



*Senate
2016-2017*

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SRSD041006

Sponsor/s: Madison Schultz, First Year Senator; Rafael Castellanos Welsh, Junior Senator; Carlo Juntilla, Junior Senator.

Co-Sponsor/s: Justin Chan, Senior Senator; Braxton Difuntorum, On-Campus Senator; Fiona Sutherland, School of Business Administration Senator; Sophie Hunter, First Year Senator; Andrew Lee, First Year Senator; Jose-Phillips Rangel, Off-Campus Senator.

Title: GSBA Resolution of Solidarity and Support for the Advancement of Undocumented Students at Gonzaga University.

Purpose: To issue an official statement of solidarity with undocumented students on campus and to propose renewed collaborative initiatives with the administration regarding the advancement of undocumented students.

Text:

Section 1: Whereas, solidarity among all members of the Gonzaga Student Body is embodied as a principal theme in the University's mission statement, which reads as follows, "*The Gonzaga experience fosters a mature commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable....*"

Section 2: Whereas, the Gonzaga Mission Statement defines the culture, outlook and aspirations of Gonzaga as a Jesuit institution. Moreover, the Gonzaga webpage, **Mission Values of Gonzaga University**, proceeds to define as to whom the responsibility for achieving the mission falls upon, "*The responsibility for achieving the mission is not restricted to Jesuits or to those*

engaged in Ministry; it is the responsibility of the University leadership and all who work and study at Gonzaga.”

Section 3: Whereas, the President of Gonzaga University, Thane McCulloh, issued an official statement of support and solidarity with undocumented students, along with refugees, in the following letter addressed to the Gonzaga community: **President’s Statement in Support of Vulnerable and Marginalized Peoples.**

Section 4: Whereas, the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities issued an official public statement of support for undocumented students, entitled **Statement of AJCU Presidents on Undocumented Students.** President Thane McCulloh, the President of Gonzaga University, signed this document in conjunction with the twenty-seven presidents of Jesuit colleges and universities across the nation. The statement listed the following measures in support of undocumented students:

- *To protect to the fullest extent of the law undocumented students on our campuses;*
- *To promote retention of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA);*
- *To support and stand with our students, faculty and staff regardless of their faith traditions*
- *To preserve the religious freedoms on which our nation was founded.*

Section 5: Whereas, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has proclaimed Life and Dignity of the Human Person as one of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. As clarified on USCCB.org, *“The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.”*

Section 6: Whereas, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued an official statement regarding human dignity in the pastoral letter, “Economic Justice for All,” (1986), which reads as follows, *“The dignity of the human person, realized in community with others, is the criterion against which all economic aspects of life must be measured.”*

Section 7: Whereas, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops proceeded to define the stance of the Catholic Church with regards to migration in the pastoral letter, **“Strangers No Longer”** (2003), which emphasized the need for a moral balance between a sovereign state’s right to recognize the integrity of its borders and the necessity of recognizing the ***human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants.***

Section 8: Whereas, the current GSBA President, Caleb Dawson, successfully advocated for the inclusion of “culture” to the Gonzaga University Mission Statement. In the proposal, President

Dawson utilized the following passage from *A Jesuit Education Reader* by George W. Traub, S.J.:

We must recognize that our world is increasingly aware of the rights as well as the diversity of cultures, and that each cultural group is properly asserting the qualities of its heritage. We need to respect these diverse cultures in their self-affirmation and to work along with them creatively. [...] Each stage of our formation programs should root us in the cultures of the people we serve. They should focus on sharing the life and experiences of those people and on trying to understand the culture from within. (George W. Traub, 2008, pp. 23-25)

Section 9: Whereas, the Gonzaga Student Body Association has traditionally advocated for a more inclusive community that recognizes the worth and potential of each individual within the institution. As such, it falls within the responsibility of GSBA to represent and, in some cases, speak for students whom are unable to have their voices acknowledged. In supporting undocumented students first as persons of infinite worth, and then as recipients of a Jesuit education, GSBA is therefore, *“sharing the life and experiences of those people....”*

Section 10: Whereas, the GSBA **Full Value Statement**, the official document that defines the five core principles that serve to guide and inspire the current administration, lists **Respect** and **Intentionality** among the five core principles. The two principles are defined as follows, *“Respect: Caring for everyone with dignity and civility. Intentionality: Taking the initiative to actively challenge and support the Gonzaga community through our respective roles.”*

Section 11: Whereas, Gonzaga University currently accepts, and serves, undocumented students on campus.

Section 12: Whereas, an official study conducted by Santa Clara University, Fairfield University, and Loyola University Chicago, entitled **Immigrant Student National Position Paper**, resulted in the following summary, *“...students report that they are much more comfortable revealing their status to their peers than university staff for fear of legal repercussions to themselves and their families.”* The study combined a mixed methods approach of intensive, structured interviews with students and faculty of selected Jesuit universities, as well as responses from key administrative faculty from each of the twenty-eight Jesuit universities.

Section 13: Whereas, the Immigrant Student National Paper outlined a series of best practice approaches to serving the needs of undocumented students in various sectors of campus life, including *Mission, Admissions, Financial Aid, On-Campus, and Career Counseling*. Gonzaga University has adopted the majority of proposals outlined in the paper, many of which are

currently in development or are practiced in one capacity or another. As such, the adoption of this multifaceted initiative solidifies the universities commitment to enabling access to a quality Jesuit education for all students, and that includes the advancement of undocumented students.

Section 14: Therefore, GSBA supports the initiatives established by the University to support and promote the advancement of undocumented students at Gonzaga University. Moreover, GSBA recognizes that the universities response to the current state of immigration, and the uncertain future of the Executive Orders regarding DACA, are still taking shape and in the early stages of development.

Section 15: Therefore, GSBA recommends that the university continue to publically support undocumented students on campus, while also continuing the practice of offering to meet privately with students to provide information, resources and reassurance.

Section 16: Therefore, in light of the anti-immigration stance adopted by the current U.S. President and his Cabinet, the uncertainty surrounding the future of DACA (as a program and for the recipients), and climate of caution and fear shared by many undocumented students with regards to their continued education at university, GSBA strongly recommends the issuance of official statements offered by the Gonzaga administration as to the safety of undocumented students on campus and the current legal protections offered to them as students at a private Jesuit university.

Section 17: Therefore, GSBA acknowledges the current collaboration and coalition-building between the student government and individual contacts and/or diversity working groups within the administration. Moreover, GSBA recommends a renewed commitment to collaborative efforts with the administration to continue the discussion regarding undocumented students, while also working to foster a comprehensive agenda on how to best improve upon, or facilitate, services for the advancement of undocumented students.

Section 18: Therefore, GSBA recognizes the value of an official statement of solidarity and support with undocumented students on campus, while concurrently acknowledging the importance of action to support the position of the student government. This resolution affirms GSBA's commitment of service to every member of the student body, especially for the marginalized and underrepresented members of our community. To this end, GSBA will stand **with** the undocumented members of our community and will work to ensure that their concerns, questions and aspirations are recognized and given proper consideration by the administration.

Section 19: Therefore, GSBA recommends that the current initiative between Senate and University Admissions regarding to the development of a scholarship fund for undocumented students, be designated as the first official action of the student government specifically in support of undocumented students on campus. As such, this initiative shall be given proper priority by subsequent GSBA administrations until its designated completion.

President

Speaker of the Senate