

Vanderbilt Student Government
Resolution Recommending Vanderbilt Become a Sanctuary Campus

Resolution S: 16-17-11

Proposed by: Highland Quad Senator Hamzah Raza

Cosponsored by: Stambaugh House Senator Matthew Blaize; Nicholas gardner, memorial house senator; justin hutchings, towers I & II Senator; patrick timmins, towers III & IV Senator; community, building, outreach & Diversity committee; Sara starr; Chair of the vanderbilt sexual assault prevention committee; Vandy feds executive board

President of the Middle Eastern Students' Association Hytham Alhindi, President of United Muslim Relief Sumaiya DeLane; South Asian Cultural Exchange Executive Board; Muslim Student Association Executive Board; President of the Pakistani Students' Association Hassan Iqbal; President of the Multicultural Leadership Council Akaninyene Ruffin; President of Project-I-Am Drake Sanders; President of the Black Student Association Jami Cox; Co-Chair of MOSAIC Lauren Pak; Editor of the Vanderbilt Review Lisa Muloma; Vice President of SANKOFA Cya Johnson; Shawn Reilly, Vanderbilt Students for Nonviolence Executive Board; Melissa De La Torre, Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students; Azeem Hernandez

We, the elected representatives of the Vanderbilt Student Body, hereby enact the following:

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt University community creed affirms our core values as including “genuine respect for the rights of others” and “concern for the well-being and dignity of others;” and,

WHEREAS, the Senate and our academic community and peers across the country are concerned about the recent increase in hate crimes and inflammatory language around the United States, including at Vanderbilt University; and,

WHEREAS, there have been repeated examples of threats against people of color, women, Muslims, documented and undocumented immigrants, and those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer; and,

WHEREAS, over 200 faculty members have signed a letter to Chancellor Zeppos calling on him to respond to the President-elect, in addition to over 100 faculty members, over 100 alumni, and over 500 students who have signed a petition calling on Chancellor Zeppos to declare Vanderbilt a sanctuary campus; and,

WHEREAS, an elected representative has called for a registry of Muslim Americans; and,

WHEREAS, the representative's surrogate cited Japanese internment camps as precedent for a Muslim registry; and

WHEREAS, proposed immigration policies of the incoming presidential administration could undermine the safety and security of members of our educational community and their families, particularly those students and staff without the privileges of US citizenship; and,

WHEREAS, two internal 2011 memos indicate that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are subject to certain restrictions upon entering college campuses, and should avoid persecuting high school and college students; and,

WHEREAS, enforcement actions covered by the policy include arrests, interviews, searches, and surveillance for the purposes of immigration enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, large numbers of universities and colleges, such as Columbia University, Wesleyan, Portland State University, Oregon State University, Reed College, and California State University, throughout the country are declaring themselves to be a "Sanctuary Campus" to signal their continued commitment to protect all its members regardless of their immigration status; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vanderbilt University Undergraduate Senate requests that the university administration take the following actions, to the extent legally possible:

1. Deny law enforcement agencies collaborating with the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agency(ICE) or Customs and Border Patrol(CBP) access to any Vanderbilt properties or information that may compromise a student's ability to continue their education at Vanderbilt.
2. Enforce campus policy prohibiting VUPD from inquiring about immigration status, enforcing immigration laws, or participating with ICE or CBP in actions.
3. Refuse to cooperate with any 'registration' system that seeks to target or surveil Muslims.
4. Publicly declare Vanderbilt a Sanctuary Campus.

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these actions be taken with deliberate speed.

Signed by the Speaker of the Senate,

Signed by the Student Body President,

Speaker Damontà Morgan

President Ariana Fowler