

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
SUSAN AMUSSEN, CHAIR
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January 30, 2017

Dear Faculty:

The Divisional Council joins with Chancellor Leland and President Napolitano in unequivocally condemning the executive order of January 27, 2017, banning entry to the U.S. by citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries for at least 90 days, halting all refugee admissions for 120 days, and implementing “extreme vetting” on all new immigrants.

The University of California, Merced, is an international institution deeply rooted in collaborative relationships with scholars, students, and institutions around the world. Our campus is a testament to the positive power of tolerance, diversity, openness, and engagement. This executive order threatens not just individuals, but also the foundations of UC Merced’s excellence in public education and research.

Beyond the material impact of the executive order on our university community, the xenophobia and fear that it represents are antithetical to the basic values that we treasure as teachers and scholars. Our research knows no borders, and we support our students in serving not just California but the whole world. We welcome the statement from President Napolitano and Chancellor Leland on this matter and we encourage them to continue to offer moral and intellectual leadership as well as to undertake all actions possible to protect and defend our students, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely,

Susan Amussen, Chair
Division Council

CC: Divisional Council
Senate Office