

Resolution 66-07

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University**



of the 65th Assembly
[INSERT DATE]

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

Call on Penn State University Administration to Protect Undocumented Students

(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

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3 One of GPSA's primary goals is to create a forum in which issues and concerns of graduate and
4 professional students can be addressed. Moreover, as representatives of the graduate and
5 professional student body, it is incumbent upon us to introduce resolutions that provide
6 protections and support for our constituents.

7 Estimates from the Educators for Fair Consideration places the number of undocumented
8 students enrolled in American institutions of higher learning between 7,000-13,000.ⁱ In response
9 to fears of deportation, President Barack Obama issued the Deferred Action for Childhood
10 Arrivals (DACA) executive order, which permits certain undocumented immigrants, namely
11 those who arrived in the United States before their 16th birthday and/or June 2007 to receive
12 renewable two-year work permits and to be protected from deportation. Many of the people
13 eligible for DACA protections are students.

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15 Given that DACA is an executive order that can be removed by the President without the
16 approval of Congress, and given President-Elect Donald J. Trump's campaign promises to both
17 deport all undocumented immigrants and end DACA, undocumented immigrants enrolled at
18 Penn State would no longer be protected from deportation.ⁱⁱ

19 The Pennsylvania State University’s President, Dr. Eric Barron, has joined a number of
20 university administrators in acknowledging the importance of DACA. Moreover, a petition
21 calling for PSU to become a ‘sanctuary campus’ (a campus where students protected under
22 DACA are exempt from deportation and where campus officials refuse to comply with federal
23 immigration authorities with regards to deportation raids conducted on campus) has been
24 actively circulated since November 24th, 2016. Similar petitions have been circulated at a number
25 of schools.

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27 On November 30th 2016, the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) unanimously
28 passed a resolution calling on the university administration to protect undocumented immigrants
29 enrolled at Penn State from future proposed deportations.

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31 **Recommended Course of Action:**

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- 33 1. On behalf of the graduate and professional student body, the GPSA recognizes President
34 Eric Barron’s commitment to the protection of undocumented students enrolled in the
35 Penn State system, and asks that the University maintain its support for the continuation
36 of DACA.
 - 37 2. GPSA will join UPUA and other Penn State student government organizations in
38 advocating for university-level policy that will ensure the continued deportation
39 protection of undocumented students.
 - 40 3. GPSA asks Penn State University to take the following steps to protect undocumented
41 students:
 - 42 • not allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to conduct raids on campus
43 without a warrant, subpoena, or court order.
 - 44 • withhold students’ documentation status from ICE.
 - 45 • refrain from asking campus police to inquire about students’ immigration status or
46 enforce immigration laws that would result in deportation of undocumented students.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyler J. Sherman-Wilkins

Chair, GPSA Human Diversity Sub-Committee; Delegate, College of The Liberal Arts

Matthew Krott

Chair, GPSA Advocacy Committee; Delegate, College of Engineering

Miguel Campos

Delegate, College of Art and Architecture

Robert Zuchowski

Delegate, College of The Liberal Arts

President _____

Affirm

Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association

ⁱ http://www.e4fc.org/images/Fact_Sheet.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies.immigration>