



UCWU Response to UofU's Handling of Visa Revocations



The United Campus Workers of Utah (and the whole of CWA 7765) exists not only to secure fair wages and benefits for our members but also to build working-class power in the fight against all forms of exploitation and oppression. While our living wage campaign remains a critical struggle, we recognize that true solidarity requires confronting the systems that dehumanize workers—whether through poverty, racism, or state violence. The University of Utah's failure to defend international students from the Trump administration's xenophobic attacks is a stark reminder: neutrality in the face of injustice is complicity. If our union is to be more than a Business Union—if it is to be a force for working-class power—we must demand that institutions we work for take bold, material action to protect the vulnerable. The administration's passive response to the targeting of international students is not merely a bureaucratic failure; it is a moral abdication that exposes who holds power, and who is left undefended. Below, we condemn this cowardice and articulate what real resistance would look like.

Condemnation of Passive Compliance

President Randall's statement is a masterclass in bureaucratic cowardice. Rather than condemning the Trump administration's unjust targeting of international students, the University of Utah offers sympathy, but no concrete plans for fighting back against the ongoing abuse of federal power for all international students. The administration admits that some students had their visas revoked without 'clear, specific interaction with law enforcement,' — yet instead of fighting back, the university shrugs and commits only to individualized "support." Where is the public denunciation of these draconian measures? Where are the legal defense funds, the sanctuary campus policies, and the refusal to cooperate with ICE? The University of Utah has chosen complicity over courage, leaving vulnerable students to fend for themselves in the face of a racist deportation machine.

Demand for Institutional Resistance

The University of Utah's tepid response to the Trump administration's attacks on international students is shameful. While the university has pledged flexibility for as-yet unaffected students and "support" for students facing visa revocation, these commitments do nothing to stop the possibility of deportations themselves, nor push back against the racist intimidation motivating all of this. What we need now is defiance of unjust federal actions and a plan to make a meaningful impact. If the university truly valued its international students, it would:

- Publicly demand transparency from federal agencies on visa revocations.
- Provide free legal representation for all affected students.
- Refuse to share student data with immigration enforcement.
- Join other universities in suing the administration over these punitive policies.

President Randall's letter reads like a surrender, not a defense of the campus community. If the University of Utah won't fight for its students, who will?

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Moral Failure of Leadership

The University of Utah's statement is a betrayal of its international students. By framing visa revocations as a bureaucratic issue rather than a political assault, the administration normalizes repression. The letter's tone — apologetic, passive, and deferential to federal overreach — reveals a stunning lack of moral leadership.

These students are not statistics: they are human beings whose lives are being upended by a xenophobic administration. Yet instead of mobilizing resources, rallying public outrage, or leveraging institutional power to protect them, the university offers vague promises of 'monitoring' and 'guidance.' This is not leadership — it is abdication. The University of Utah must choose: Will it stand with its students, or will it collaborate with their persecutors?

Solidarity Forever!

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