

TO: LLP, SCB, Miguel F, Jeff Cason
Kathy Foley (ISSS), Community Council

FROM: Michael Sheridan, Soc/Anthro, and Molly Anderson, Food Studies

DATE: May XX, 2017

We are concerned faculty, staff, students, and community members who oppose the White House's executive orders on immigration. We seek to support the students who may be at risk because of these developments, in particular those in the DACA program and students from the seven countries targeted by President Trump's so-called 'travel ban' – Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. We appreciate President Patton's actions in November 2016 to support these students whose studies may be threatened by the federal government. We are particularly impressed by Middlebury's commitment to safeguard student records, provide pro bono legal advice, and use need-blind admissions review for the class of 2022 (see <http://www.middlebury.edu/about/president/addresses/2016/node/543049>). Middlebury already has an administrative structure and staff committed to supporting these students, and as faculty we are eager to contribute to these efforts. In particular, we applaud the work of the International Students and Scholar Services (ISSS) office, and are wary of giving ISSS new responsibilities and time commitments without commensurate resources.

Much of what the institution does for these vulnerable students is reactive (and therefore flexible), but we think Middlebury can be more proactive. Below are some ways that we think that Middlebury can prepare for future iterations of immigration policy uncertainty.

1. **Establish a response team of staff and faculty** to advise and support any students whose legal status may be threatened by changes in US immigration policy. These students are likely to encounter additional stress over the next years, and we should be prepared for this specialized sort of counseling and advising. This group could include College counseling services, ISSS, faculty with specializations in immigration issues, and administrators. This group should include representatives from the many parts of Middlebury, such as the College, Bread Loaf, and our international programs.
2. **Create an emergency fund** to support current students, faculty and staff whose legal status could be affected by sudden changes in US immigration policy. These funds could help with legal fees, airline tickets to return home, representation while abroad, DACA renewal fees, and other expenses incurred due to changes in immigration law. Middlebury often responds to these challenges on an ad hoc basis; we think that a more formal policy statement would ameliorate some of the stress that vulnerable students face.
3. **Extend and increase the flexibility of summer housing options** to any current student who has reason to fear loss of their legal status if they leave the United States. Summer housing planning should be sensitive to the potential for new executive actions to exclude people on the basis of race, religion, citizenship, or national origin. Again, Middlebury often responds to student problems on a case-by-case

basis, and which we are grateful for this flexibility. We do, however, think that more explicit commitment would be helpful for endangered students.

4. **Protect educational access and degree attainment** of any students affected by sudden changes in US immigration policy. Loss of DACA status may invalidate our students' ability to work and collect financial aid. We urge the creation of a program that can offer additional financial resources for endangered students, which they can receive in as part of independent summer research activities or internships under the guidance of faculty members. We also worry that DACA or undocumented students may drop out because of uncertainty about their immigration status, and would like to see an explicit mechanism to help these students return to complete their degrees.

5. **Devise a naturalization resources program** that provides advising and assistance to immigrant students, staff, contract workers, and faculty who are lawful permanent residents, and international faculty and postdoctoral scholars, to become citizens in an expeditious fashion. Middlebury could, for example, provide English and citizenship classes, and financial support for naturalization fees, in addition to the administrative advising and pro bono legal support we are already offering.

6. **Continue to coordinate with peer institutions** in filing amicus briefs and fighting other legal challenges to endangered categories of immigrant and international students. Publicize progress being made and coalitions being built. Establish collaborative relationships between Middlebury faculty and staff working on these issues with their colleagues at these peer institutions. Provide support for further networking with these peer institution colleagues.

7. **Develop ways to further involve** students, faculty, and staff in these issues without necessarily 'outing' anyone as a DACA recipient, undocumented, citizen of a 'travel ban' country, etc. Options could include lecture series (coordinated with relevant student groups), a library web site with resources for scholarship on immigration issues, and strategies to make faculty more aware of how immigration issues affect student performance and participation in their classes. Let's engage and connect over these issues.

We have conferred with Kathy Foley from the ISSS program to develop this document, and we are deeply grateful for her constructive comments and vast knowledge of the arcane details of immigration issues.

Thank you, and we look forward to working with you on these issues.

Faculty and Staff

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Students

1. Srilakshmi Vankina '18
2. Samantha Lamont '17
3. Weiru Ye '19
4. Klaudia Wojciechowska '17
5. Sandra Luo '18
6. Nick Delehanty '17
7. Nell Sather '19
8. Patrick McElravey '17
9. Austin Kahn '17.5
10. Joy Wood '17
11. Rebecca Coates-Finke '16.5
12. Andres Chamorro '16
13. Aliza Cohen '17
14. Erin Reid '17
15. Alessandria Schumacher '17
16. Nicole Cheng '17.5
17. Milo Stanley '17.5
18. Katherine Corrigan '19
19. Jiya Pandya '17
20. Ami Furgang '20
21. Mikaela Chang '19
22. Andrew Bridgers '17
23. Tyler McDowell '19
24. Cora Kircher '20
25. Samuel Wegner '18

26. Meghan Daly '18
27. Nina B. Colombotos '18
28. Sarah Koch, '18.5
29. Jessica Gutierrez, '17
30. Jocelyn Tenorio, '19
31. Malkie Wall '17
32. Robert Zarate-Morales '17
33. Ricardo Rosales-Mesta '19
34. Joshua Claxton '18
35. Delaney Moran '18
36. Benjamin Gleekel '17.5
37. Diego Espino '19
38. MJ Pascual '19
39. Anne Benson '19
40. Sylvia Lynch '18
41. Sarah Karerat '18
42. Abigail Escobar '20
43. Katherine Preston '17
44. Elizabeth Lee '17
45. Sylvia Al-Mateen '17
46. Ellen Colton '19
47. Audrey Pan '19
48. Maggie Rose-McCandlish '17.5
49. Lucy Grinnan '19.5
50. Dorosi Valle Flores '17
51. Tierra Lu '19
52. Zorica Radanovic '19
53. Elizabeth Dunn '18
54. Maddy Goodhart '19
55. Stuart Warren '17
56. Sierra Moen, '17.5
57. Hannah Blair, '17
58. Brenda Li '17
59. Esteban Arenas-Pino '18
60. Hana Gebremariam '17
61. Cara Eisenstein '18
62. Tiff Chang, ex-student
63. Margot Babington '18
64. Kyle J. Wright '19
65. Taite Shomo
66. Otis Streeter '18
67. Maggie Nazer '17
68. Caralyn Levine '20
69. Shannia Fu '17
70. Meg Sayre '18
71. Thanks to everyone who signed here! This document has been supported by Community Council on 5/9, and I sent it to the senior administration today 5/10 -- MJS