

Dear UNI Students,

We, the Faculty of the University of Northern Iowa, consider it our great privilege to nurture and guide the intellectual growth of our students at UNI, who come here from all over the world. You come to us with a wide range of experiences, backgrounds, and nationalities, and together we grow by learning from one another. Whether you came to UNI from Durango, Iowa or Durango, Mexico; from Tripoli, Iowa or Tripoli, Libya, you are UNI. The international students amongst us are our friends, our roommates, our neighbors, and an integral part of our campus community. Thus, it is with great sadness that we learn that some of our students are among the number from around the nation whose student visas were revoked, frequently without cause or explanation.

We believe policies that remove our international citizens from campus are not just bad for international students, but are bad for our entire campus community. We thrive intellectually as a campus in large part because we are a confluence of differing viewpoints and experiences. Silencing these viewpoints and homogenizing the intellectual diversity of our community degrades and devalues us, contributing to a climate of fear.

We also believe these same policies are bad for our community and the state of Iowa. Just as the diversity of thought and experiences held by our international students enrich UNI, they also enrich our city and our state. Furthermore, our state faces a labor shortage that is worsening, and a brain drain that threatens our viability. Numerous policies at the state and local levels are being enacted to combat this problem and draw new people into the workforce. Because so many UNI students stay here and enter Iowa's workforce after graduation, removing people from campus is removing people from Iowa's workforce. As our campus community aspires to grow even further in size and to nurture the lives and minds of Iowa's future workforce, international students represent a substantial portion of our growth. We welcome you here because we are enriched by your presence and because we need you, both in Iowa and here at UNI.

We, the Faculty of UNI, love and value our students, whether you come to us from countries near or far. We dedicate our lives to this career because being around you brings us joy and gives us hope. Whether you come from Canada or Cameroon, Mexico or Mali, we welcome you, we celebrate your presence with us, and we will do everything in our power to support and protect you and your rights.

In solidarity,

The Faculty Senate of the University of Northern Iowa

(Approved as amended April 28, 2025)