$4,380 will be added to Florida's Gross State Product by 2020;^{xvii}

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Gulf Coast University Faculty Senate supports in-state tuition equity for Florida high school graduates regardless of current immigration status; entreats the Florida Legislature to pass in-state tuition legislation to promote equity for students, with resulting benefit to the state economy; and urges Governor Rick Scott to sign such legislation into law.

ⁱ Gonzales, Roberto. 2009. "Young Lives on Hold: The College Dreams of Undocumented Students." Report published by The College Board. Retrieved from: <https://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/young-lives-on-hold-college-board.pdf>

Accessed March 23, 2014

ⁱⁱ Batalova, Jeanne and Margie McHugh. 2010. "DREAM vs. Reality: An Analysis of Potential DREAM Act Beneficiaries." Report published by Migration Policy Institute. Retrieved from: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/dream-vs-reality-analysis-potential-dream-act-beneficiaries>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

ⁱⁱⁱ Department of Homeland Security. "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: Who Can Be Considered?" Retrieved from: <https://www.dhs.gov/blog/2012/08/15/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-who-can-be-considered>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{iv} Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. 2013. "Number of I-821D, Consideration for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by Fiscal Year, Quarter, Intake, Biometrics and Case Status: 2012-2014 First Quarter.

Retrieved from:

<http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/DACA-06-02-14.pdf>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^v http://www.flbog.edu/pressroom/meeting_items.php?id=63&agenda=261

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{vi} National Immigration Law Center. 2013. "Basic Facts about In-State Tuition for Undocumented Immigrant Students." Retrieved from: <http://www.nilc.org/basic-facts-instate.html>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{vii} Cohen, Luc. 2012. "College Board Releases a Guide to Help Undocumented Students Pay for College." State Impact Florida, NPR, June 5. Retrieved from:

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/florida/2012/06/05/college-board-releases-a-guide-to-help-undocumented-students-pay-for-college/>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{viii} Florida House Passes Legislation to Provide All Qualifying Florida Students With In-State Tuition Rates Retrieved from:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?DocumentType=Press%20Release&FileName=611>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{ix} <http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/college/florida-gov-rick-scott-backs-in-state-tuition-for-undocumented-students/2169927>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^x http://onestop.fiu.edu/assets/docs/registrar/DACA_form.pdf

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{xi} <file:///C:/Users/FGCU-User/Downloads/USF%20Faculty%20Senate%20declaration%20tuition%20equity%202-19-14%20%25281%2529.pdf>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{xii} <http://www.bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/event/gainesville-sun-machen-adds-voice-state-tuition-unauthorized-students>

<http://www.fsunews.com/article/20140303/FSVIEW3/140303017/Barron-addresses-tuition-equality>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{xiii} <http://www.fgcu.edu/cashiers/tuition-and-fees.html>

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{xiv} Cohen, Luc. 2012. "College Board Releases a Guide to Help Undocumented Students Pay for College." State Impact Florida, NPR, June 5.

Retrieved from: <http://stateimpact.npr.org/florida/2012/06/05/college-board-releases-a-guide-to-help-undocumented-students-pay-for-college/>

Accessed: March 23, 2104

^{xv} http://www.unicef.org/sowc04/sowc04_contents.html

Accessed: March 23, 2014

^{xvi} National Immigration Law Center. 2013. "Basic Facts about In-State Tuition for

Undocumented Immigrant Students." Retrieved from: <http://www.nilc.org/basic-facts-instate.html>

Accessed: March 23, 2104

^{xvii} <http://www.floridatrend.com/article/16153/letter-from-florida-college-and-university-presidents-calling-for-immigration-reform>

Accessed: March 23, 2014