



## **MU Faculty Council on University Policy**

### **Resolution Concerning Refugees and U.S. Immigration Policy**

Approved on January 30, 2017

In light of recent changes to U.S. immigration policy, including the treatment of refugees and residents who arrived here as children, the MU Faculty Council wishes to express its support for MU students, faculty, and staff who are affected.

American universities have a long tradition of welcoming scholars fleeing persecution abroad. While the refugee Albert Einstein is most famous for serving his adopted country in the classroom and laboratory, he exemplified the best values of America in his tireless efforts to save others from the dangers of tyranny and war, continuing his devotion well after his own safety was assured. The International Rescue Committee, founded at Einstein's suggestion, remains a force for good long after his death.

Embracing refugees has also advanced the economic and security efforts of the United States. Einstein again serves as the most prominent example through his support of the Manhattan Project, and the project could not have succeeded without the assistance of other migrants, such as Edward Teller and Enrico Fermi. The fruits of their research have advanced American interests in peace as well as in war.

Further, countless international students have returned to their home countries after studying in America, bringing with them an appreciation of our open society, its commitment to tolerance, and the spirit behind our motto, "*e pluribus unum*" ("out of many, one"). The connections made here encourage international cooperation, thereby promoting peace and prosperity. Others have stayed, weaving their threads into the American tapestry.

We recall today the example of diplomat Hiram Bingham IV, who was appointed the American vice consul at Marseilles in 1940. While there, he issued lifesaving visas to hundreds of refugees. Although his work was unappreciated by State Department superiors at the time, and he was relieved from his post in 1941, he has since risen to a place of honor and is recognized on a U.S. postage stamp.

Lest we imagine, however, that all American officials showed such empathy and courage, we recall as well the fate of those aboard the transatlantic liner *St. Louis*, which left Germany in

1939 full of desperate passengers who had placed their hopes in America. Denied entry, they returned to Europe. Some found refuge in England and elsewhere. Others were less fortunate. The locations of their deaths complete the story: Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, Sobibor, Buchenwald.

Based on the foregoing, the MU Faculty Council on University Policy urges campus and System administration to use all lawful means to support students, staff, and faculty who are affected by recently enacted changes to U.S. immigration law, as well as any changes that may be forthcoming.

In particular, the University should explore providing legal assistance to affected students, staff, and faculty.

In addition, the University should reiterate that irrespective of whatever policies may be announced in Washington, the University will remain true to its promise that it does not—and will not—discriminate on the basis of religion or national origin. Muslims, Mexicans, and others from all corners of the world are welcome here.

Further, Council urges the University of Missouri to coordinate with sister institutions across the nation to articulate the danger posed to American higher education by any retreat from our country's longstanding commitment to educate and employ the best and brightest that the world has to offer.