



OFFICE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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Open letter to the UT community:

On January 27, 2017, The White House issued the executive order, *Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry in to the United States*. This order immediately suspended the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries. The Executive Order led to widespread discussion and concern for many members of the UT community and their families.

On January 31, 2017, the Faculty Council Executive Committee presented the following resolution, *Resolution Against the Immigration Ban*, to the Faculty Council for ratification and it passed by an overwhelming majority. Subsequently, the resolution was sent to all members of the General Faculty so that those who wished to do so could also endorse it. 784 faculty members signed their names in affirmation of the resolution.

Resolution Against the Immigration Ban

Teaching and learning are dependent upon an environment of mutual respect wherein the free exchange of ideas takes place without fear. Each person is a valued contributor to this exchange regardless of country of origin or religious belief. We affirm our commitment to a university community and a country that welcome the best teachers and students, the best colleagues, collaborators, and scholars from around the world. We deplore as inimical to these values the Executive Order from the President of the United States restricting travel from seven majority-Muslim nations. (Executive Order, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." January 27, 2017). This Executive Order creates a climate of mistrust and separation in stark contrast to a university environment that encourages collaboration, research, and discovery, and an openness to new ideas. More broadly, this executive order erodes core values of our nation by encouraging discrimination and by rejecting our tradition of welcoming immigrants and refugees. We, the Faculty of the University of Texas at Austin, will continue to work with and support our students, our administration and staff, and our political leaders to oppose such discrimination, to foster a welcoming and diverse educational environment, and to defend our nation's founding principles of liberty and human rights.

At the March 6, 2017 meeting of the Faculty Council, the following resolution was presented and unanimously approved:

Resolution in Support of Undocumented and DACA Students

The University of Texas at Austin guarantees all rights afforded to its students under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Therefore, be it resolved, that undocumented and DACA students, as members of our University community, are included in this protection under FERPA.

In the face of continued concerns for human rights and welfare, and in support of freedom from all forms of discrimination, the members of the Faculty Council at the University of Texas at Austin take this opportunity to express our unyielding support for all members our community.