RESOLUTION 16-22
A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY AS A SANCTUARY

29 NOV 2016 INTRODUCED BY LAUREN TOWNSEND & GAR YEUNG, GPSF DIVERSITY CHAIRS, & ANGINELLE ALABANZA, GPSF CHIEF OF STAFF
29 NOV 2016 REFERRED TO GPSF RESOLUTIONS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
29 NOV 2016 PASSED 4-0 BY RESOLUTIONS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; REFERRED TO GPSF SENATE
06 DEC 2016 PASSED 40-4-1 BY GPSF SENATE

WHEREAS, during the course of the campaign for the 2016 United States presidential elections the president-elect proposed policies which negatively impact members of the UNC community, including the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants,

WHEREAS, members of the Carolina community fall under the category of “undocumented immigrants” commonly referred to as “undocumented students,”

WHEREAS, the election of a president who has promised to deport undocumented students and/or their families potentially endangers undocumented students’ status at the University and impacts their well-being, exacting an emotional and psychological toll due to the insecurity of their position if such policies should be enacted,

WHEREAS, any student paying for an education at the University—through scholarship, loan, or fees—has the right to pursue and complete their degree without living under the threat of deportation,

WHEREAS, University participation in attempts to deport undocumented students would contravene and undermine the University’s own values and policies, including its mission statement, its statement on the University’s “Core Diversity Values,” and its statement on non-discrimination,

WHEREAS, to the denial of services to students, by deportation or otherwise, on the basis of their national origin would be in direct contravention of the University’s and GPSF’s policies on non-discrimination, which include “national origin” as a protected category,
WHEREAS, current state statues do not prevent the creation of “sanctuary schools” as HB 318, which prohibits the adoption of sanctuary ordinances, only applies to counties and cities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT FEDERATION that the GPSF supports the efforts to recognize the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a sanctuary school and petitions the University’s administration to:

(1) reaffirm the University’s commitment to all of its students, faculty, and staff by issuing a public statement in support of undocumented students, staff, and faculty, as well as their families and communities,
(2) ensure a nondiscriminatory admissions process for undocumented students,
(3) guarantee student privacy by not releasing information regarding the immigration status of our students and community members,
(4) refuse to comply with immigration authorities regarding deportations or raids,
(5) invest in resources to train our campus community to be allies and to create a more inclusive environment for undocumented students, and
(6) proclaim the University a part of the network of sanctuary campuses that provide a refuge for students facing deportation proceedings, guaranteeing our students the right to complete their education at the University;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GPSF reaffirms its commitment to the University’s and GPSF’s statements on diversity, which include as protected categories age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GPSF, in its advocacy role for graduate and professional students at the University, shall…

(1) present these affirmations and petitions to the following persons or bodies at the University:
   (a) President Margaret Spellings,
   (b) the Board of Governors,
   (c) Chancellor Carol L. Folt,
   (d) Vice Chancellor Winston Crisp,
   (e) the Board of Trustees,
   (f) the Faculty Council,
   (g) the Employee Forum,
   (h) Student Congress, and
   (i) the Student Body President, Bradley Opere, and
(2) encourage them to issue similar statements in support of the sanctuary petition so that our University will maintain its commitment to diversity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GPSF, in its advocacy role for graduate and professional students at the University, shall…

(1) present these affirmations to the following members of the state government of North Carolina:
   (a) the Governor,
   (b) the Governor-elect,
(c) the Lieutenant Governor,
(d) the Speaker of the House of the General Assembly,
(e) the Senate President Pro Tempore of the General Assembly,
(f) the district representatives to the General Assembly, including Senator Valerie Foushee (District 23), Representative Verla Insko (District 56), and Representative Graig R. Meyer (District 50), and
(g) any other state officials deemed appropriate, and

(2) urge them to adopt legislation that recognizes the University’s commitment to diversity and supports the protection of undocumented students.

Done this day, the sixth of December two thousand and sixteen.

Brian A. Coussens  
G. Dylan Russell
Vice President of Internal Affairs  
President