

DRAFT Motion: The importance of international exchange in UConn's Mission

The UConn community hails from 6 continents—reflecting the international nature of scientific, professional, and cultural exchange and collaboration we are engaged with on an everyday basis. Our success is built on a model of international cooperation that promotes robust interaction with universities around the globe. Members of the UConn community travel internationally to conduct research, to give conference papers, to engage in internships, and also to study at peer institutions: our peers travel to the US for similar reasons. The energy, perspectives, and knowledge that have been unleashed via this system of international exchanges has helped make American universities the envy of the world -- attracting top talent to the US; making it the world leader in the development of new patents, Nobel Prizes; in creating a center for basic scientific research that incubates innovation in the longer term; and generating world-transforming trends in idea and culture. This international system has played a central role in making universities an engine of American prosperity over the past seven decades,

Thus, we find the steady drum beat of arrests, detention, and denial of entry of academics and students who are not US citizens unnerving, especially in light of what has been written about why they may have been targeted. For those who are not US citizens, it is much more than unnerving—plans and decisions are being scrutinized in ways that would have been unthinkable just a year ago. The harm is real, not hypothetical.

These government actions strike at the heart of the free exchange of people and ideas that have helped make American universities so successful. We encourage everyone to think about what would be lost if this free exchange is further inhibited. We believe that our internationalism enriches progress in science, in the professions, in arts and in the possibilities unlocked by cultural exchange, and in so doing, in the progress for human rights across the globe.

We, the University of Connecticut University Senate, affirm our support for international members of our community. We thank the institution for recent steps taken in support of this population and call on the administration to identify and follow through on additional actions it can take to protect the rights of international community members. Concrete actions include clear designation of spaces that are 'nonpublic', training of citizens in how they can respond, and implementation of other steps identified in the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration (e.g., <https://www.presidentsalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/FAQs-ICE-Enforcement-on-Campuses-Feb-2025.pdf>). Our community's health and future prosperity depend on keeping connections vibrant.

Passed by Voice Vote during the April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting of the University Senate