

Council of Graduate Students

Michigan State University

Resolution: 21-FS-19

Title: A Resolution to Advocate for the Hiring of a Full-Time Employee for Undocumented Student Affairs

Introduced by: President Hugentobler

Introduced on: December 8th, 2021

THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

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 education[1]; and,

WHEREAS, Undocumented students in Michigan are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, and often cannot apply for private loans[2]; 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 inequalities[3]; 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 areas[4]; and,

WHEREAS, Both Grand Valley State University[5] and the University of Michigan[6] 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 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 success[7]; 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]”,

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate of Michigan State University passed the similar Bill FS2122R04 in November 2021, “A FACULTY RESOLUTION TO: Advocate for the Hiring of a Full-Time Employee for Undocumented Student Affairs;[9]” therefore be it,

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

RESOLVED, The COGS Full Council 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,

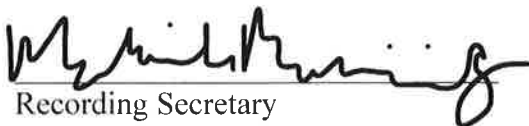
RESOLVED, The hiring of this employee shall be decided by a committee that includes students affected by the current lack of resources and representation for undocumented, DACA and vulnerable immigrant students, as well as staff and faculty knowledgeable in the issues facing undocumented, DACA and vulnerable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

VOTED ON: 12/8/2021

VOTE TOTALS:

 33 FOR
 1 AGAINST
 1 ABSTAIN


Recording Secretary


President