Resolution in Support of Undocumented Student Success

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Sponsors: Undocumented Student Support and Advocacy Committee (USSAC)
          Student Demand for Equality in Education (formerly known as D.E.P.I.E.)
          Julian Herrera, ASI President
          Brandon Whalen, ASI Environmental Design Senator

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is the elected student voice for more than 23,966\(^1\) students at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona); and

WHEREAS, It is the mission of the ASI to “represent and advocate for the interest of students; promote and enrich student academic, cultural, social, and physical welfare in an effort to enhance higher education\(^2\);” and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly Pomona stated that approximately 1,200 students are recognized as “Non-Resident Alien/International Students\(^3\);” and

WHEREAS, Assigned University staff alone are not enough to support undocumented students (including California Assembly Bill (AB) 540) through their time at Cal Poly Pomona; and

WHEREAS, Resources are limited and difficult for undocumented students to access at Cal Poly Pomona thus hindering student success; and

WHEREAS, The lack of resources influence a low attendance, persistence, and graduation rates of undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, The ASI has shown support to undocumented students by acknowledging them as participants of society when they removed the word “illegal” by passing SR 2012-13:02 Resolution to Drop the “I” Word on November 8\(^{th}\), 2012\(^4\); and

\(^3\) “Pocketfacts of Cal Poly Pomona 2015-2016”
WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education suggests that higher education institutions create open and welcoming environments for undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly Pomona has an AB 540 liaison that allocates only 10% of her time to focus on undocumented advocacy, and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly Pomona is the only California State University (CSU) in Southern California to not have the support services for undocumented students other than Ally Trainings twice a quarter; and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ASI supports the consideration of the establishment of a DREAM Resource Center that would signal a welcoming environment and a place for academic and personal support; where students of all backgrounds have access to a quality education without being subject to racial slurs, discrimination, or prejudice; be it further

RESOLVED, that this DREAM center offers undocumented students a safe place for disclosing immigration status without the fear of deportation; that this center provides emotional support and advising relating to academics and financial aid; that it provides guidance for students when looking for job opportunities, internships and/or fellowships; and that it provides information on immigration related forms, traveling abroad, and help with interpretation of laws; be it further

RESOLVED, that President Coley and the University Cabinet are encouraged to include the establishment of a Dream Resource Center and dedicated support resources in the campus strategic and facilities master plans; be it further

RESOLVED, that the University provide public updates detailing the progress that the campus is making on the recommended Dream Resources Center and dedicated support resources; be it further

RESOLVED, that Cal Poly Pomona is urged to provide dedicated resources for students who identify as undocumented, and AB 540 or DREAM student, such as a full-time advocate; be it further

RESOLVED, that Cal Poly Pomona is urged to provide optional ally trainings to staff, faculty, and students on undocumented inclusion in education; be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, and specifically to: University President, Dr. Soraya M. Coley and the following: Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Sylvia Alva; Acting Vice President of Student Affairs, Kathleen Street; Acting Vice President & CFO for Administrative Affairs, Dr. Benjamin Quillian; Academic Senate Chair, Dr. Sepehr Eskandari; the ASI Staff; the ASI Student Government; the California State Student Association (CSSA); the CSSA Social Justice and Equity Council; the Academic Senate; Academic Affairs; Student Affairs; Administrative Affairs; Advancement; the Poly Post; and the students of Cal Poly Pomona.

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6 University of California Campus Support <http://undoc.universityofcalifornia.edu/campus-support.html>

7 California State University AB 540 Resources for Students <http://www.calstate.edu/dreamact/resources.shtml>