General Assembly Resolution R. 26-04

Authors: Representative Andrew Thompson, Vice President Timothy Nicholas
Co-Sponsors: USG Public Relations Committee, Radical Student Union, Young Democratic Socialists
Presented: March 7th, 2017
Passed: March 7th, 2017

A Resolution to Condemn President Trump’s Immigration Restrictions and Encourage the Protection of Immigrant Community Members

Whereas, The President of the United States issued Executive Order 13769 on January 27th, 2017, which prevented entry into the United States by individuals from a number of Muslim-majority countries;¹

Whereas, President Barbara Snyder and Provost William Baeslack released a statement on January 29th, 2017, in which they stated “The Executive Order President Trump signed...is antithetical to our core values, in that it directly hinders our ability to fulfill our obligations to our students—and to society at large.”²

Whereas, The Faculty Senate approved a resolution on January 31st, 2017, which resolved “To condemn this Executive Order as contrary to morality, arguably to law, and to the finest traditions of generosity of the United States,” to contact the Ohio Congressional delegation stating such, and to condemn all future orders of a similar nature,³

Whereas, President Snyder and Provost Baeslack have committed to maintain the privacy of student information except when “required [to release student records] by law.”⁴

Whereas, The Radical Student Union circulated a petition which garnered several hundred signatures from community members asking that the University declare itself a “sanctuary campus,” as well as making a number of other requests;⁵

² https://case.edu/executive-order-updates/
⁴ https://case.edu/executive-order-updates/
⁵ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJ4FvkRdkIOjXjuriKgLpC08DwXH9260D94ARepCYUxI7xw/viewform?c=0&w=1
Whereas, A number of member institutions to the Association of American Universities have declared themselves to be “sanctuary campuses” in some capacity, including Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania;\(^6\) and

Whereas, The Undergraduate Student Government recently conducted a survey of 256 students and found that 73% of students opposed the Executive Order and supported a USG condemnation of it, 82% of students supported resisting compliance with deportations and the release of student information to the fullest extent possible under the law, and 76% of students supported declaring Case Western Reserve University to be a “sanctuary campus” (Appendix A).

Be it resolved by the Undergraduate Student Government, acting in full session:

I. That the student body of Case Western Reserve University affirms that immigrants and Muslims are welcome at CWRU and their contributions are valued.

II. That the student body of Case Western Reserve University stands with the Faculty Senate in condemning this Executive Order and any future executive orders that similarly target a large group of people on the basis of their countries of origin and religion, as such orders stand contrary to our values and interests.

III. That the administration of Case Western Reserve University should declare the University a “sanctuary campus.” For these purposes, a “sanctuary campus” is one that actively resists the release of student information as it pertains to immigration status and participation in deportation and detention activities, as well as promotes an intentionally safe and welcoming environment for immigrant community members.

IV. That the administration of Case Western Reserve University should:
   a. Explain the situations in which it considers nonconsensual release of student information or participation in Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities to be “required by law” and explain the extent to which it would resist such requests.
   b. Resist all requests for students’ personal information as it pertains to immigration status.
   c. Resist participation in all deportation and detention activities.

V. That the administration of Case Western Reserve University should:
a. Train staff members of International Student Services on the protection of students’ rights as immigrants through the use of an expert in immigration law, such as that training recently received by staff members of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.
b. Continue to provide frequent information sessions for students on their immigration rights.
c. Guarantee access to legal advice and representation for students as it relates to their immigration rights, whether that be through arranging free representation, funding a program for representation, or both.

VI. That the administration of Case Western Reserve University should:
a. Include “immigration status” as a category explicitly protected in the University’s non-discrimination language.
b. Commit to responding seriously and swiftly to instances of bigotry and discrimination against individuals or groups protected by the University’s non-discrimination language.

VII. That the administration of Case Western Reserve University should guarantee the availability and affordability of housing for any students that, should they leave the United States, would be barred from reentry into the United States.

VIII. That the administration of Case Western Reserve University should contact surrounding police departments (including, but not limited to, the police departments of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, University Circle, University Hospital, and Cleveland Clinic) to determine if they will ask Case Western Reserve University community members about their immigration status or assist with deportations and detention of community members, strongly encourage that they not do so, and publicize that information to community members.

IX. That this resolution be sent, in its entirety, to:
a. Barbara Snyder, President of Case Western Reserve University
b. William Baeslack III, Provost and Executive Vice President
c. David Flesher, Vice Provost of International Affairs
d. Molly Watkins, Executive Director of International Affairs
e. Marilyn Mobley, Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity
f. Elizabeth Keefer, Senior Vice President for Administration
g. Naomi Sigg, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs
h. Louis Stark, Vice President for Student Affairs
i. Elizabeth Roccoforte, Director of the LGBT Center
j. Lisa Nielson, Director of the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women
k. Abby Kruszynski and Skip Begley, Interim Co-Directors of Residence Life
l. John White, Director of Housing Staff
Appendix A

This survey was conducted by Representative Andrew Thompson and Vice President Timothy Nicholas in conjunction with [U]Tech on February 16th, 2017. There were 256 responses collected.
Should the University administration publicly declare itself a "sanctuary campus," as other institutions have done?

- Yes, this will allow CWRU to stand on the forefront of the movement to protect immigrants...
- Unsure
- No, the definition of this term and the ramifications of this decision are uncertain
- Did not select

78.2%

11.3%

12.1%

Should the University administration refuse to comply with deportations, raids, and the release of personal student information to the fullest extent possible under the law?

- Unsure
- Yes
- No

82.4%

10.5%

7%

Should the University administration support or oppose the ban, and write this position in a statement?

- I don't support the ban, and I think USG should issue a statement opposing the ban
- I do support the ban, but I don't think USG should issue a statement opposing the ban
- Unsure
- I do support the ban, and I think USG should not issue a statement opposing the ban
- Did not select

72.7%

17.6%

7%