

February 2, 2017

Dear Board of Trustees, President Gogue, Provost Boosinger, Vice President Woodard, The Deans, The University Senate, and The Student Government Association,

We, the undersigned students, faculty, and staff of Auburn University wish to emphasize our belief in a campus environment that is safe, supportive, welcoming, and respectful for people of all religious backgrounds, nationalities, immigration statuses, sexual orientations, gender identifications, and disability identities.


We have read the official Auburn statement, signed by President Gogue and Provost Boosinger and released on January 30, 2017, in response to the recent Executive Order on immigration. This statement provides a general statement acknowledging the Executive Order and its impact on campus. It encourages all those potentially affected by the ban to refrain from travel and provides links to further information, then concludes with a noncommittal nod to Auburn's commitment to inclusion and diversity as an international university. A written commitment only becomes a reality through action, especially in a context where the well-being of those in the minority in our community face grave injustice and exclusion. So let us not speak in generalities—let us focus on the particulars. On Saturday, the President issued an Executive Order banning citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the US for at least the next 90 days and from being issued an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa. Furthermore, President Trump has vowed to repeal many of President Obama's Executive Orders—one of which is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which gave protection from deportation to eligible immigrant youth who entered the U.S. as children, as well as a work permit. Without some proactive action from the Auburn University administration, immigrants impacted by such Executive Orders will be denied the opportunity to continue their studies, complete their degrees, to do research, to teach, and to work at our university. Auburn University has 49 students—not to mention how many faculty and staff—enrolled from the countries outlined in the federal immigration ban. These are our friends, our teachers, our classmates, our Auburn family. We ask—what will we do to protect and support these members of our campus family who have been “banned”?

We call on President Gogue and Provost Boosinger to move beyond vague statements of support to take a principled stance to declare Auburn University, international campus that it is, to be a sanctuary campus and to follow up with clearly articulated measures set out to keep students, faculty, and staff safe. On a sanctuary campus, the administration, faculty, students, and staff establish services and a welcoming, nurturing climate for all community members regardless of race, class, nationality, immigrant status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious identity, and/or disability. On a campus that claims to take pride in its diversity initiatives and its AU Global Program, we should make a commitment to nurture and defend this diversity our priority. This is not just a diversity quota—these are human beings. The intellectual gifts of this university depend in no small part on students, faculty, and staff who bring their talents from all parts of the world and offer them in service to Auburn. Since the right to privacy should be extended and respected to all in the Auburn community, campus police and managers of data should refuse to cooperate with federal

agents wishing to deport and/or remove any community member from campus. We hope to express public support for DACA and at the same time declare a public rejection of the "Muslim Ban" by taking the following specific actions:

1. Make Auburn University a sanctuary campus that protects the affected members of this community from deportation or detention.
2. Rather than referring those persons affected by these Executive Orders to web pages for information, assign an administrative office the responsibility for counseling them on their education and employment situations and rights. Advertise that these counseling services are available on a strictly confidential basis. Also ensure that these services are accessible to all members of our community.
3. Continue to allow qualifying undocumented students to pay in-state resident tuition.
4. Invest in faculty and staff training to support students/faculty/staff affected by these Executive Orders.
5. Refuse all voluntary information sharing with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) across all aspects of the University to the fullest extent possible under the law.
6. Refuse ICE physical access to all land owned or controlled by the University.
7. Prohibit campus security from inquiring about or recording an individual's immigration status, or enforcing immigration laws or participating with ICE or CBP in actions.
8. Auburn University will not use e-verify in processes related to admissions or financial aid for students.
9. Prohibit housing discrimination based on immigration status and national origins.
10. Take these measures during the current semester (read: immediately) so that students can be assured of institutional support.

Much of the language and ideas of these measures were borrowed from statements made by sister universities such as the University of Alabama, Michigan State University, George Mason University, Notre Dame University, University of Arizona, and University of Michigan. Similar actions were also supported by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). We, therefore, respectfully ask you to consider these measures in the spirit of defending our students, faculty, and staff by affirming our commitment to our shared and cherished values of inclusion and justice.


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