

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CHAPTER

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**Statement Concerning Executive Order of Jan. 27, 2017**

February 2, 2017

Together with the national AAUP, the University of Iowa AAUP chapter strongly opposes President Trump's unconstitutional and discriminatory ban on entry into the United States for people from some Muslim-majority countries. We believe that the Executive Order of Friday, Jan. 27, discriminates illegally against entire classes of population based on "nationality, place of birth, or place of residence" in violation of federal law, and discriminates based on religion in violation of the Constitution. Perhaps worst of all, the spirit of the Executive Order flagrantly violates our national values.

Such discrimination, which "deprives the person of consideration as an individual," runs counter to the University of Iowa's values and policy, specifically Chapter 3.1 of part two of the UI's *Operations Manual*. Moreover, as Columbia University President Lee Bollinger notes, "this order undermines the nation's continuing commitment to remain open to the exchange of people and ideas."

The ban on entry signed last Friday currently and most directly affects the lives of University of Iowa students, staff, faculty members and visiting scholars who are from or have family from seven countries, but it also affects many more of us on campus. The fact that green-card holders (i.e., lawful permanent residents) and valid visa-holders have been detained at airports around the country— including members of Iowa State University — is understandably alarming to all green-card and visa-holders on campus and, indeed, in the United States. Distinguished academics invited to lecture here at the University of Iowa have already been prevented from coming or are canceling their planned travel to the United States. Meanwhile, major, reputable newspapers report that the White House is drafting further executive orders targeting other legal immigrants and visitors from abroad.

We therefore have reason to be concerned that additional groups of citizens, visitors, refugees, or immigrants will be subject to further discriminatory bans, and will find themselves suddenly prevented from continuing their studies, teaching, research, or medical careers at the University of Iowa. The world quotes the powerful, poetic admonition against neutrality, silence, or inaction by the Nazi-concentration-camp survivor, Martin Niemoeller: enumerating several categories of people whom the government imprisoned, he admits of each that "I did not

“speak out, because I was not a member” of the group, until finally “they came for me, and there was nobody left to speak out.” Mindful of Niemoeller’s warning and of history, the professional organizations of many disciplines, presidents of colleges and universities, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Association of American University Presses are issuing statements in solidarity with our students and colleagues from abroad, who are valued members of our campuses and important to our society. We join them in doing so, we express our appreciation for the legal challenges to this order brought by organizations and state governments, and we urge our colleagues to remain engaged in the efforts to protect our students and colleagues from unfair discrimination.

Katherine H. Tachau  
President, on behalf of the Executive Committee  
University of Iowa AAUP Chapter