

CSUN Faculty Senate Resolution
Institutional Support and Advocacy for Undocumented Students

Whereas, California State University, Northridge (CSUN) is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive academic environment, empowering all students to achieve their educational aspirations and contribute meaningfully to society; and

Whereas, CSUN's core values emphasize respect for the dignity, diversity, and worth of all individuals, with a commitment to equitable policies, programs, and behaviors that advance inclusion; and

Whereas, CSUN's vision underscores the importance of providing opportunities for students from historically marginalized backgrounds to become leaders and advocates for justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and sustainability; and

Whereas, Undocumented individuals in the United States, including thousands of students in California, continue to face systemic barriers to accessing higher education, financial security, and institutional support; and

Whereas, CSUN has been a leader in the CSU for the recruitment, retention, and graduation of students impacted by undocumented immigration, including the more than 1,060 undocumented students and thousands of citizen students from mixed-status families currently enrolled; and

Whereas, California legislation, including AB 540 and the California Dream Act, has significantly reduced financial and educational barriers for undocumented students but remains insufficient to address their comprehensive needs; and

Whereas, The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has provided temporary relief from deportation and work authorization for undocumented youth, faces ongoing legal challenges and uncertainty, leaving recipients vulnerable to policy changes; and

Whereas, The political climate, including the 2024 re-election of President Donald Trump, has heightened anxiety and fear among undocumented students due to potential rollbacks of existing protections and stricter immigration policies; and

Whereas, The potential for federal immigration enforcement agencies to request or utilize university-held student data poses serious concerns regarding privacy, safety, and the responsible stewardship of student information, thereby risking the integrity of the campus as a place of sanctuary, learning, and intellectual freedom; and

Whereas, CSUN's DREAM Center continues to play a pivotal role in supporting undocumented students, offering culturally relevant resources, mentorship, and advocacy, while serving as a safe and inclusive space; and

Whereas, Many undocumented students remain ineligible for federal financial aid, DACA benefits, or California-based programs, leaving significant gaps in support and opportunity; and

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Whereas, The university recognizes the importance of expanding institutional protections and financial resources to ensure the success, safety, and well-being of undocumented students;

Therefore, be it Resolved that the Faculty Senate reaffirms its unwavering support for undocumented students' right to access and succeed in higher education, regardless of their immigration status.

Resolved that the Senate commends the critical work of the DREAM Center and calls for increased funding, staffing, and institutional investment to ensure its long-term sustainability and capacity to meet rising demand.

Resolved that the Senate urges CSUN leadership to actively advocate for federal and state policies that provide pathways to citizenship, access to financial aid, protection from deportation, and expanded opportunities for undocumented students.

Resolved that the Senate recommends the creation of an emergency financial assistance fund to support students affected by the potential loss of DACA work authorization or other immigration-related barriers to employment.

Resolved that the Senate advocates for the enhancement of mental health services and culturally responsive counseling tailored to undocumented students, addressing the unique stressors they face.

Resolved that the Senate recommends the continuation and expansion of ongoing training for faculty and staff to enhance awareness and competency in addressing the challenges and needs of undocumented students and students from mixed-status families.

Resolved that the Senate recommends faculty to provide reasonable alternatives for class attendance and assignment completion for students subject to increased surveillance and policing, transportation challenges, loss of work and other financial insecurity, socioemotional stressors, and family separation.

Resolved that the Senate calls on the university administration to refrain, to the fullest extent permissible by law, from sharing student data, cooperating with federal immigration enforcement agencies, or providing any other assistance or resources that could facilitate the identification, detention, or deportation of undocumented students in alignment with the state's commitment to limiting assistance with immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law at public schools.

Resolved that the Senate urges the university administration to adopt and implement robust data protection protocols—such as reaffirming administrative-level policies, standardizing procedures for data inquiries, minimizing sensitive data collection associated with legal status, auditing public documents for identifying information, training a limited group of “data custodians,” and providing campus-wide guidance—in order to safeguard the privacy and safety of undocumented, DACA, and other vulnerable student populations.

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Resolved that the Senate urges the university to discourage recruitment efforts by law enforcement agencies on campus. In instances where such agencies do participate in recruitment activities, personnel must attend in plain clothes, arrive in unmarked vehicles, and park in designated areas away from campus to minimize visibility and potential distress among students. Furthermore, any recruitment events involving such agencies must not be held near designated safe spaces, such as the DREAM Center, to prevent disruption and ensure that these spaces remain welcoming and supportive environments for students.

Resolved that the Senate calls for the university to evaluate its position on recruitment by law enforcement agencies on campus to ensure alignment with our institutional values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Resolved that the Senate calls on the university to provide clear guidelines on the role of the Department of Police Services regarding immigration enforcement activities, reaffirming that they do not engage in or cooperate with such enforcement and outlining their responsibility as the first line of defense in protecting the campus community.

Resolved that the Senate calls for the university to define clearly what constitutes private or limited public spaces on campus, distinguishing areas that are open to the general public from those where access is restricted due to privacy concerns, operational needs, or safety considerations

Resolved that the Senate calls for the university to provide guidance on procedures for responding to immigration enforcement officers, ensuring that campus employees understand their rights and responsibilities, including the requirement that officers present a judicial warrant or court order to access nonpublic areas.

Resolved that the Senate calls for the creation of a contingency plan to ensure continuity of support for undocumented students in response to abrupt changes in immigration policies.

Resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including but not limited to the following:

- President Erika Beck,
- Provost Meera Komarraju,
- Vice Provost Joy Borah,
- Vice President for Administration and Finance Colin Donahue,
- Vice President for Information Technology Ranjit Philip,
- Vice President for University Relations and Advancement Nicole Ipach,
- Interim Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs Christina Von Mayrhauser,
- Senior Director of Institutional Research Janet Oh,
- Associate Vice President of Student Success Melanie Bocanegra,
- Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies Paul Lazarony,
- Vice President of Student Affairs William Watkins,
- Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff,

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- Interim Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs for Equity and Inclusion Freddie Sanchez,
- Career Center Director Nyla Dalferes,
- USU Assistant Director Sarina Loeb,
- CSUN Associated Students,
- All College Deans and Department Chairs,
- All faculty,
- The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU), and
- The California Faculty Association