

October 11, 2017

## **Resolution to protect and support DACA students at Hunter**

### **Sponsors:**

Linda M. Alcott, Philosophy; Anthony Brown, AFPRL; Jacqueline Brown, Anthropology; Sarah Chinn, English; Marc Edelman, Anthropology; Jen Gaboury, Women and Gender Studies; Ilya Geller, Graduate Student Association; Bernadette McCauley, History; Elke Nicolai, German; Rupal Oza, Women and Gender Studies; Sonali Perera, English; Catherine Raissiguier, Women and Gender Studies; Jill Schwedler, Political Science; John Wallach Political Science; Sarah Ward, Hunter Library; Meghann D. Williams, English

WHEREAS On September 5, 2017 the Trump administration officially rescinded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): temporary protections for childhood arrival immigrants, with a six month delay for current recipients, and

WHEREAS, according to the American Association of University Professors, 576,000 of the approximately 800,000 individuals with DACA status are enrolled in college,<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS there are hundreds of DACA students enrolled at Hunter College and thousands across the CUNY system, and

WHEREAS the rescission of DACA threatens to significantly disrupt the education of these students at Hunter and across the country, and

WHEREAS the rescission of DACA will adversely impact our college and university community, and institutions of higher education across the country, while also disrupting families, neighborhoods, communities, and workplaces across New York and across the United States,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Hunter College Senate denounces the Trump administration's decision to rescind DACA, and

Be it further resolved that the Hunter College Senate reiterates its commitment to protecting and supporting students regardless of their immigration status as first stated in its "Resolution to make CUNY a Sanctuary University and Hunter College a Sanctuary Campus" approved on February 8, 2017, and

Be it finally resolved that the Hunter College Senate thanks the President, the Administration, and the foundation for its support of DACA students and requests that the Hunter College Administration develop a detailed plan (to be presented to the Senate) to implement the above referenced Senate Resolution (especially items 3, 4 and 7) and specifically, to the extent possible, to protect DACA students in light of new

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<sup>1</sup> AAUP statement, "Trump is Wrong to Eliminate DACA." Emailed September 5, 2017.

threats.

**"Resolution to make CUNY a *Sanctuary University* and Hunter College a *Sanctuary Campus*."**

**Sponsors:**

Jacqueline Brown, Anthropology; Anthony Browne, Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies; Sarah Chinn, English; Eduardo Contreras, History; Milagros Denis-Rosario, Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies; Marc Edelman, Anthropology; Jen Gaboury, Women and Gender Studies; Bernadette McCauley, History; Elke Nicolai, German; Jill Schwedler, Political Science; John Wallach Political Science; Sarah Ward, Hunter Library; Meg Williams, Graduate Student Association

**SECTION I**

WHEREAS the Hunter College values "learning in the liberal arts and sciences as a cornerstone of individual development and a vital foundation for a more just and inclusive society," and stresses "the significance of human diversity."

WHEREAS the Senate and our academic community and college and universities across the country are concerned about the recent increase in hate crimes and inflammatory language around the United States.

WHEREAS there have been repeated examples of threats against women, LGBTQAI-identified individuals, specific ethnic and religious groups, *Latino/as* and immigrants during and after a divisive presidential election.

WHEREAS Proposed immigration policies of the incoming presidential administration could undermine the safety and security of members of our educational community and their families, particularly those students and staff without the privileges of US citizenship.

WHEREAS Two internal 2011 memos indicate that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are subject to certain restrictions upon entering college campuses, and should avoid persecuting high school and college students.

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/prosecutorial-discretion-memo.pdf>

Whereas Enforcement actions covered by the policy include arrests, interviews, searches, and surveillance for the purposes of immigration enforcement.

WHEREAS a large number of universities and colleges throughout the country are declaring themselves to be “Sanctuary Campuses” to signal their continued commitment to protect all their members regardless of their immigration status.

## SECTION II

THEREFORE, the HUNTER College Senate, requests that Hunter College, the Chancellor, and the university administration take the following actions:

1. Develop a protocol to make CUNY a *Sanctuary University* and Hunter College a *Sanctuary Campus*, in order to protect the safety and security of our students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.
2. Ensure that the identities of undocumented members of our community continue to be protected.
3. Refuse all voluntary information sharing with ICE (U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) across all aspects of the University.
4. Instruct campus police to refrain from collaborating with ICE for the purposes of immigration enforcement.
5. Refuse ICE physical access to all land owned or controlled by the University.
6. Commit to providing adequate mental health services for our students, including mental health professionals who have competency in working with politically marginalized communities.
7. Increase administrative support to Student Affairs to assist DACA students and other students who lack the protections of citizenship on a strictly confidential basis. This should include counseling DACA students on their educational situations and advertise that such counseling services are available on a strictly confidential basis. It should also include providing for students and other members of the CUNY community immigration-related information and facilitating access to legal counsel. This could be done easily by establishing close working relationships with agencies that do offer such counsel and actively making referrals as needed. Free or low-cost legal support should be made available not just to students with DACA status, but also to undocumented students and to others who are out-of-status or facing different immigration problems.
8. Implement campus-wide training in de-escalation intervention techniques including for CUNY campus police.
9. Implement a forum for ongoing feedback from students, faculty and staff about campus climate and additional future actions to protect the safety and dignity of the CUNY community.
10. Take these measures during the current semester so that DACA students can be assured of institutional support.