16 February 2017

ARTS AND SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF CONCERN

The mission of Oklahoma State University emphasizes our commitment to the advancement of knowledge and the core values of community, excellence, diversity, service, intellectual freedom and stewardship of resources. Likewise, the College of Arts and Sciences values academic freedom, academic responsibility, and diversity of expression, experience, and culture. These values, integral to the land-grant mission, are seriously threatened by President Trump’s 27 January 2017 Executive Order on Immigration and Refugees.

The College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council affirms its belief in the university’s mission and core values. We support President Hargis’ recent statement on the negative consequences of the Executive Order and urge the University to continue its efforts to support students, staff, and faculty affected by the ban.

The Executive Order compromises the United States’ standing as a world leader in intellectual advancement and scholarly development. It threatens long-established global research networks, promotes religious discrimination as an immigration criterion, and damages the Oklahoma State community, which prides itself on friendly, supportive, and culturally diverse conversations. It is not the OSU Cowboy way.

As representatives of the College of Arts and Sciences, members of the Oklahoma State University community, and educators, we encourage the University to continue to speak against initiatives that harm our community and its academic mission.

Signed on behalf of the Council, which voted unanimously to support the statement,

G. Allen Finchum PhD CCP GISP  
Chair, Arts and Sciences Faculty Council  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography

Bret Danilowicz PhD  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
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