SS-F17-1, Sense of the Senate Resolution, In Opposition to The Order to End the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA)

Legislative History: At its meeting of September 18, 2017, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by Chair Frazier for the Executive Committee.

SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
In Opposition to The Order to End the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA)

Whereas, On September 5, 2017, the Trump Administration issued an order to end the program entitled “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA); and

Whereas, DACA has, since its founding in June 2012, allowed hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who came here as minors to fulfill their dreams of attending college and working in their professions to pursue gainful employment and actively contribute to society as well as support themselves, without the fear of being deported; and

Whereas, The ending of DACA would overturn those dreams and goals for an estimated 800,000 people in the United States; and

Whereas, An exact number of DACA students at SJSU is unknown as students only disclose DACA status if they are employed on campus; however, SJSU does have over 500 enrolled students who meet the requirements of AB 540 or AB 2000, which provide in-state tuition, and/or the California Dream Act, which provides access to financial aid eligibility; and

Whereas, The act of uprooting and deporting people who arrived as minors and have grown up in this country is heartless and mean-spirited; and

Whereas, Those hundreds of students are major contributors to the diversity and rich multiculturalism that make SJSU an exemplary campus at which to learn, live, and work; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the Academic Senate of San José State University, declare our strong opposition to and condemnation of efforts to reject the principles exemplified by the DACA program; and be it further
Resolved, That we call upon the U.S. Congress to replace the DACA program by acting on the pending Dream Act of 2017 or passing equivalent legislation immediately, to allow our students, staff, and faculty to regain certainty and fairness in their lives; and be it further

Resolved, That we fully embrace and support our DACA students and employees during this tumultuous and difficult time by finding ways to supplement the lost access to meaningful employment and in-state tuition afforded by DACA; and be it further

Resolved, That we welcome and concur with the communications provided by the President of SJSU\(^1\), the Chancellor of the California State University\(^2\), the Academic Senate of the CSU\(^3\), and the leaders of California’s Higher Education Segments\(^4\) on the need to continue the DACA program and continue support for DACA students and employees; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be distributed to the California State University Board of Trustees, Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, all campus Academic Senates, the Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU, the California Faculty Association, SJSU Faculty, our State Governor, both California U.S. Senators, our regional U.S. Congressional Representatives, and our representatives in the state legislature.

Approved: September 11, 2017
Vote: 12-0-0
Present: Frazier, Mathur, Papazian, Feinstein, Faas, Willey, Wong(Lau), Manzo, Riley, Shultz-Krohn, Shifflett, Peter
Absent: Van Selst
Curricular impact: None.
Financial impact: None.
Workload impact: None.

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\(^1\) Available at http://blogs.sjsu.edu/newsroom/2017/president-papazians-message-on/
\(^2\) Available at https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/Chancellor-White%27s-Message-to-CSU-Community-on-DACA.aspx
\(^3\) AS-3303-17/FGA, “In Support of the Preservation and Extension of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program”