



February 8, 2017

Dr. Steven Wrigley
Chancellor
University System of Georgia
270 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Chancellor Wrigley:

Subject: Resolution to Rescind President Trump's Immigration Order:

The Faculty Senate of Georgia Southern passed the following resolution at its February 7th meeting:

The Faculty Senate of Georgia Southern University condemns President Trump's executive order banning travel by people, including students and scholars, even those with current legal visas, from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen as detrimental to the principles and functioning of higher education in the United States, and specifically in Georgia. We call upon the University System of Georgia to urge Georgia's state and federal legislators to work toward getting President Trump to rescind this ill-conceived and ill-implemented order.

We wish particularly to call to your attention the rationales that were offered in support of this motion:

Georgia Southern has at least 4 faculty members, including a Dean, who originally hail from the banned countries. (We say "at least" because the list of international faculty is not complete.) We also have about 400 non-US citizens with various kinds of visas enrolled as students. At the University of Georgia about 75 students and scholars come from one of the proscribed countries (CHE online 1-30). According to the AJC, "A day after it was released, Trump's executive order was already impacting Georgia students. A third-year doctoral student at Clark Atlanta University traveling back from Saudi Arabia with her sister was detained at an airport in that country. Airport officials told Reham Noaman, 31, and her sister, a sophomore at Georgia State University, they couldn't issue them boarding passes for their direct flight to Atlanta. The sisters, who hold F1 student

visas, were told by airport officials the denial was due to the president's order. The executive order suspends all refugees from entering the U.S. for 120 days, and bars those from war-torn Syria indefinitely. It also blocks entry to citizens from seven Muslim nations, including Noaman's home country of Yemen, for 90 days."

Numerous other institutions of higher education are expressing their concern about or outright condemning President Trump's order. Duke issued this statement: "Duke University is committed to, and is greatly enriched by, the open exchange of students, scholars and ideas from all over the globe. We are deeply concerned about the well-being of students, faculty and staff who may be impacted by the policies that have now been put in place, and will join with the rest of higher education to bring these concerns to the attention of policymakers and the public" (Fox News online 1-29). Notre Dame's President, Father John I. Jenkins, has called the order "sweeping, indiscriminate and abrupt," and said, "If it stands, it will over time diminish the scope and strength of the educational and research efforts of American universities, which have been the source not only of intellectual discovery but of economic innovation for the United States and international understanding for our world; and, above all, it will demean our nation" (CBS News online 1-29).

Even the Koch brothers' network, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, has condemned this order, saying, "The travel ban is the wrong approach and will likely be counterproductive. . . . Our country has benefited tremendously from a history of welcoming people from all cultures and backgrounds. This is a hallmark of free and open societies" (Fortune 1-29).

Sincerely,



Richard Flynn, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Moderator and Chair
Senate Executive Committee

c: Dr. Richard Flynn
Dr. Marc Cyr
Dr. Ed Mondor