The Senate Executive Committee opposes President Trump’s recent executive orders that temporarily ban certain refugees and foreign citizens from entering or returning to the United States. After the first order was blocked by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Trump administration issued a revised order, which, like the first order, bans entry to the United States from six mostly Muslim countries (Iraq is exempted in the revised order). The revised order allows entry of permanent residents and valid visa holders from the respective countries but has again been temporarily suspended by judicial action.

If any such order is ultimately enforced, it will adversely affect UC Santa Cruz by preventing scholars and students from visiting our university for collaborative research and conferences. It will also prohibit students from these countries from attending our university. We are concerned about the negative effect the orders have already had on our international reputation by discouraging international students and colleagues from working with us. We are also concerned about the impact such a ban will have on innovation and discoveries resulting from collaborations and sharing of new ideas.

UC Santa Cruz prides itself on being an open and diverse institution, welcoming students and scholars from all countries, regardless of nationality or religion. Our university thrives because of our diversity that comes from within and without national borders. We therefore condemn the xenophobia implicit in the executive orders, which threatens the democratic principles and values we treasure at UCSC and UC.

We are encouraged by the commitment from UC President Janet Napolitano to support affected members of the UC community, and urge our administration to continue to offer guidance and support to protect students, faculty, and staff. As faculty, we commit ourselves to remaining aware of the chilling effects that these or similar policies may have on our students, and doing what we can to protect their interests and maximize their participation and success at UCSC.

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