

FAQ—Senate Resolution on Diversity and Universal Safety

What is a Faculty Senate Resolution? A senate resolution is a document that expresses the opinion and resolve of the NAU Faculty Senate. It is generally used to advise the NAU administration on faculty positions. Faculty Senate represents the faculty at NAU. On December 5, the NAU Faculty Senate voted unanimously to pass the Resolution on Diversity and Universal Safety. This Resolution is not a change in policy, but rather a reinstatement of the commitments that NAU already has in place.

Why is *this* Resolution necessary? First, hate crimes (speech, graffiti, harassment, intimidation) have risen dramatically since early 2016 in our nation's schools, including in Arizona. We resolve to educate our community in order to improve this climate, and to address these crimes when and where they happen. Second, those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are in danger of losing their status and could face deportation. Over 34,000 young Arizonans have DACA.

What is DACA? An executive action initiated by President Obama in 2012 that deferred deportation for young undocumented Americans. To apply, one must have been brought to the US before the age of 16, lived in the US before 2007, be enrolled or graduated from school, and have no felonies or misdemeanors. Since a 2015 Superior Court ruling, DACA students have been eligible for in-state tuition. This Resolution focuses on DACA students and ALL students who might be harassed based on a variety of characteristics.

But what about the law?

The Resolution does NOT call for the university to break any laws, harbor criminals, or interfere with due legal process. ⁱ

What does the Resolution advise? The Resolution is both symbolic and practical. It communicates the following core principles:

1. Teaching, learning, and intellectual inquiry are stifled in an environment plagued with harassment, intimidation, and fear
2. Inclusion for ALL students, faculty, and staff across difference, orientation, and immigrant status is an NAU goal that can only be achieved through mindful implementation

The Resolution recommends the following actions: *

1. The creation of a Student Legal Resource Center that provides students with accurate information regarding their legal, civil, and financial rights
2. The implementation of an ongoing forum to assess campus climate issues
3. The commitment to finding in-state tuition for DACA students should they lose in-state status

What is a “sanctuary” school? The Resolution identifies NAU as a sanctuary campus. In doing so, we join over 300 other institutions for higher education who passed similar measures. *A Sanctuary for Higher Education is a university, college, or community college that provides all students, including undocumented and DACAmented students, the opportunity to study and learn in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and fear of deportation.*

What can I do? The Resolution implies that the NAU community will act *within the law* to help protect vulnerable populations, indeed ALL our students, from harassment, intimidation, and deportation. Included here is a list of resources for you and your students.

US Citizenship & Immigration-DACA <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>

NAU Inclusion & Multicultural Services
<https://nau.edu/ims/dreamers/daca-students/>

DACA Scholarship Information
<http://www.scholarshipsaz.org/daca/>

Arizona Dreamers in Action on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaDREAMersInAction/>

NAU Inclusion & Multicultural Services
<https://nau.edu/ims/>

NAU Martin Springer Institute (tolerance and global engagement)
<http://nau.edu/Martin-Springer/>

NAU Police Department (hate crimes and biased-based incidents)
<https://nau.edu/police/hate-crimes---bias-based-incidents/>

LGBTQA Resources & Support
<https://nau.edu/lgbtqa/>

Student Diversity Organizations
<http://nau.edu/diversity-nau/student-organizations/>

*If you would like to get involved with any of the actions recommended in the **Resolution on Diversity and Universal Safety**, please contact Gioia.Woods@nau.edu

The **Resolution on Diversity and Universal Safety** is available at <http://nau.edu/faculty-senate/>

For more information on the passage of the Resolution, see the *Arizona Daily Sun* article from December 6, 2016

http://m.azdailysun.com/news/local/nau-faculty-senate-resolves-to-support-dreamers/article_fb0489b0-0741-5935-b5eb-55184992e90d.html

ⁱ According to an internal 2011 memo of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, officers are subject to certain restrictions upon entering college campuses and churches without authorization. (<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>)