

December 2, 2016

Proposed American Studies Resolution on Sanctuary

*Whereas*, A guiding belief at SUNY Old Westbury is that students and educators belong to a diverse community which advances knowledge and undertakes social justice in an inclusive environment.

*Whereas*, Dr. O'Sullivan reported Dr. Butts' statement at the recent Senate meeting, declaring SUNY Old Westbury as a sanctuary campus.

*Whereas*, Statements of solidarity from university leadership hearten us, and we invite further dialogue and suggestions about how to put our values into practice as a community.

*Whereas*, a formal statement from Dr. Butts, in writing, affirming this declaration of Old Westbury as a sanctuary campus will provide much needed comfort for members of our community who face imminent discrimination, violence, and deportation.

*Be it resolved that*, the president's office circulate a public statement that declares SUNY Old Westbury a sanctuary campus, by virtue of which our institution reaffirms its support and protection to those in our community who have been particularly threatened and are increasingly vulnerable to changes in federal policies: immigrants, especially those who are undocumented, people of color, Muslims, LGBTQ groups, refugees, and women.

*Be it further resolved that* the SUNY Old Westbury administration immediately develop and implement a protocol for the protection of our community by taking the following steps:

- Refusing to comply with immigration authorities regarding deportations or raids.
- Restricting University Police from inquiring about immigration status and addresses and preventing collaboration with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Preventing law enforcement agencies from conducting raids on campus without a warrant.
- Collaborating with students, staff and faculty to raise awareness about how to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable community members.
- Suggesting legal counsel to community members under threat of detention and/or deportation.
- Identifying sources of student aid and loans for undocumented community members.
- Ensuring privacy by refusing to release the immigration status and addresses of students, faculty, and staff.

- Assigning a specific office and specific administrators who will assist our DACA students and other students who lack the privilege of citizenship.
- Identifying mental health professionals and community advocacy organizations who have experience and competency in working with marginalized groups and trauma in relation to family separation, deportation, and discrimination.
- Providing educational forums and the circulation of informational materials that raise the awareness of our campus community around these issues.

*Be it further resolved that* these measures affirm our ongoing sense of obligation to protect the values of SUNY Old Westbury, to ensure access to higher education, and to maintain our responsibility to our community. We cannot afford to be silent or complacent under the grave threats to SUNY Old Westbury's mission of justice and inclusion.

Submitted to the Faculty Senate, December 2, 2016