

PRESIDENT SPINA FORMS WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE UNIVERSITY EFFORTS AROUND IMMIGRATION; SUPPORT FOR AFFECTED STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF

2/21/2017



Dear campus community,

I write to state my appreciation for the many members of our University of Dayton community who have expressed solidarity with and directly supported our students, faculty, and staff negatively impacted by the executive order on immigration. It is gratifying to see so many engaged in advocacy for others, putting our Catholic, Marianist commitment to social justice into action.

As a University, we have continually affirmed our commitment to all affected members of the campus community, particularly to our Muslim students, faculty, and staff. The University is supporting them to the best of our ability through a variety of campus services. We will continue to protect their personal information and will not voluntarily share information about immigration status except as required by law.

The Center for International Programs and the Office of the Provost are communicating and working closely with affected community members and have created an information hub that provides updates and guidance: [Information on Executive Order](#). Suggestions for faculty and staff who wish to help support international students affected by the executive order can also be found there.

Students, faculty, staff and administrators alike have expressed to me their deep concerns about recent executive orders, other changes to federal immigration policy enforcement, and the impact of those changes on members of our campus community. A new executive order expected this week could create another set of challenges. Several informal groups have been working independently on what the University community can do and how we can support those affected by the order.

In response to these efforts and several requests, I have asked students, faculty, and staff representatives to come together with the administration around a table in the Marianist style to discuss this full set of related issues. Among other things, this working group will explore how we can best support students, faculty, and staff as a full community, and whether we are using our educational influence, both inside and outside the classroom, to deepen understanding about immigration to the U.S. and develop more just relationships with our immigrant neighbors. Since the situation remains very fluid, the working group and the administration will engage in continual dialog and make recommendations as material changes to enforcement are identified and/or implemented.

The members of the working group are:

Administration: Larry Burnley, vice president for diversity and inclusion

Faculty: Ellen Fleischmann, professor of history and Alumni Chair in Humanities; Miranda Hallett, assistant professor of anthropology

Staff: Camilo Pérez-Bustillo, executive director of the Human Rights Center; Amy Anderson, executive director of the Center for International Programs; Patty Alvarez, assistant dean of students and director of multicultural affairs

Students: Camila Robles, Leena Sabagh

Marianists: Brother Raymond Fitz, S.M.

Our Catholic faith and Marianist mission call on us to treat every person with dignity and respect and to cultivate an inclusive, welcoming campus environment; Catholic higher education has always had a special role in educating immigrants and their children. Striving for social justice is in the University's DNA and I am confident the work of this group will be enormously valuable as we continue to navigate a rapidly changing environment around immigration and continue to work toward the common good.

Eric F. Spina

President