

Support of Immigration and Diversity In Light Of the Recent Executive Order on Immigration and Travel Restrictions

WHEREAS the Florida Gulf Coast University faculty are committed to support ALL of our immigrant and international students, faculty and staff, and people from diverse backgrounds are welcomed by FGCU students, faculty, staff and administration regardless of country of origin, religion or immigration status, we reaffirm that diversity brings our campus together, and

WHEREAS the Florida Gulf Coast University faculty recognize the contribution of our immigrant and international students, faculty, researchers, and staff, who are an indispensable and integral part of the fabric of Florida and the nation's higher education community, and

WHEREAS the Florida Gulf Coast University faculty do not discriminate against individuals based on their religion, place of birth, place of origin, nationality, gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, or any other protected rights or personal characteristics. We are part of a wonderfully diverse community and value diversity including faiths represented on our campus, and

WHEREAS a crucial part of the pre-eminence of American higher education is openness and inclusivity of global access to American higher education, as well as full American participation in global networks of higher learning, and

WHEREAS the Florida Gulf Coast University faculty are committed to providing a safe, comfortable, respectful and thriving learning environment for ALL of our students, faculty, staff and administration regardless of their religion, place of birth, nation of origin, nationality, gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, or any other protected category, and

BE IT RESOLVED that Florida Gulf Coast University Faculty are committed to the importance of diversity as "a source of renewal and vitality" – as emphasized in FGCU's Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles – and stands united in support of this moral and legal obligation to our immigrant and international students, faculty, staff and administrators both within our institutions of higher learning and within our communities at large, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Florida Gulf Coast University Faculty will not tolerate any policy or activity in any form that harms our diversity including bullying, intimidation, humiliation, or discrimination against our students, faculty, staff and administrators that makes them feel unwelcome based on their religion, place of birth, nation of origin, nationality, gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, or any other protected category,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any Immigration travel ban Executive Order that threatens the safety and livelihood for any of our students, faculty, and staff or that undermines the pursuit of knowledge is a threat to the legal and moral purpose of higher education, and therefore,

WE URGE that

- FGCU maintains the absolute confidentiality of our students' and employees' information including anything that might imply or define immigration status absent a subpoena or other lawful order;
- FGCU Public Safety Officers do not and will not ask about immigration status of members of our university community;

- FGCU and other Institutions of higher education vigorously uphold privacy protections granted to our students, faculty and staff by federal law;
 - Salaries, resources, scholarships and fellowship assistance to non-U.S.-citizens, which is independent of federal financial aid programs, carry on regardless of changes to immigration policies;
 - FGCU and other Institutions of higher education make every effort and take all reasonable action to assure that students, faculty and staff whose on-campus presence may be interrupted will be able to continue their coursework online, teaching and other work schedule appropriately and reasonably accommodated, and faculty and graduate students whose research and/or scholarship schedule are interrupted will be given appropriate and reasonable accommodation so that grants and scholarships will not be jeopardized or lost, and
 - FGCU Faculty Senate affirms its support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in its current form.
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Notes: Motion Passed on Feb. 24, 2017 at the Faculty Senate.