



**Resolution in Support of International Students and
against ICE Policy on International Students
July 10, 2020**

Whereas

- according to [the most recent available data](#), there were 4,599 “Non-Resident Alien” students enrolled at Stony Brook in the Fall of 2019 representing nearly 20% of the total Stony Brook enrollment of 26,814;
- US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued a [declaration](#) on July 6, 2020 announcing that international students attending US universities that switch to a fully online format for Fall 2020 will have to leave the United States or risk violating their F-1 visa status;
- ICE’s declaration ends the temporary exemptions that the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) had instituted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to permit F-1 students to complete their Spring and Summer 2020 coursework fully online;
- ICE’s sudden reinstatement of restrictive online study policies marks the latest in a series of efforts (which includes but is not limited to the 2017 Travel/Muslim Ban) to disrupt the lives of international students and the functioning of US higher education;
- threatening F-1 students with deportation and coercing them onto campus for in-person instruction during a pandemic endangers their physical safety, mental health, and educational wellbeing at SUNY Stony Brook, across the SUNY system, and throughout the United States;
- university leaders and immigration experts are still trying to ascertain the impact of this declaration on international students currently enrolled in US universities but not in the United States and on newly admitted international students trying to secure visas and matriculate in US universities;
- US universities are already anticipating the disastrous short- and long-term effects of this declaration and other anti-immigrant policies on the recruitment of international students;
- international students significantly contribute to university life and the local and national economies ([in 2018 they contributed \\$45 billion](#) to the US economy);
- ICE’s declaration undermines the authority and autonomy of universities by preventing them from basing their decisions about reopening campuses during the COVID-19 pandemic on scientific evidence and community health priorities;

Now, therefore be it resolved, the UUP West Campus chapter at SUNY Stony Brook

- is in solidarity with international graduate and undergraduate students and denounces this declaration as a racist and xenophobic attack on non-immigrant students;
- is in solidarity with unions, like the Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) and PSC/CUNY, and other coalitions, like the International and Immigrant Student Worker Alliance (IISWA), that are currently organizing direct actions against this declaration.
- is committed to preserving the diversity, integrity, and wholeness of our campus community and to the broader fight for racial justice, international solidarity, and inclusive public higher education for all regardless of immigration status;

And be it further be resolved, the UUP West Campus chapter at SUNY Stony Brook

- calls on SUNY Central and SUNY Stony Brook to
 - use its material resources and political capital to swiftly and transparently act to protect international students, therefore joining other universities ([like MIT, NYU, UPenn, Brown, Harvard, and Stanford](#)) and the [Association of American Universities](#) in fighting this unjust, dangerous, and discriminatory declaration;
 - to further protect non-citizen students (international students as well as undocumented students) by refusing to cooperate with ICE, and by defending UUP members and other campus employees who also refuse to cooperate with ICE, immediately turning SUNY into a network of [sanctuary campuses](#);
 - reach out to international students, assess their immediate needs, and direct them to relevant legal and mental health support services via Visa and Immigration Services, the International Student Success Task Force, and other student support services
- calls on UUP Statewide to work with our national affiliate the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to oppose this destructive measure and to organize in solidarity with international graduate student workers at Stony Brook, across SUNY, and throughout the United States;
- calls on our members to
 - [contact NY Senators and Representatives and ask them to support international students by taking action to reverse this policy change](#);
 - sign this [GSEU petition](#) calling for action;
 - endorse [this IISWA faculty open letter](#) against the ICE policy.