

# FRESNO STATE

College of Social Sciences

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 2016

TO: Chancellor Timothy P. White, California State University  
President Joseph Castro, California State University, Fresno

FROM: The Academic Assembly of the College of Social Sciences, California State University, Fresno

In the wake of the recent presidential election and chronic inaction on the part of past and present federal administrations to pass comprehensive immigration reform, many students on Fresno State's campus are uncertain and afraid. We thank you both for your statements re-affirming the CSU's core values of "diversity and inclusivity" and for removing the CSU "from the enforcement of federal immigration laws."

We, the faculty of the College of Social Sciences at Fresno State, seek to build on your statements. We call on the California State University and Fresno State to implement measures that will defend and protect all students, faculty, staff, and their families who may be targeted or put under surveillance. Specifically, we want to formally declare the CSU system a sanctuary for undocumented, DACA, and other immigrant, refugee, and minority students.

In recent weeks, President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to enact a number of measures as part of a plan for his first 100 days in office. This includes deporting millions of undocumented immigrants from the United States, building a wall, requiring Muslims to register with the government, and repealing Obama's executive orders such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. DACA has supported more than 700,000 young people, who have been authorized to work, acquire state identification and driver's licenses in select states, and obtain a deportation deferral. Thousands of our students and their families have benefited from DACA. Trump's outlined policy decisions will break up families, devastate our communities, hinder our students' success, and have long lasting consequences on the civic vitality and economic growth of our city, region, state, and nation.

In addition to threats against undocumented people and DACA recipients, we must also prepare for intensified and explicit government targeting of people from Muslim majority countries that could take the form of the National Security Entry and Exit Registration System (NSEERS) program, designed under President George Bush after the September 11, 2001 attacks. NSEERS required non-citizen visa holders to register, undergo interrogations and fingerprinting, and report regularly to immigration authorities. Violators were fired, arrested, and deported. After nearly a decade of implementation without resulting in a single terrorism conviction, President Barack Obama's administration suspended NSEERS by removing all 25 countries off its watch-list.

We have reason to believe that local law enforcement agencies cannot enter the campus without the permission of the University. Similarly, according to a 2011 memorandum, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are subject to restrictions in sensitive areas, such as university and college campuses. In California, the TRUST Act is supposed to prevent certain kinds of collaboration between ICE and local law enforcement. However, not all Central Valley counties or law enforcement agencies, including the Fresno County Sheriff, enforce the TRUST Act consistently. In the past, the CSU and Fresno State have taken concrete steps to ensure the safety, security, and success of all students. Thus, now, more than ever, we call on the campus to reaffirm its commitment to the work of promoting the safety and success of our students and urge the campus administration to formally declare Fresno State as a safe zone and to implement a protocol that includes the following measures:

Before December 23, 2016:

- Adopt a resolution that actively bans ICE and other immigration officials from entering CSU property;
- Instruct university security and police force not to act on behalf of or cooperate with ICE or other immigration enforcement agents and refuse to comply with immigration deportations or raids;
- Guarantee student privacy by refusing to release information regarding the immigration/citizenship status, religion, sexuality, or national origin of our students, faculty, staff, and community members;

Plans in place by January 17, 2017:

- Establish and maintain a critical review process for any governmental requests for lists or data in the name of safety or as a response to a perceived emergency;
- Take steps to protect the visa status and funding of international students and faculty;
- Establish a pool of development funds and a network of pro bono legal experts for the legal counsel of undocumented students and their families and to subvent fees for DACA renewal and potential health care expenses;
- Bring legal experts and immigration activists and advocates to campuses, so that they can provide legal counseling to undocumented students and students with undocumented family members as well as educating documented students about these issues and how they can become better allies to their peers.
- Work actively to reaffirm the university's commitment to create a campus atmosphere of respect, free from hostilities, aggressions, and bullying by denouncing any hate speech or actions directed at immigrant, minority, and LGBTQ students and workers, and by informing the campus of existing resources for reporting and responding to bias or hate incidents and accessing support in such cases;
- Expand the capacity of the Cross Cultural and Gender Center, the Dream Success Center, Counseling Services (with staff who are bilingual and/or trained to work with immigrant/refugee communities), and relevant academic and student support programs to meet the increased demands placed on them to provide critical and on-going support for our students.

In the event that DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is reversed and that raids and deportation pressures increase for DACA and undocumented students and their families, we urge the CSU to:

Before December 23, 2016:

- Assign a specific office and designated staff who will assist DACA and other students who lack the privilege of citizenship on a strictly confidential basis.
- Offer over-break housing for students who cannot return home due to fear of deportation.

Plans in place by January 17, 2017:

- Ensure that these students and those who are ineligible for DACA due to age, finances, or other factors, continue to receive their financial aid and fellowship stipends by creating special funds, segregated from federal and state monies, and guaranteeing in-state tuition to both DACA recipients and non-DACA eligible undocumented students. Such funds may be provided by a temporary, voluntary \$5/semester fee increase or by providing faculty and staff with the option to have a specific amount automatically deducted from their payroll for this purpose.
- Develop funding sources to provide undocumented students with stipends, which they can receive in exchange for performing research under the guidance of faculty members or other meaningful educational projects.

Given the urgency of the matter, we ask that Fresno State take steps immediately, before the president-elect is sworn into office.

