

RESOLUTION

University Council, The University of Georgia

To request that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia remove the ban on undocumented students at Georgia's institutions that did not admit all academically qualified applicants, General Policy 4.1.6 which reads: "Admission of Persons Not Lawfully Present in the United States A person who is not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible for admission to any University System institution which, for the two most recent academic years, did not admit all academically qualified applicants (except for cases in which applicants were rejected for non-academic reasons)."

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents' new policy, which denies Georgia's undocumented students the opportunity to apply at the USG's most selective universities, is a step back from the previous practice of allowing all students to compete for admission based upon individual merit, a practice meant to ensure a continuum of high quality education from K-12 to post secondary education in the state; AND

WHEREAS, the same policy violates the principles of non-discrimination espoused in BOR policy 4.1.2 which are fundamental to the proper functioning of a free and open society, and tarnishes the state's and the USG's national reputations by setting us apart from the inclusive practices of our peer and aspiring institutions, thus making it more difficult to recruit and retain faculty and students; AND

WHEREAS, the policy burdens USG institutions with political issues that are aimed at less than one quarter of a percent (.16%) of our student population, diverts admissions resources, and denies high-achieving Georgia high school graduates the chance to compete with out-of-state and international students for admission;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University Council of UGA:

1. Views the ban on undocumented residents of Georgia from Georgia's institutions that did not admit all academically qualified applicants as fundamentally against the mission of promoting education;
2. Affirms the words of former Board of Regents Vice Chairman Felton Jenkins, "They worked hard and earned their spot. They could help make the state a better place" (AJC 10/13/2010), and in this spirit urges the Board of Regents to remove the ban and return to their former practice of a merit based admissions process for all; AND
3. Shall send copies of this resolution to each member of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.