

Proposition: 6-20/21

Title: A Memorial requesting New Mexico State University self-declare as a Sanctuary Campus

Date Submitted: Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Sponsor(s): Nichole Hamilton (THTR), Manal Hamzeh (GSS), Christopher Brown (GEOG), Cynthia Bejarano (GSS), Judith Flores Carmona (HNRS), David Ortiz (SOC), Susan Beck (LIB), Carol Flinchbaugh (MGT), James McAteer (ASTR), Stephen Hanson (EPPWS)

Proposed Committee: University Affairs

Assigned Committee: Long Range Planning

Prior Approvals:

Proposal Type (please check one):

- Memorial
- Proposition to change policy (please include ARP/RPM reference(s) from <https://arp.nmsu.edu/>)
- Proposition for curriculum addition/change (please include all curriculum change forms and signature pages as outlined here: <https://provost.nmsu.edu/forms/>)
- Other (please describe below)

Proposal:

While there is no set definition to the term Sanctuary Campus, it is known to refer to an institution that puts policies in place to protect undocumented students and other persons who lack the protection of US citizenship. Although no higher education institution can fully guarantee complete protection, being a land grant university within a Mexico border city as well as catering to the education of international students, it is imperative that New Mexico State University do all within our means to assure a safe place for learning for all in a time of growing intolerance.

Whereas, New Mexico State University is committed to student success and social mobility, and

Whereas four percent of the New Mexico State University system is categorized as Non-Resident Alien¹ by the Office of Institutional Analysis (see Resource, NMSU Office of Institutional Analysis), and

¹ This term is used by the NMSU Office of Institutional Analysis as well as the United States government. There is no alternative language to define a person who is not a U.S. citizen.

Whereas the NMSU Faculty Senate understands that the United States of America is a nation founded and maintained by immigrant communities of different cultural backgrounds, and

Whereas the NMSU Police Department states “some of the people at greatest risk of human trafficking, fraud, extortion, domestic violence, and related crimes are international students and people who are undocumented (see Supporting Document, “Letter to the Community” from Stephen Lopez, 2017), and

Whereas on June 15, 2020, the United States Supreme Court rejected a challenge to California’s sanctuary law which would allow law enforcement to aid federal agents in taking immigrants into custody and possibly deported when released from jail, and

Whereas, NMSU is a university built on the land of indigenous people who lived in what was, before 1880, called Mexico, and is honor bound to provide sanctuary to those people's descendents, and

Whereas on September 3, 2020, the Faculty Senate approved Proposition 02-20/21, a Memorial to support the elimination of systematic discrimination at NMSU,

The faculty senate urges the administration to consider supporting our students, faculty, and staff who lack the protections of US citizenship (including undocumented persons and DACA recipients) by examining the following options:

- self-declare New Mexico State University a Sanctuary Campus
- increase transparency of NMSU’s relationship with the Department of Customs and Border Patrol (including the existing Criminal Justice Department contract)
- create an ad-hoc committee that will establish policies for NMSU regarding policy language, training programs, safe spaces, and other resources to support Sanctuary status

Rationale: The mission of the New Mexico State University system as reflected on the website (see Resource, About NMSU) is “to serve the diverse needs of the state.” If we are to fulfill this mission through “comprehensive programs of education, research, extension and outreach, and public service,” and uphold our values including Leadership, Access, Diversity & Inclusion, and Student-Centered, we must acknowledge the needs of our at risk population and provide a safe space that allows all the opportunity to “foster learning, inquiry, diversity and inclusion, social mobility, and service to the broader community.” This memorial further supports a robust university and our slogan, “BE BOLD. Shape the future.”

Supporting Documents and Resources:

Letter to NMSU from Chief of Police, Stephen Lopez:

<https://www.nmsupolice.com/files/2017/09/Letter-to-community-on-International-Students-and-DACA-Students-Sept-8-2017.pdf>

NMSU Office of Institutional Analysis: <https://oia.nmsu.edu/>

About NMSU: https://nmsu.edu/about_nmsu/index.html

Proposition 02-20/21, a Memorial to support the elimination of systematic discrimination at NMSU: https://facultysenate.nmsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/09/02-2021-Memorial-to-support-the-elimination-of-systemic-discrimination-at-NMSU_9.4.2020.pdf