



**BOARD OF REGENTS OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA**

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Senator Joshua McKoon
18 Capitol Square
319-A CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Senator McKoon:

Please know I share the concerns you raised in your Sept. 5, 2018, letter to me. Although federal law prevents me from sharing educational information regarding the particular student you mentioned, I can tell you that my staff became aware of a similar situation in May 2018. At that time, my office worked with Georgia State University (GSU) staff to verify that all students were being properly charged tuition based upon their residential status.

Unfortunately, the review indicated that a few students had not received the correct designation during the admissions process. This led to them being inappropriately classified as eligible for in-state tuition. GSU has corrected the errors. Those students are now classified properly as "out-of-state" for tuition purposes. Additionally, GSU has developed a plan that will prevent this misclassification from occurring again.

The University System of Georgia (USG) regularly reviews institutional compliance with Board policy requirements as well as the federal and state laws that require us to charge out-of-state tuition to undocumented students.

Our most recent April 2017 report reviewed the verification of lawful presence process for 82,849 new enrollees in USG institutions. We verified 58,005 of these students through the U.S. Department of Education, while 24,844 were verified through a manual process. Our audit office sampled 1,778 of the 24,844 manual verifications and found 18 files lacking adequate documentation. Those students were either dis-enrolled or a hold was placed on their account. Our next USG-wide audit is scheduled for Spring 2019.

The Board of Regents remains committed to complying with state and federal law as it relates to undocumented students who attend a college within the USG. In 2012, when then-President Obama announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Board policy remained consistent with the law, i.e., that DACA students are not eligible for in-state tuition. As I am sure you are aware, the Office of the Attorney General is currently litigating this determination.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me as we all work together to create a more educated Georgia.

Sincerely,

Steve Wrigley
Chancellor, University System of Georgia