

Answering immigration based questions

- Student's concern about going home and coming back.
 - o Keep paperwork in order (travel)
- Unease among all international students
 - o Providing reassurance
 - o Beyond student from 7 affected countries
 - o Students biggest fear is possibility of new E.O.
- OPT unemployment (employment)
 - o Out of status
- From SA- citizen of Yemen- concern?
 - o Libya student
 - Could her parents come for graduation?
- Application yield?
- Communicating with all students on docs they need to have when they travel.
- How new regulations and WA state regulations
 - o Public employees in WA
 - What are our obligations?
 - o Immigration
 - USCIS/DHS
- Campuses- sanctuary campus?
 - o Funding
 - o Violation rights
- Open door institution
 - o SPSSC policies
 - o Federal
- As an office we cant decide the advice that comes out (may be from general counsel or president's office)
- Know when to refer students to legal counsel
- Miscommunications between I.S. offices and university president's office
- Sharing info with students
 - o Upcoming events
 - o NAFSA page
 - o Other resources
- Vietnam student
 - o Refusal for renewal of visa (3.8 GPA)
- China issues
 - o Renewal of visas an issue

Resources for students

- “Immigration” is a misnomer for F1, non-immigrant, visa status
- Studyinthestates.org
- #youarewelcomehere
- Open house forums (Steve Miller)
- Send message with solutions to students
 - o Don’t say, “Don’t worry it will be okay”
 - o Includes facts and resources
- Help students become media literate
 - o Stay with your original purpose- study. Maybe keep other reasons quiet for a little bit.
 - o Stay legal
- Amicus Brief- companies signed to support lawsuit
- Explaining political system & checks + balances
- NAFSA’s updated site
- South Seattle- statements from college on website, add links to any non-profits, travel advisors, all in one place
 - o Check out UW site
 - o Reassure we are welcoming community, counseling and advisors available
- Seattle University/South Seattle College- “Town Hall” type meetings
 - o Lawyer visits but can be contradictory
 - o Advise degree of risk
 - o SU offering a list of pro bono attorneys (they are a law school)
- Some international offices have been asked to give presentations to faculty-sharing information about how the system works, SEVIS, etc., encourage faculty to be a partner but send students with specific immigration questions to international office.
- Refer students to on-campus/community counseling
- “Listening sessions” offered at SU but only 1 student showed up, trying “Real talk” instead.
- SSC- students organized their own forum to share concerns
- Postcards- student had opportunity to write postcards showing support for those affected by travel ban, put up in a heart shape on international office window
- Many schools working with student government/campus clubs to offer programming

Wish list: United message from all college campus presidents

Responding to Discrimination

Evergreen: Incident/Case committee

UW: Also, set up incident response team/ "doxxing"- non documented students begin followed in coordinated campaign

* Can these targeted students have allies/ advocates who will report incidents to police in cases where people are afraid to go to the police?

* Can schools set up anonymous reporting hotline?

UW: Sent out to all resources through global affairs portal. President sent out anti-discrimination message, with links to resource center to help people filter out bad information. UW ISS office has "newsroom" on their site with trusted sources.

Seattle Central: encourage one on one advising sessions to address immigration concerns.

- Admissions: update admin sites to send welcoming message
- "You are welcome here" videos for prospective students.
- Evergreen State is also working on a video.

Discrimination: students → let them be part of the solution, encourage them to self-reflect

Need campus presidents and "high ups" to send messages reminding community of school values. (i.e. "Hate has no home here" posters at UW)

Study in the USA: platform for "you are welcome here" message.

Schools should send messages of inclusion to everyone.

→ How long does it take for messages to come out?

Incidents

- Unauthorized flyers- white supremacist messages
- Protests and marches on campus
- Graffiti/tagging on or near campus
- Students confronting other students with hate speech

College Response

- Statement from university president → inclusive/welcoming campus
- Marketing messages
 - o Social media: #youarewelcomehere
 - o Prominent message on university homepage
 - o Resource webpage for concerned students
- Academic events exploring topics of racism, human rights, etc.
- Meeting students needs to help them feel welcome

- Establishing and marketing prayer room on campus
- Halal food options

How to respond to students when they feel discriminated

- Ask if they want to make a formal report
 - Maybe best to ask at the end of appointment
 - Need to be careful with this
 - Can you report on behalf of students?
 - Southern Poverty Law
- Should IS lead trainings/presentations to faculty on our students?

Methods for Communicating without being emotionally or politically charged:

- Day after election- mood poor
- Have to address issues with immigration community
- President's message, video "You are welcome here"
- Students concerned about leaving even if not from travel ban countries
- Be positive in international communication
- Focus on issues rather than emotions
- Temptation to say too much

Students says: "But it is a new era"

- Hard not to be judgemental in response

Give the message:

- Washington State is different, a great place to be

Students transferring to school in conservation state:

- Will I be safe?
- In general, campus is safer environment

Travel advice:

- Make sure you have all your proper paperwork

Vietnamese students seem to believe there will be a cut off w/ Vietnam.

- Something about needing to start visa process all over again before the 1 year left mark.
- They are wanting to go home to renew before that 1 year mark.

Lots of panic and rumors within different culture groups

Balancing the advice

- No guarantees of safety and not discouraging them

Advising hearing rumors of students transferring to Canadian schools.

Allowing for school president's office to lead conversations and encourage students to attend, but not segregated sessions.

WWU: Emails out to students letting them know of contacts if feeling uncomfortable

We don't know what information are professors are giving

- We don't know if it is appropriate for our students

We need to take some care, some students support Trump

Creating "You are welcome here" video

Student concerns:

- Can I get my visa?

- Now I got my visa, but will I get in the country?

How do Muslim students feel?

- Saudi student said they felt they would be okay because of oil money

Changing questionnaire

- Are you planning to renew?
 - o Advise students to start process as soon as possible.

TPS- How will this work now?

- Nepal
- Syria
- Yemen