

*(As adopted by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 4 April 2011)*

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

Introduction

Professor Steffen Lempp, Department of Mathematics, brought the resolution below to the Faculty Senate for discussion at its 7 March 2011 meeting. A summary of serious issues resulting from current U.S. immigration practices has been added to the final resolution. The resolution has been formally endorsed by a vote of the faculty of the Department of Mathematics.

Professor Lempp proposes 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 is deeply disappointed by the recent trend in which U.S. immigration authorities have handled the visa applications and border control procedures of many foreign scholars in an unprofessional, inhumane and/or 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 Department of State and the Department of 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. This has resulted in degrees to foreign UW students being delayed by more than a year since the students could not return to the U.S. for their theses defenses; in research visitors being denied entry into the U.S. to collaborate and teach at our university; and even in Canadian visitors being turned back at the U.S.-Canadian border for trivial reasons, with no valid explanation given.

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.