

Response to Executive Order | January 30, 2017

Dear Campus Community,

UM-Flint has always been an institution that welcomes, values, and supports all our students, faculty, and staff. As such, I join those who are concerned about the potential implications of the executive order issued Friday by the White House regarding entry to the United States by foreign-born persons, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. This order has created fear and anxiety among many of our students, faculty, and staff. It has also created uncertainty for individuals with valid work and study visas who happen to be out of the country at this time.

Earlier this weekend, President Schlissel issued a statement expressing the university's support for its faculty, staff, and students with respect to these issues. The statement can be found here <http://umich.edu/announcements/> The statement affirms the university's commitments regarding student privacy, as well as other related institutional policies and practices. I would like to highlight one part of his statement:

Fostering an environment that promotes education and research at the highest levels is among my most important responsibilities as the University of Michigan's president. The leadership of the university is committed to protecting the rights and opportunities currently available to all members of our academic community, and to do whatever is possible within the law to continue to identify, recruit, support and retain academic talent, at all levels, from around the world.

President Schlissel speaks for the whole university community with these words. I want to affirm that UM-Flint is supportive and appreciative of the leadership and direction on this issue. UM-Flint welcomes and values the international members of our community, and we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that their engagement at the university is as rewarding, inclusive, and as unburdened as possible.

Staff at UM-Flint, in coordination with Ann Arbor and Dearborn, will track how changes to immigration laws, policies, and practices might affect the status and safety of UM-Flint students and personnel, particularly international students and those who may be undocumented. President Schlissel has created an Immigration Policy Committee to provide advice to university leadership and assist in problem-solving and emergency issues of immigration and international education. I will work with Provost Knerr to name a UM-Flint representative to this committee in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Sue

Susan E. Borrego, Ph.D.

Chancellor