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 ])

Nature of the Situation:

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

Estimates from the Educators for Fair Consideration places the number of undocumented students enrolled in American institutions of higher learning between 7,000-13,000.¹ In response to fears of deportation, President Barack Obama issued the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) executive order, which permits certain undocumented immigrants, namely those who arrived in the United States before their 16th birthday and/or June 2007 to receive renewable two-year work permits and to be protected from deportation. Many of the people eligible for DACA protections are students.

Given that DACA is an executive order that can be removed by the President without the approval of Congress, and given President-Elect Donald J. Trump’s campaign promises to both deport all undocumented immigrants and end DACA, undocumented immigrants enrolled at Penn State would no longer be protected from deportation.²
The Pennsylvania State University’s President, Dr. Eric Barron, has joined a number of university administrators in acknowledging the importance of DACA. Moreover, a petition calling for PSU to become a ‘sanctuary campus’ (a campus where students protected under DACA are exempt from deportation and where campus officials refuse to comply with federal immigration authorities with regards to deportation raids conducted on campus) has been actively circulated since November 24th, 2016. Similar petitions have been circulated at a number of schools.

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

**Recommended Course of Action:**

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