

Faculty Senate Steering Committee Letter

February 2, 2017

Dear Temple Faculty member,

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee, on behalf of the Faculty Senate and all faculty at Temple University, recently affirmed its support of our International Students and Scholars. We endorsed the following e-mails from Temple University (please see below), from the Office of International Student and Scholar Services, as well as the President of Temple University and Temple Student Government. We also noted the message sent out by TAUP, the Temple Association of University Professionals, at <http://www.taup.org/>, on January 29, 2017.

Temple's faculty join in having pride at being part of a diverse community, with students and scholars from across the globe. This community is critical to ensuring a vibrant educational environment wherein learning and discovery can thrive. We told the students and scholars that we look forward to helping them continue to be a vital part of this superb educational environment and to helping them achieve their goals as students and scholars.

Some of you probably support the ban on individuals from these seven countries (for now) as well as the cessation of the refugee program from Syria. Others may find this an egregious abuse of power that is not only counterproductive (ISIS is overjoyed at what will likely prove to be an effective recruiting tool) but also against every principle and value this country stands for. Whatever your politics, this Executive Action affects our students, faculty, and community, and we want to provide some thoughts on how best to address it within our community.

If you have International students in your classes, and/or are an International Scholar, the office of International Students and Scholars is the place to turn for information. Jie Wu and Martyn Miller have an excellent office that can help in many ways. You can find them at: <https://www.temple.edu/provost/international/index.html>

If you have any students in emotional/psychological distress, Tuttelman Counseling Services is aware of these potential issues and is ready to help. They can be found at: <http://counseling.temple.edu/>

IDEAL (the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, Advocacy, and Leadership) is also an excellent resource. Their mission statement notes that IDEAL embodies "Temple University's commitment to sustain and nurture a strong inclusive campus community, capitalizing on our demographic diversity to inspire meaningful engagement across identity groups in all their various forms" (web site). IDEAL works with faculty, students, and staff. Their URL is: <http://diversity.temple.edu/ideal>

If you have questions about how best to deal with diversity and inclusion issues in your classroom, the Center for the Advancement in Teaching can help: <https://teaching.temple.edu/> For example, there is a program entitled "Can we Talk: Considering Diversity and Inclusion in the Classroom" on Wednesday, February 22nd, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. The topic of the ban is a challenging topic for a class, but if it is appropriate and you have the experience dealing with potentially diverse set of viewpoints, then engaging the class in the discussion may be helpful.

Finally, we have had many questions about what one can do to protest this Executive Action. If you wish to make a personal statement against the Executive Action, one way to do so is through a website for Academics Against Immigration Executive Order, <https://notoimmigrationban>, where you can join 14,800 U.S. faculty members and 50 Nobel Laureates and sign a petition opposing the action.

Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful. Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,
Michael L. Sachs, Ph.D., CC-AASP
Professor
President, Faculty Senate