

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:

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

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

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 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 descendants, 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

- self-declare New Mexico State University a Sanctuary Campus
- reevaluate the Criminal Justice Department's contract with the Department of Customs and Border Patrol
- add language to its policy prohibiting NMSU faculty and staff from calling the Border Patrol or ICE on a person that is undocumented or a person that is suspected of being undocumented
- provide support for any DACA and Undocumented Student that are part of the NMSU system including, but no limited to; nondiscrimination, legal support, and scholarships equivalent to financial aid.

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