

RESOLUTION ON PROBLEMS CAUSED BY RECENT U.S. IMMIGRATION PRACTICES
Submitted by the Department of Mathematics

Introduction

Professor Steffen Lempp, Department of Mathematics, has asked that the issue below be brought forward as a resolution. Professor Lempp asks senators to send to lempp@math.wisc.edu egregious examples from their departments. A selection of worst examples representing the entire campus, but sans identifying personal information, will be included in a final resolution on which the Faculty Senate will have the opportunity to cast a formal vote.

Professor Lempp has also proposed that the following list of individuals and media outlets receive a copy of the resolution:

President Obama

Secretary of State Clinton

Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano

Every member of Congress

Every Supreme Court Justice

Major local and national newspapers (Wisconsin State Journal, Isthmus, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, local television stations)

Other media outlets (New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, Chicago Tribune)

Resolution

International collaboration is vital to all scholarly activity, and research visits by foreign scholars to the U.S. are a vital component of this without which any scholarly activity within the U.S. in all areas—science, the humanities and the social sciences—would greatly suffer.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate thus deeply deplores the recent alarming trend of U.S. immigration authorities to handle visa applications and border control procedures of foreign scholars in a highly unprofessional and often inhumane and degrading way. This practice tarnishes the reputation of our nation among foreign scholars and makes continuing international collaboration far more difficult, causing great long-term harm to our nation's scholarly activity and ultimately to our nation's economic, scientific and cultural life.

Therefore, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate urges the Departments of State and Homeland Security to direct all their officials

- (i) to handle all visa applications speedily, humanely and politely;
- (ii) to inform fully any visa applicant of any reason that may delay his or her visa application, and to give a time frame within this delay is expected to be resolved; and
- (iii) to treat foreign visitors at border control points with respect, dignity and in an expedient manner, and to inform them fully and immediately of any reason for possible delays.

Unfortunately, all of us have come to know many incidents in which the above principles, which we deem to be common sense for any civilized nation, have been grossly violated, often in a manner which could only appear arbitrary and/or degrading to the foreign scholar who intended to visit our university.

We also strongly believe that these common-sense principles do not interfere with our nation's security: Our nation's reputation in treating citizens of other countries with dignity and respect is just as vital to our nation's security as any intelligence gathering and background checking.