

"WHEREAS, the current out-of-state tuition rates place unequitable financial strain on undocumented childhood arrivals in Florida, deterring qualified students from applying for admission or continuing their studies at University of Florida,

AND WHEREAS, this Faculty Senate has a commitment to maintaining equality of access to higher education for all qualified Florida students,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida supports in-state tuition rates for undocumented students who have graduated from Florida High Schools, and supports adoption of a local policy of Tuition Equity by the University of Florida Board of Trustees."

Accompanying information.

Timeliness
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- Students have organized to bring up this issue at the Board of Trustees' upcoming December 6th meeting.
- 8 out of the top 15 public universities have passed this measure, as has Florida International University.
- UF Faculty Senate's voice of support will carry a lot of weight at the BOT meeting.

Legality and Political Prudence of the Issue
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- Florida International University, which has already enacted a local Tuition Equity measure through their Board of Trustees, has had legal linguists look at the language that outlines state requirements for residency and has deemed the full legality of passing a local Tuition Equity measure. They've concluded that federal immigration status does not interfere with a university's ability to allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition.
- As of June 2013, 18 other states have enacted tuition equity laws, including California, Texas and New York. Our State Legislature will not move on this issue without hearing from us.
- On Nov 20, at the meeting Alachua County Legislative Delegation with Citizens where President Machen gave an address, the Santa Fe Community College president spoke about his support of tuition equity and said that President Machen supported tuition equity as well.
- As an institution of higher education, we should seize this opportunity to expand education access and affordability to all qualified students.

Informative Background on the Issue:
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- In 2013, Florida is the home of over seven hundred thousand undocumented immigrants and every year thousands of undocumented students graduate from Florida High Schools.

· According to the office of Student Financial Affairs, the estimated cost of out-of-state tuition for the 2013-2014 academic year is \$28,548, which is over four times as much as the estimated cost of in-state tuition. These costs place significant financial strain on undocumented students who attend the University of Florida and deter potential students from applying for admission.

· The U.S. News and World Report ranked the University of Florida the 15th public University in the country and 8 out of these 15 top public institutions have adopted in-state tuition policies for undocumented students.

· This Faculty Senate has a commitment to expanding and maintaining equality of access to higher education for all qualified Florida students.

· Due to the unaffordability of an out-of-state tuition, undocumented students are more likely to drop out, thus increasing the University of Florida's drop-out rate if tuition policies remain the same.

· President Machen publicly stated in 2010 his support for implementing tuition equity at the University of Florida: "Education is a human right, and students, regardless of citizenship status, should have the ability to better themselves and pursue their dreams in Institutions of higher education and becoming productive and engaged members of society. Their education can only benefit the economy and community in Florida".

· The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) was enacted in 1973 by the Florida Legislature and is funded through a combination of state funds primarily generated from sales tax revenue and property tax revenue. Undocumented students living in Florida pay both sales and property taxes and therefore contribute to Florida's education system, yet do not receive the benefits of an in-state tuition.