

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Senator from Stony Brook University, P. Wolfskill
RE: Legal Help for Immigration Issues
DATE: April 26th, 2025 (200th UFS Plenary)
LOCATION: SUNY Oneonta
NUMBER: 200-10-1
VOTE: For: 38 / Against: 1

RATIONALE

WHEREAS the United States Department of State and Department of Homeland Security have summarily revoked faculty, staff, and student visas and terminated legal status in SEVIS without notice or process; and

WHEREAS these revocations have often been for political speech and beliefs; and

WHEREAS such revocations are on uncertain legal grounds and appear to be punitive in nature; and

WHEREAS such revocations threaten the well-being of faculty, staff, and students and the intellectual and educational mission of SUNY campuses; and

WHEREAS the expression of political speech and belief is vital for democracies and to the educational mission of universities; and

WHEREAS [the State University of New York \(SUNY\) respects and fully supports the rights of free speech guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the State of New York. SUNY values the free expression of ideas and supports individuals' right to assemble;](#) and

WHEREAS it is the university's duty to safeguard and uphold these rights and due process for students, staff, and faculty whose visas have been revoked and statuses terminated for the exercise of these rights;

RESOLUTION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate affirms the exercise of first amendment rights and the protection of due process and asks the Chancellor and Board of Trustees to safeguard these rights and ensure due process by:

1. keeping students on a visa or with permanent resident status enrolled in the event of visa revocation, revocation of permanent residency, legal status termination, detention, and/or deportation; and
2. establishing a fund for any affected students, faculty, and staff so that their coursework, research, teaching, and/or other work can continue; and
3. providing legal counsel for affected faculty, staff, and students—including funding assistance when necessary, whether through SUNY System Administration resources or by directing private funds—in order to safeguard due process and legal protections; and

4. making a commitment to refuse non-mandatory cooperation or information sharing with federal agencies charged with facilitating deportation or other forms of immigration enforcement; and
5. ensuring the posting of Know Your Rights overviews on websites and in dorms, dining halls, student centers, and other heavily trafficked areas on campuses; and
6. ensuring the provision of mandatory Know Your Rights training to all students, faculty, and staff, with special modules for university police and residence life personnel.