



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

The Executive Committee of the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) condemns the U. S. President's executive order temporarily banning travel from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Somalia, Libya and Yemen.

As the official constituency body responsible for the representation of the graduate and professional students attending Southern Illinois University Carbondale, we cannot, in good conscience, remain silent when so many of our constituents are negatively affected by this executive order. International students make up approximately twenty-five percent of our numbers; at least ten to twenty percent of that number has been directly affected by the order.

Therefore, we join in condemning the executive order in alignment with our national parent organization, [NAGPS](#). Furthermore, GPSC respectfully requests specific clarification on several points indicated in Chancellor Colwell's January 30<sup>th</sup> message to the campus, indicated in the following questions:

- While the University pledges "to do all we legally can to support all of our students, including those who have come from other countries," it is not clear to what degree the University intends this support. Other institutions, who are also members of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, have indicated that their campus police **will not partner with federal, state, or other local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law except when required to do so by law**. Is Southern Illinois University willing to make the same commitment to its international students?
- As the administration works to address this situation, the GPSC requests the inclusion of international students in administrative conversations concerning the University's efforts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our international student population.
- In keeping with the above, other Illinois institutions have made clear that their university police departments **will not detain students on the basis of their immigration status or request immigration status from students during the execution of their duty**. Is Southern Illinois University willing to make the same commitment to its international students?
- In its efforts to support the international student population, the GPSC requests that the Center for International Education (CIE) provide specific and easily accessible information concerning how to respond to a variety of challenges to the immigration status of its international population, beyond a recommendation not to engage in any travel.
- As the current immigration ban, and the uncertainty surrounding it, has an understandably detrimental effect on the international student population GPSC requests that CIE partner with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to have a counselor on the premises to assist with any mental health crisis that may emerge as a result of this ongoing situation.

- Finally, in keeping with the Chancellor’s request for all students, faculty and staff to join him in his commitment “to support and respect our international students in these uncertain times,” GPSC requests that the administration make publically available resources for faculty, staff and students who need guidance in fulfilling this commitment. In making this request, we ask that the administration partner with the leaders of the international student communities on campus and the CIE so that any such resources adequately address the fears and concerns of the international student body.

Moreover, GPSC insists that we as a campus go beyond simple assurances of support for its international students, and demonstrate a willingness to advocate and serve through concrete VISIBLE actions so there is no doubt in such support.

If members of the international student population, graduate and undergraduate, have additional concerns, they should feel free to reach out to GPSC at our office in person, through e-mail, or at any one of our regularly scheduled general body meetings.

If the international student population is to understand that we, as a campus and a university, “value them and we are here for them,” we need to demonstrate this through action. Please join us in demonstrating our commitment to our international students through action.

Respectfully,

Graduate and Professional Student Council Executive Committee

