

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

The University of Missouri System issued a message yesterday [below] to acknowledge the confusion and angst caused by a new presidential executive order governing visas and entry in the United States. I am following up this morning to assure you that we at the University of Missouri–St. Louis are working to better understand the situation and how to support those of our community most directly affected.

I have asked the Office of International Studies and Programs to convene an open meeting tomorrow from 2 to 4 p.m. for the campus community to discuss immigration, safety and counseling. The meeting is being held in the Student Government Association Chambers on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center.

Also, individuals who have concerns are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Affairs, Office of the Provost, Department of Human Resources or Office for International Studies and Programs. These units will work together as necessary to provide advice and support.

On a national level, I am working with my colleagues from the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities to let our elected federal officials understand the broad potential restraints this and other similar actions could place on our teaching, research and service missions.

It is not an understatement to say that UMSL draws much of its strength from its rich diversity. It is an area in which we flourish, and from which we cannot retreat. As chancellor, I am committed to maintaining our inclusive and welcoming environment where people from all walks of life are encouraged to pursue their educational and professional interests to the fullest.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Tom George
Chancellor

To the UM System community,

We are writing today to offer support and guidance, as a new presidential executive order makes changes to the rules governing visas and entry to the United States. The situation remains fluid and we will continue to monitor it closely, and update you as the situation warrants.

If these changes are affecting you or your ability to be a successful student or scholar, campus resources are available to assist you, including the counseling center, staff within your student affairs divisions, academic advisors, and professors or colleagues in your department or college.

As leaders of the university, we are also working with our national associations such as the American Association of Universities (AAU) and Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU) to communicate with the Administration how this affects not only our international students and scholars, but our ability to carry out our institutional mission.

We are committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment that makes our university a special place for learning, research and engagement. The academic programs at the University of Missouri System are enhanced by the diverse contributions from students, faculty and staff who hail from over 100 countries. We close by reaffirming our support for international students, faculty and staff who make important contributions and enrich our university.

Sincerely,
Michael Middleton, Interim President
Mun Choi, President-designate