



“Undocumented Students Support Working Group”

Proposed Motion: Approve to create an Undocumented Students Support Working Group

Sponsor: Erick Yanzon, ASVP for Diversity

Persons of Contact: Sabrina Houck

Date: 08/17/17

Background & Context

On January 2017, the AS Board of Directors passed a resolution regarding undocumented student services. In it, it says that “the AS commits to keep working to offer more services for undocumented Students on campus, such as providing legal services, scholarships, and training for their staff.” This proposal is to create a working group that will discuss ways to support undocumented students and their working eligibility on campus. Currently, the only way undocumented students are eligible to be paid is if they have DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). However, DACA is a very long and complicated process, and filing for DACA can be a big risk for a lot of families. This group will be exploring ways to pay undocumented students for the work that they were hired/elected to do. Other institutions have figured out equitable ways to do this, and this group will be doing research and work with the Personnel Office, Human Resources, etc.

Summary of Proposal

I propose that the AS creates an Undocumented Students Support Working Group that the AS VP for Diversity will lead. Membership of this group can be up to 7 individuals, but anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Recommended members of the group includes Emmanuel Camarillo, Academic Support Adviser in Student Outreach Services who work specifically with undocumented students, a representative from WWU Blue Group, the Coordinator of Equity and Identity Resource Centers, a faculty representative, and two students-at-large. An AS Board Assistant may be needed for taking minutes. This group will be an advisory group for the AS Board and will not require any quorum or voting rights. This group will act as a taskforce and can be charged up to the discretion of the AS VP for Diversity.

Membership

AS Vice President for Diversity, Chair
SOS Academic Support Adviser with focus on Undocumented Students
1 Representative from WWU Blue Group
1 Faculty Representative
2 Students-At-Large
Coordinator of Equity and Identity Resource Centers, Advisory
AS Board Assistant, Secretary

Rationale

This workgroup is essential to the work of the AS because the AS made a commitment to support undocumented students, and making the AS a sanctuary organization. Undocumented Students are very vulnerable especially with what’s currently happening in the federal government, and the AS and WWU needs to have a proactive approach to support and protect undocumented students, as it claims to promote inclusion and diversity. This group will not only find ways to pay undocumented students for their work, but also expand and create more resources for them.