

Senate Statement on Immigration
February 28, 2017

As the duly elected representatives of the academic faculty at Colorado School of Mines, the Faculty Senate hereby expresses the following concerns about Executive Order 13769, suspending immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, signed by the President of the United States on January 27, 2017:

- The order places a sudden and undue hardship on our students from the affected countries; this includes several students who are separated from their spouses and children, including some among us who require medical care;
- The order promotes fear, uncertainty, and division within our community of faculty, students, and staff, particularly among minority and Muslim populations, who perceive in the order potential threats to their well-being;
- The order interferes with our academic research, in so far as it affects undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students, as well as faculty, involved in the research of the institution, funded both by governmental and private enterprise research grants, from affected countries and by vulnerable populations;
- The order damages the career prospects of our graduates from affected populations, including those who have lost job opportunities after the order was issued or had their visa status called into question;
- The order impedes the movements of students and researchers, valued members of our academic community;
- The order shuts the door to refugees, many of them women and children fleeing from war zones and terrorist violence.

In these and other ways, the executive order contravenes the mission, vision, and values of Colorado School of Mines, as encapsulated in our 2014-24 Strategic Plan:

- It works at cross-purposes to our institutional *mission* of working to “address the needs and aspirations of the world’s population.”
- It interferes with our *vision* of achieving excellence in our academic programs “that serve constituencies throughout Colorado, the nation and the world.”
- Most fundamentally, it clashes with our *values* by disrupting our efforts to create “an engaged and supportive campus community” and to foster among our students “an enhanced sense of responsibility to promote positive change in the world.”

We stand in solidarity with all in our community who are affected by this executive order, whether directly by citizenship or documentation status, or indirectly by the dissension, division, and stress provoked by the order and its aftermath.

It is important to note that immigrants play crucial roles in both the U.S. economy and in particular in adding value and innovative contributions to science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines and fields.