

## JMU FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION

### FACULTY SENATE STATEMENT ON THE IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER<sup>[1]</sup>

James Madison University is a community that values tolerance, diversity, inclusiveness, and respect for human dignity, regardless of one's place of origin. When members of our community are harmed, threatened, frightened, or misled, it affects us all. With this in mind, the Faculty Senate of James Madison University is considerably concerned by the Immigration Executive Order of January 27, 2017. This is the case for several reasons:

- *The Executive Order is unjustly discriminatory.* It is neither fair nor rational to make an implied judgment about the trustworthiness of millions of persons based on fears grounded in the potential actions of a miniscule subset of those persons. We would not teach such practices to our students, and we do not endorse them here.
- *The Executive Order harms innocent people.* Execution of the Executive Order inevitably involves harming innocent people by dividing families, threatening educational and work opportunities, and preventing reasonable granting of asylum.
- *The Executive Order is counterproductive.* Although we certainly do not deny that the leadership of the country should take reasonable measures to secure the safety of citizens and residents, the abrupt and uncompromising nature of the Executive Order contributes to a climate of fear, anxiety and confrontation, and in so doing establishes social conditions that are, ironically, likely to prompt extremist action of the very sort the Executive Order was designed to forestall.
- *The Executive Order harms our work in higher education.* As engaged citizens, scholars, and teachers, we and our students come from all corners of the world to learn and share knowledge. We depend in turn on communities of learning across the world to enrich our own scholarly work. This Executive Order imperils these relationships by making international cooperation more difficult in certain respects.<sup>[2]</sup>
- *The Executive Order goes against our values.* Respectful and productive national and global civic engagement of the sort that invigorates our pluralistic democracy, and that we wish to model to our students, is impeded by governmental action that perpetuates broad-brush stereotypes, intensifies unfair discrimination, inhibits open-mindedness, and undermines sympathetic regard for people from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.

The Faculty Senate of James Madison University expresses its commitment to human rights and the values of diversity, mutual respect, fairness, and inclusiveness. We endorse President Jonathan Alger's statement that "Diversity of thought, opinion, experience and culture adds tremendous value to the university because our differences enlighten us and bind us together. Regardless of one's country of origin, all are welcome at James Madison University."

As faculty we stand with our students and colleagues who might be unfairly harmed, threatened, or frightened by this Order or similar Executive Orders, and we resolve to defend their rights and safety to the best of our lawful ability.<sup>[3]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> Specifically: *Executive Order: Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*

<sup>[2]</sup> Adapted from the *Statement on Immigration Executive Order* passed by the University of Virginia Faculty Senate Executive Council & General Faculty Council Executive Council (February 1, 2017)

<sup>[3]</sup> *Ibid.*