RESOLUTION AGAINST THE IMMIGRATION BAN

On January 31, 2017, the Faculty Council Executive Committee (FCEC) proposed the following resolution in response to President Trump's executive order on "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." Voting members of the Faculty Council were asked to endorse the resolution via an online survey within twenty-four hours. The urgency of the vote was due to the FCEC’s desire to make a timely statement to the University community. Participants were given the opportunity to add their name as a signatory to the resolution. The resolution was endorsed by the Faculty Council by majority vote: fifty members in favor; forty-one added their names; one member voted against.

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

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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 collaborations, 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.

The survey was distributed to the Faculty Council on January 31, 2017, via a Qualtrics survey. The results were distributed through the Faculty Council Wiki site https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home on February 6, 2017.