

## Resolution to Establish Western Illinois University Task Force on Campus Policies to Support Immigrant Students

- Whereas,** Western Illinois University (WIU) welcomes and supports students without regard to their citizenship or immigration status and will continue to admit students in a manner that complies with our nondiscrimination policy and without regard to a student's race, national origin, religion, citizenship, or any other protected characteristic, and WIU is committed to providing an environment in which all admitted students can pursue their studies and careers and graduate successfully; and
- Whereas,** Federal law protects student privacy rights, and state statutes provide broad privacy protections to all students, faculty, staff, and other employees of Western Illinois University; and
- Whereas,** Ensuring that WIU is safe and inviting for all students and their families will facilitate the physical safety and emotional well-being of all students in the University and is paramount to a student's ability to achieve; and
- Whereas,** This safe and inviting environment, as well as the learning environment and educational setting, may be disrupted by the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents or other immigration agents who come onto University property or conduct activities in and around WIU campuses to remove students or obtain information about students or their family members for the purposes of enforcement; and
- Whereas,** Students' abilities to achieve may be undermined by the removal of their family members during ICE raids and arrests, and WIU should have in place policies and procedures to protect and provide emotional counseling and legal support for such students, and relevant faculty, staff, administrators, and other employees should be trained on such procedures; and
- Whereas,** Involving campus police in enforcing federal civil immigration law could create the perception that they are immigration agents and decrease students' likelihood of cooperating with campus police based on fears that this would lead to their deportation or the deportation of family members; and
- Whereas,** Primary jurisdiction over federal immigration laws does not rest with campus police or any other state or local law enforcement agency; community trust is essential in allowing campus police to serve the University; and campus police's limited resources should not be diverted from the critical mission of keeping our students safe; and
- Whereas,** No written or federal law mandates that local colleges/universities assist ICE in the enforcement of immigration laws; and
- Whereas,** Some cities, counties, schools, and higher education institutions have adopted policies that limit entanglement with ICE and resist any government action that may lead to the discovery of a person's immigration status; and
- Whereas,** ICE's longstanding policy states that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes schools and college/university campuses, without special permission by specific federal law enforcement officials, unless exigent circumstances exist;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the WIU Faculty Senate urges the administration of Western Illinois University to convene a task force dedicated to investigating, considering and creating policy as appropriate regarding the following:

- Limiting the sharing of student information with federal immigration authorities
- Restricting immigration agents' access to WIU campuses
- Prohibiting campus security from collaborating with federal immigration authorities for the purposes of enforcement
- Providing resources and information for immigrant students and their families