

UCSA Resolution in Support of Undocumented Students and Immigrant Communities



WHEREAS, in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security was established as an administrative department responsible for agencies such as the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement, and U.S. Coast Guard[1]; and,

WHEREAS, the number of deported individuals since the inception of the Department of Homeland Security is projected to total over 2 million by 2014, equivalent to the total number of deportations between 1982 to 1997[2]; and,

WHEREAS, Secure Communities is a federal program under the Department of Homeland Security "prioritizing the removal of criminal aliens"[3] but has since apprehended 3,600 U.S. Citizens, affected over 88,000 families with U.S. citizen members and forty-five percent of all individuals charged with removal proceedings did not have a criminal history[4]; and,

WHEREAS, a vast majority of people kept in detention centers and put into deportation proceedings are men of color in California of which half are under the age of thirty[5]; and,

WHEREAS, deportations have a destabilizing effect on communities, families and especially immigrant youth wherein "the health, education and long term prospect of these youth are imperiled by the traumatic effects of being separated from a parent"[6]; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Janet Napolitano was the former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and will succeed Mark Yudof as President of the University of California; and,

WHEREAS, the nomination process of Ms. Napolitano by the UC Regents was done in a manner that did not include all stakeholders of the University of California; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of transparency in the nomination and appointment process of Ms. Napolitano did not follow the statement on Government of Universities and Colleges wherein "the selection of a chief administrative officer should follow a cooperative search by the governing board and the faculty, taking in the opinion of others who are appropriately interested;"[7] and,

WHEREAS, former Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, was appointed by the UC Regents with the sole dissenting vote of Student Regent, Cinthia Flores, on September 18th as president of the University of California[8],

WHEREAS, the Council of the University of California Faculty Association (CUCFA) attested to the exclusion of UC faculty members in Ms. Napolitano's nomination process[9]; and,

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WHEREAS, UAW Local 2865, the UC Student Workers Union representing academic employees in the University of California, “[calls] on a president devoted to rebuilding the capacity for teaching, research and learning -- not a specialist in cyber surveillance, law enforcement and border security”[10]; and,

WHEREAS, undocumented students and allies rejected the appointment of Ms. Napolitano as UC President through official press releases, petition letters (Appendix A) and direct action during the UC Regents meeting in San Francisco on July 28, 2013[11], but have been continuously silenced throughout the process; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California Student Association (UCSA) officially “recognizes that the fears that undocumented students have expressed are real and legitimate regarding their safety, access and retention”[12]; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Napolitano has consistently deemed current immigration policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security a success[13] despite serious errors in apprehension priorities and detention procedures [14]; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Office of the President is to “[help] give shape to a vision for the university, managing the activities that are central to UC’s public mission and essential to the idea of one university”[15]; and,

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 65,000 undocumented high school graduates each year[16], roughly 600 students are able to attend college in the respective UC campuses by qualifying for AB 540[17]; and,

WHEREAS, the passage of Assembly Bill 540, 130 and 131 have allowed undocumented students greater accessibility at the University of California; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California campuses that provide aid to undocumented students genuinely reflect the California Master Plan for Higher Education in which “the Master Plan created a system that combined exceptional quality with broad access to higher education”[19]; and,

WHEREAS, students across the UC campuses demand a UC President that is transparent and accessible, that can champion the needs of all students, including undocumented youth and immigrant communities, and that can preserve the ideals of a public university; and,

WHEREAS, undocumented students from various UC Campuses have created a list of priorities for University of California Office of the President:

1. Hold open town halls at both the Northern and Southern California region for the UC campuses and include meetings with undocumented student organizations during the campus visits,

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2. Uphold that UC campuses will maintain a Sanctuary status and safe space for undocumented students. As a sanctuary the UC:
 - a. Will prohibit the use of UC funds or resources to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement with arrests and the gathering or dissemination of information regarding the immigration status of an individual in all UC Campuses.
 - b. Cannot disclose information regarding an individual's immigration status.
 - c. Cannot condition services based on an individual's immigration status.
 - d. Will promote the employment of undocumented students on campus by providing them with an ID Number that will function as a work permit.
3. Hold mandatory annual sensitivity training for UCPD to mitigate racial profiling
4. Ensure that the Secure Communities program is not implemented on the UC campuses,
5. Promote general educational courses that include content on the undocumented/immigrant experience across all UC campuses,
6. Have mandatory staff specializing on recruitment and retention services for AB 540 students on every UC campus, based on the models of the Undocumented Student Programs at UC Los Angeles and UC Berkeley
7. Prohibit the use of non-UC affiliated riot police on our campuses from interfering with student acts of civil disobedience, protests, rallies, and sit ins, particularly the use of S.W.A.T. teams and other non-UC police departments.
8. Have UC staff training on the issues that AB540 / undocumented students experience,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of California Student Association will pressure the UC Office of the President and UC officials to uphold the aforementioned priorities and demands; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of California Student Association continue to advocate for undocumented students, immigrant communities, and allies; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of California urge the UCSA Board of Directors to hold Ms. Janet Napolitano accountable to the fulfillment of the aforementioned priorities and demands; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of California Student Association President work with the UC Council of Presidents to communicate the demands taken by the University of California Student Association to the UC Office of the President; and

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THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of California Student Association stand in support of UC Student-Regent Cinthia Flores in her objection to the appointment of Ms. Janet Napolitano as UC President; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the University of California Student Association support undocumented students, immigrant communities, and allies, and for the reasons outlined above, the UCSA believes it is critical for Ms. Napolitano to fulfill the aforementioned demands in order to actualize the mission of the University of California Office of the President.

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Appendix A USAC Council, Take a Stance Against Napolitano September 7, 2012
To the Undergraduate Student Association Council,



As the Undergraduate Student Association Council (USAC) and the elected officials of all undergraduate student at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), we, your constituents, urge you to take a public stance against the appointment of Janet Napolitano as the President of the University of California. We expect your solidarity with the large undocumented community on our campus and their allies. UCLA is one of the largest and most influential UC campus and we feel that it is essential for USAC to take a stance on this appointment.

With the significant number of undocumented students enrolled at UCLA and Ms. Napolitano's legacy of overseeing a record number of deportations, her appointment jeopardizes the safe educational environment that we expect of our university campus. Ms. Napolitano's implementation of the Secure Communities Program is responsible for the deportation of many non-criminal undocumented immigrants and, consequently, the separation of many undocumented immigrant families. Considering the emotional stress that undocumented students and their family members will feel knowing that the person responsible for tearing their families apart is in charge of their future is incomparable. Her appointment will indisputably negatively impact the campus climate of our undocumented students, which make up a crucial part of our campus diversity.

As the appointment of Janet Napolitano is inevitable, we urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure that we keep her accountable to all UC students: in promoting safer campus climates, working with the undocumented students across all campuses, and ensuring the success of all UC students.

In solidarity, Samahang Pilipino

Afrikan Student Union

Queer Alliance

Asian Pacific Coalition

American Indian Student Association IDEAS at UCLA

MEChA de UCLA

Vietnamese Student Union

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- [1] U.S.Department of Homeland Security, "Organizational Chart", Apr. 10, 2013, <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/dhs-orgchart.pdf>.
- [2] Tanya Boza, "Mapping the Shift from Border to Interior Enforcement of Immigrant Laws during the Obama Presidency," January 2013, http://stopdeportationsnow.blogspot.com/2013/01/mapping-shift-from-border-to-interior_7232.html.
- [3] U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Secure Communities", http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/.
- [4] Aarti Kohli, Peter Markowitz, and Lisa Chavez, "Secure Communities by the Numbers," Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, Oct. 2011, http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/Secure_Communities_by_the_Numbers.pdf.
- [5] http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/BMOC_Secure_Communities_Program_FINAL.pdf
- [6] Aarti Kohli and Lisa Chavez, "The Federal Secure Communities Program & Young Men of Color in California," Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, Jan. 2013, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/25/opinion/the-trauma-of-deportation.html?_r=0.
- [6]*Titles for identification purposes only
- [7] American Association of University Professors, "Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities," 1996, <http://www.aaup.org/file/statement-on-government.pdf>.
- [8] "Regents appoint UC's first woman president" <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/29782>
- [9] The Council of UC Faculty Association, "CUFCA Statement on the selection of Janet Napolitano as Incoming UC President," 2013, http://cucfa.org/news/2013_july16.php.
- [10] UC Student Workes Union, "On the Recent Nomination of Janet Napolitano as UC President," 2013, <http://www.uaw2865.org/?p=3365>.
- [11] Nanette Asimov, "UC Regents Appoint Janet Napolitano amid Protest," July 2013, <http://www.sfgate.com/education/article/UC-regents-appoint-Napolitano-amid-protest-4673527.php>.
- [12] From the statement of the UCSA President.
- [13] Elise Foley, "Janet Napolitano Defends Record on Immigration in Farewell Speech," Aug. 2013, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/27/janet-napolitano_n_3822907.html
- [14] Aarti Kohli, Peter Markowitz, and Lisa Chavez.
- [15] University of California Office of the President,, "Our Mission," Regents of the University of California, 2012, <http://www.ucop.edu/mission/index.html>.
- [16] Robert Gonzales, "Young Lives on Hold: The College Dream of Undocumented Students," <http://advocacy.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/young-lives-on-hold-summary-cb.pdf>.
- [17] University of California Office of the President, "Annual Report on AB 540 Tuition Exemption 2011-2012 Academic Year," June 2013, http://www.ucop.edu/student-affairs/_files/ab540_annualrpt_2012.pdf.
- [18] IDEAS at UCLA, "What is IDEAS?", University of California, Los Angeles, 2001-2013, <http://ideasla.org/index/>.
- [19] University of California Office of the President, "California Master Plan for Higher Education," 1960, http://ucfuture.universityofcalifornia.edu/documents/ca_masterplan_summary.pdf

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