

January 30, 2017

Dear UCLA Engineering Community: By now you all are likely aware of the Executive Order made by President Donald Trump suspending entry into the United States for nationals from seven majority-Muslim countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The UC Office of the President and our own Chancellor Block have come out strongly against this action, affirming that it is “contrary to the values we hold dear as leaders of the University of California” and committing to support all members of the UC community who are impacted by this executive action. If you have not yet, you may wish to read these statements, which I have copied below.

I wanted to share with you my own support of the UC position and reiterate to you that that is the position of your School. The leadership of UCLA Engineering and I value deeply the contributions of all our students, faculty and staff - regardless of religious beliefs or nationality.

The intent of President Trump's executive order runs counter to the values that necessarily guide a large research university like UCLA, as well as our Engineering School - open inquiry, freedom of speech, sharing of knowledge.

These values are the lifeblood of the academic enterprise, and as we try to understand what the practical outcome of this action will be, please know that no matter who you are or where you are from, the UCLA Engineering administration supports you.

If indeed you are a national of one of the seven countries listed in President Trump's order legally residing in the United States, UCOP advises you not to travel out of the country until the current situation can be better understood.

UCLA's Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars is leading the campus-wide effort to address the impact to our university and answer any questions you may have. They can be reached at (310) 825-1681.

Furthermore, I am working with my team at the Engineering School to identify any issues that may directly affect our students, faculty and staff, and we will seek to resolve those situations as best we can. If you have questions or concerns specifically with regard to UCLA Engineering, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at engrdean@seas.ucla.edu. You may also wish to contact Rick Wesel, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, at wesel@seas.ucla.edu.

If we do not have immediate answers for you, we can help you find them.

Again, please know that you are a valued member of the UCLA Engineering family.

I remain committed to ensuring each member of our community receives the just and fair treatment they deserve.

Jayathi Murthy,
Ronald and Valerie Sugar Dean,
UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science

Office of the Chancellor

To the Campus Community:

This past week, as most of you are well aware, President Trump signed an executive order that suspends entry into the United States for various categories of travelers. The order includes refugees, immigrants, non-immigrant visa holders, and possibly lawful U.S. permanent residents from seven majority-Muslim countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The executive order directly challenges the core values and mission of universities to encourage the free exchange of scholars, knowledge and ideas. It may affect the ability to travel for thousands of students and scholars now in the US diligently pursuing their scholarly careers as well as countless others who wish to take advantage of our open universities to pursue knowledge and truth. Although the breadth of the Order is not yet clear, it also could adversely affect the ability to travel for many faculty, students, and staff in our own community.

Already, universities across the US as well as scholarly societies such as the APLU and the AAU have issued powerful statements decrying this action. UCLA joins this rising chorus in expressing opposition to the executive order. As your Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor, we want to reassure the campus community as a whole and especially those directly affected by this order that the University of California and our campus's leadership stand by our core values.

We are actively engaged with the UC Office of the President to understand the full implications of the order and to find ways of protecting members of our community. The integrity of our mission as a research university and the well-being of our campus' community are paramount.

The UC Office of the President has advised "UC community members from these seven countries who hold a visa to enter the United States or who are lawful permanent residents do not travel outside of the United States." In the meantime, if you are a student, scholar or faculty who have visa issues or questions that deserve our attention, please contact the UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars at (310) 825-1681.

Please also see below a message that was sent today from UC President Janet Napolitano and signed by leadership from throughout the University of California.

Sincerely,

Gene D. Block
Chancellor

Scott L. Waugh
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

President Janet Napolitano and the Chancellors of the University of California today (Jan. 29) issued the following statement:

We are deeply concerned by the recent executive order that restricts the ability of our students, faculty, staff, and other members of the UC community from certain countries from being able to enter or return to the United States.

While maintaining the security of the nation's visa system is critical, this executive order is contrary to the values we hold dear as leaders of the University of California. The UC community, like universities across the country, has long been deeply enriched by students, faculty, and scholars from around the world, including the affected countries, coming to study, teach, and research. It is critical that the United States continues to welcome the best students, scholars, scientists, and engineers of all backgrounds and nationalities.

We are committed to supporting all members of the UC community who are impacted by this executive action.

President Janet Napolitano
University of California

Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks
University of California, Berkeley

Interim Chancellor Ralph Hexter
University of California, Davis

Chancellor Howard Gillman
University of California, Irvine

Chancellor Gene Block
University of California, Los Angeles

Chancellor Dorothy Leland
University of California, Merced

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox
University of California, Riverside

Chancellor Pradeep Khosla
University of California, San Diego

Chancellor Sam Hawgood
University of California, San Francisco

Chancellor Henry T. Yang
University of California, Santa Barbara

Chancellor George R. Blumenthal
University of California, Santa Cruz