

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Authored by CSSA Board of Directors

Adopted for San Francisco State University Associated Students by Chantel Bermudez (VP of Social Justice & Equity)

**WHEREAS**, San Francisco State University is a part of the California State University (CSU) system, which is over 487,000 students in the California State University (CSU), including the 16,222 international students within the CSU; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University is, “dedicated to the empowerment of SF State’s diverse student body through a commitment to social justice and shared governance”; and

**WHEREAS**, international students and their right to an equitable education through California State University is just as important as any and all other CSU students; and

**WHEREAS**, CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White announced that all 23 CSU campuses will be offering courses in the Fall 2020 semester primarily in a virtual instructional format<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency released modifications on July 6th, 2020, regarding the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) exemptions for nonimmigrant students taking online classes for the Fall 2020 semester, and plans to publish the procedures and responsibilities in the Federal Register as a Temporary Final Rule<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, these modifications state that nonimmigrant F-1 and M-1 students attending schools operating entirely online, will not be allowed to take a fully online

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<sup>1</sup> [CSU Announcement on Fall 2020 virtuality](#)

<sup>2</sup> [DHS / ICE policy modification](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Most countries in the world have imposed partial or complete border closures to foreign nationals due to COVID-19](#)

<sup>5</sup> [New Title IX Regulations](#)

course load and remain living in the United States, as the US Department of State will refuse to issue visas to students enrolled in these fully online schools<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the admission application deadline for other universities has passed and CSU students would not have an opportunity to transfer to other universities in compliance with ICE directives; and

**WHEREAS**, Forcing students to travel back home is also forcing International students to put their health at risk since traveling is exposing them to COVID-19 and according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Some healthcare systems are overwhelmed and there may be limited access to adequate medical care in affected areas. If you choose to travel internationally, your travel plans may be disrupted, and you may have to remain outside the United States for an indefinite length of time.<sup>3</sup>”

**WHEREAS**, according to the Pew Research Center, “Most countries in the world have imposed partial or complete border closures to foreign nationals due to Coronavirus outbreak”<sup>4</sup> meaning current traveling restrictions would cause undue harm and difficulty to students due to travel bans, and

**WHEREAS**, the stress of the journey during this current pandemic would cause undue stress and damage to students’ mental and physical health as well as conflict financial burdens; and

**WHEREAS**, If students are forced to go back to their country, many of those students will not have access to resources like the internet, time zone differences, or specific resources needed for online courses, When students do not have access to these basic needs it can have a grave impact on their academic progress;

**WHEREAS**, the Graduation Initiative 2025 aims to graduate as many CSU students as possible, following this ruling would greatly detract from these efforts due to the disconnect from on-campus resources; and

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**WHEREAS**, international students pay fees for on campus services such as; Materials, Services and Facilities Fee, Health Services Fee & Health Facilities Fee, Instructionally Related Activities Fee, and under the directives released by the Department of Homeland Security, access to such resources will be hindered and inaccessible; and

**WHEREAS**, new Title IX regulations would leave international students unable to report sexual harassment, assault, stalking, and other forms of abuse or make it harder for students to further pursue current investigations<sup>5</sup>; and

**RESOLVED**, the Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University calls upon the Chancellor's office to use the CSU's legal resources to assess what legal flexibility we have in supporting our students in preventing any deportations for CSU students; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University calls upon the Chancellor's office to use the CSU's legal resources to look for legal precedence to challenge ICE's orders in District Courts; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University calls for the creation of a system-wide policy for fulfilling the F-1 visa requirements so international students can stay in the country; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University calls for the implementation of stringent social distancing measures for students, staff, and faculty if in-person classes are added; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University calls for the streamlining of counseling services specifically for international students during this crisis; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Associated Students Board of Directors at San Francisco State University calls upon Chancellor Timothy White to mandate all 23 CSU campuses to submit academic plans that fulfill said F-1 visa requirements with the utmost

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urgency in order to ensure the safety of F-1 and M-1 international students for Fall 2020; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be distributed to President Mahoney, VP SAEM Beth Hellwig, Dean of Students, Donald Trump, Thomas Homan, Chancellor Timothy P. White, each of the 23 CSU Presidents, Academic Senate Chair Robert Collins, Vice Chancellor Leovan Cleve, U.S. House Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, U.S. House Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee, U.S. Senate Border Security and Immigration Subcommittee, Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Diane Feinstein, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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