

Resolution in Support of Drivers Licenses

WHEREAS, the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) of the University of New Mexico is the representative body of the graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS, the graduate and professional students of the University of New Mexico have established the GPSA constitution to preserve and protect the rights of the students of this University; and

WHEREAS, GPSA upholds this Constitution and recognizes the following rights: the right to a complete and liberal education, the right *to access* the resources necessary to promote that education, the right to freely express ideas and thoughts that are a product of that education, and the right *to participate* in the processes and institutions that will ensure this education remains worthy and acceptable; and

WHEREAS, there is no federal or state law that prohibits the admission of undocumented immigrants to U.S. colleges or universities, public or private, nor does federal or state law require students to prove citizenship in order to enter U.S. institutions of higher education.¹

WHEREAS, pertinent proposed changes from the New Mexico state legislature to amend current policies that allow undocumented immigrants to receive drivers licenses, register their vehicles and be insured drivers would adversely impact undocumented students at the university; and

WHEREAS, 70,000 members of the UNM community commute to and from campus on a daily basis,² and whereas many of these community members are students or professionals whose employment supports institutional operations vital for the quality education of all students; and

WHEREAS, GPSA supports policy and action that contributes to the safety of all; and

WHEREAS, GPSA recognizes that an individual's ability to receive a state-issued driver's license increases the safety, well-being, and accountability of all commuters in our University population; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that GPSA supports the rights of all graduate and professional students of the University of New Mexico to apply for and obtain a state-issued drivers license or identification card for purposes of equitable access to all University resources requiring said identification, such as the application for a Lobo Card, which grants access to services paid for by student fees including access to Libraries and Recreational services, Student Union offices, etc.; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Mexico and the New Mexico state legislature, the UNM Board of Regents, the President of the University of New Mexico, the UNM Office of Government and Community Relations, the Vice-President of Student Affairs and the Vice-President for Equity and Inclusion.

¹ College Board- Advising Undocumented Students: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/financial-aid/undocumented-students>

² Dale Dekker- Lobo Development