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, Bowling Green State University Faculty Senate Resolution AY 2016-2017

The Faculty Senate of Bowling Green State University sets forth this resolution in response to the growing local, state, and national debates around immigration policy in the United States. Both immigrants and international students, faculty, and staff within the University have expressed their fears in recent months, before and after the 2016 presidential election, over the increasingly violent rhetoric and actions surrounding these policy debates. While Bowling Green has so far avoided some of the worst examples of this xenophobia, this community has not been immune to its effects. In solidarity with those members of the University community who have been affected by these events, and in keeping with the University's stated goals, the Faculty Senate asserts the following:

WHEREAS, Bowling Green State University (BGSU) is committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the mission statement of BGSU pledges the creation of a "welcoming, safe and diverse environment" for all members of our academic community; and

WHEREAS, the BGSU community includes international and immigrant faculty, staff, and students, both documented and undocumented; and

WHEREAS, the last eight years under President Barack Obama have witnessed unprecedented numbers of deportations for undocumented immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the presidential administration of Donald Trump has pledged to increase deportations and dismantle some legal protections for undocumented students and employees, including the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which currently provides temporary deportation relief for undocumented youth and grants authorization to work in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's executive orders of January 27, 2017, placed harsh restrictions upon international students and scholars traveling to, from, or through parts of Africa and the Middle East, including those legally residing in the United States at the present time; and

WHEREAS, the current Presidential administration has maintained that it is open to adding other nations to those seven countries affected by the above-mentioned executive orders; and

WHEREAS, The Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy (BRIDGE) Act, which would extend certain protections for DACA students, faces an uncertain fate before the current Congress; and

WHEREAS, recent events and long-term trends suggest growing dangers to the safety and security of international and immigrant members of the University, including but not limited to the threats of deportation, verbal and physical harassment, and the attendant anxieties caused by these actions; and

WHEREAS, such policies pose a direct threat to the academic freedoms and civil liberties of members of this University community; and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred colleges and universities across the country have responded to this current crisis by asserting their solidarity with affected constituencies and vowing to take tangible steps to protect the safety and security of those communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Faculty Senate of Bowling Green State University, support the designation of BGSU as a "welcoming campus" for all groups targeted by these discriminatory policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate affirms its commitment to support and protect all of BGSU's students and workers, regardless of their citizenship status, religion, ethnicity, or national origin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate urges the University to undertake the same measures as Michigan State University and the University of Michigan to protect the private records of individual students under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including their immigration status, unless compelled by a federal warrant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate supports the creation of a policy similar to that of the University of California, Los Angeles and other campuses, whereby Campus Police will not engage in helping the federal government with deportations or inquiring as to the immigration status of students, unless compelled by a federal warrant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate supports strong university-wide measures to safeguard the personal information of all employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate calls upon the University to provide strictly confidential counseling services for undocumented students, DACA recipients, staff, workers, and their families regarding their situations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate fully supports the efforts of President Mary Ellen Mazey and the Inter-University Council of Ohio to endorse the (BRIDGE) Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate encourages the University to support legal challenges to the executive orders of January 27, 2017, and any similar executive orders; either individually or through the combined efforts of the Inter-University Council of Ohio; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate reaffirms the University's commitment to create a campus atmosphere of respect by denouncing all hate speech directed at immigrant, minority, women, disabled, and LGBTQ students and workers, and by informing the campus of existing resources for reporting and responding to bias or hate incidents.