



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: UFS Graduate Programs and Research Committee
RE: To Form a Committee to Examine Funding Opportunities for Undocumented Students in SUNY Professional Programs
DATE: 182nd Plenary, April 11-13, 2019
LOCATION: SUNY Potsdam

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS the mission of SUNY is “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 in a complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs including such additional activities in pursuit of these objectives as are necessary or customary”; and

WHEREAS SUNY plays a vital role in developing the workforce of New York in high-demand fields, which includes graduates from post-graduate professional programs*; and

WHEREAS undocumented New York State students known as “Dreamers”, including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, should have equal access to SUNY post-graduate professional programs; and

WHEREAS post-graduate professional programs are costly and undocumented students are ineligible for federal loan programs or financial aid; and

WHEREAS the 2019 New York State Dream Act, currently being considered by the Governor, is intended to make State financial aid available to undocumented students from New York so that they will have comparable access to educational opportunities as other students; and

WHEREAS the legal and financial status of undocumented students wishing to enroll in SUNY professional programs is complicated by the current uncertainty of DACA and the New York State Dream Act; and

WHEREAS the SUNY University Faculty Senate passed a resolution in 2018 (178-01-1; *Resolution to Develop Support Services and Best Practices within SUNY both at System and Individual Campuses for Undocumented Students*) that recommended that the SUNY-wide Diversity Advisory Council create a subcommittee to address matters relating to undocumented students; and

WHEREAS faculty at SUNY Upstate Medical University recently passed a resolution that called on SUNY to create a scholarship program to support DACA students enrolled in medical school modeled after the National Health Service Corps program.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chancellor of the State University of New York should hasten to establish an advisory committee comprised of admissions professionals, financial aid specialists, faculty, administrators, and legal experts from SUNY to examine the specific ways that scholarships, loans, and other financial aid can be extended to Dreamers enrolled in SUNY post-graduate professional programs and to make recommendations to guide SUNY and NY State policy.

* medical, dental, pharmacy, law, optometry, pharmacy, and similar programs

BACKGROUND

1. SUNY Upstate Medical University resolution presented at the January 2019 plenary meeting of the UFS. It was referred to committee (Graduate and Research) by a UFS vote.

- (1) **WHEREAS** students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status have the right to an equal opportunity to pursue a medical education; and
- (2) **WHEREAS** students with DACA status remain ineligible for federal education loans; and
- (3) **WHEREAS** the Loyola Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, through partnerships with the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), the infrastructure bank of Illinois, and the health systems to which Loyola University Medical Center belongs, models a loan program for DACA students on Public Health Service loan programs that require recipients to provide a year of service in a designated area in the state,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State University of New York system establish a similar loan program for medical students with DACA status.

2. Current NY State financial aid resources--SUNY EDPS

<https://system.suny.edu/oop/edps/>

3. The José Peralta New York State DREAM Act

<https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2019/S1250>

4. UFS Resolution 178-01-01 and the Chancellor's response can be found here:

<http://www.sunyufs.us/2018-resolutions-and-reports.html>