

**University Faculty Senate
Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee
175th Plenary
SUNY Old Westbury
January 21, 2017**

Resolution on “Petition to make all SUNY locations Sanctuary Campuses”

This petition has been circulating on some of our campuses and can be signed by individuals [here](#). It is composed of two parts, a recounting of the evolution of multiple individual campus petitions to this system-wide petition and a set of actions being asked of the chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Whereas the petition requesting that SUNY designate all campuses as sanctuary campuses is recognized as a grassroots collective action by SUNY faculty, administrators, and staff; and

Whereas the following petition, cited in full, reflects the positions of many SUNY faculty, who have signed the petition:

Petition to make all SUNY locations Sanctuary Campuses

December 19, 2016

Chancellor Zimpher and the SUNY Board of Trustees,

Recent political events have placed the mission of the SUNY System – “to provide to the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population” – under threat. We, the undersigned members of the SUNY community, urge you to take action to ensure our campuses are safe and supportive for students, faculty, staff, alumni and their families of different races, religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, and immigration statuses. Across the country, hundreds of colleges and universities are committing to securing their communities, particularly for students benefiting from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Institutions such as Wesleyan University and Columbia University have formally designated themselves Sanctuary Campuses. Furthermore, Governor Cuomo supports protections for minority residents of the state of New York. We believe that joining this national movement would reaffirm our university system’s stated mission. In what follows, we outline concrete steps that need to be taken in order for schools under the SUNY umbrella to become Sanctuary Campus.

We thank you for signing the open letter to the national leadership urging the preservation of DACA, along with the Presidents of SUNY Albany, Buffalo, Cortland, New Paltz, Oswego, and Stony Brook. Additionally, the campus communities of Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, ESF, New Paltz, Plattsburgh, and Stony Brook have joined the sanctuary campus movement by generating petitions requesting that their institutions take steps to protect DACA students and others threatened by the incoming administration.

We respectfully ask that you implement the following actions to ensure the safety and security of our community:

1) The incoming administration has promised to deport undocumented immigrants within its first 100 days with unprecedented urgency. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials are subject to certain restrictions when they enter college campuses and churches without a warrant (<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>). We ask that you declare all SUNY locations to be Sanctuary Campuses, refusing to comply with ICE officials beyond what is minimally required by the law. This can be accomplished by implementing the following policies:

- a. Prevent ICE from carrying out immigration enforcement on campus without a warrant unless there is an exigent excuse.
- b. The SUNY System should instruct employees on their rights and responsibilities if ICE agents enter or seek to enter the campus: the default response should be to inquire into the justification and authorization for any enforcement action.
- c. Ensure that SUNY System campus police will not act on behalf of ICE officials to enforce immigration laws. Nor should they inquire about an individual's immigration status.
- d. The SUNY SYSTEM should provide guidance that, wherever the campus police officers have discretion to arrest or to handle a law enforcement action without arrest (e.g. by issuing a ticket), they should opt to avoid arrest. An arrest, even for a minor traffic offense, may lead to consequences well beyond the intended punishment or law enforcement purpose for certain immigrant students, such as the issuance of an ICE detainer and possible immigration detention and removal proceedings. Each SUNY campus will ensure that if an arrest takes place, campus police will not report such arrests to ICE and will not hold anyone unnecessarily, as is consistent with state and federal law.
- e. Guarantee student privacy by refusing to release information regarding immigration status and country of origin to any government agency. The SUNY System should also discontinue any use of e-verify.

2) Develop further policies to support undocumented students, staff and faculty,

- a. The SUNY System will affirm that it will continue to admit students consistent with its nondiscrimination policies so that undocumented students will be considered for admission under the same criteria as U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- b. Continue to allow DACA students to pay in-state resident tuition and provide accommodations so they may complete their studies, such as online degree completion.
- c. Expand financial aid efforts for students who have lost their DACA status as Columbia University has done.
- d. Assign an administrative office to take charge of and advertise counseling for DACA students on their educational and legal situations. Provide confidential counseling to students, faculty, and staff who are at risk of deportation, or whose families face this risk.
- e. Make every effort to collaborate with legal services and nonprofit organizations, legal clinics, and private lawyers and law firms willing to take pro-bono cases to provide free legal counsel to students placed into removal proceedings.
- f. Protect student privacy, following its longstanding compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The SUNY System shall remind faculty, and staff members that they should not inquire into any student's immigration status unless they are strictly required to do so by law.

We call upon the SUNY Central Chancellor and Board of Trustees to reaffirm their commitment to foster a safe, diverse, and inclusive campus environment. By taking the steps outlined above, the SUNY System will uphold the core of our mission. We ask that you please join us and other universities and colleges nationwide by declaring all SUNY locations to be Sanctuary Campuses, in

order to demonstrate our common care and concern for the SUNY community and mission during these tumultuous times.

Therefore, Be it Resolved that the University Faculty Senate endorses the position outlined in this petition; and

Be it Further Resolved that the UFS instructs the president of the SUNY University Faculty Senate to sign this petition on behalf of the Senate; and

Be It Further Resolved that the UFS urges all faculty, staff and students to consider the petition most carefully and act according to their consciences to protect the integrity of our campuses and the members of our campus communities.

175-01-1

Resolution on “Petition to make all SUNY locations Sanctuary Campuses”

Passed