

29 April 2025

Utah Congressional Delegation

The Honorable Mike Lee, Senator

The Honorable John Curtis, Senator

The Honorable Blake Moore, Representative, 1st District

The Honorable Celeste Maloy, Representative, 2nd District

The Honorable Mike Kennedy, Representative, 3rd District

The Honorable Burgess Owens, Representative, 4th District

Dear Senators Curtis and Lee, and Representatives Kennedy, Maloy, Moore, and Owens,

We write to share our concern for the University of Utah's vital community of more than 3000 international students and scholars, twenty-two of whom recently had their visas revoked and Student and Exchange Visitor Information Program (SEVIS) registrations canceled by the U.S. Department of State. We recognize your ongoing work to help resolve these cases and were relieved to learn this week that nearly all of the affected students have had their visas and educational records reinstated. Despite this good news, the future status of our international students and faculty remains unsettled. As reported in many news outlets, these reinstatements could be reversed, leaving in doubt how the legal status of any member of our international community may be affected in the coming days and weeks. The opacity of the Department of State's process and its advisement that affected students self-deport without any clear recourse to due process create an atmosphere of fear amongst the members of our international scholarly community, undermining their education, research, teaching, and travel. It is in response to these conditions that we offer our support and our efforts as a collaborative resource toward constructive engagement with the Department of State in resolving any further actions on international student and faculty status.

A central role of faculty at the University of Utah is to facilitate student success through classroom teaching, mentoring, advising, and creating experiential learning opportunities. The international students and faculty at the University of Utah form an essential part of our community and mission, and they strengthen the quality and breadth of education for all of our students. Visa and SEVIS cancellation devastates the research goals and teaching duties of international students and faculty, and it damages the health of our community as a whole. The Department of State's recent actions not only make our current international students and faculty feel unsafe, but will discourage others from joining the University of Utah in the future, a result that would substantially diminish the University and our state's economy.

The University of Utah's Academic Senate remains steadfast in our commitment to the security and support of our international students and scholars. To this end, our goals for a collaboration with you include:

- a clear articulation from the Department of State of specific offenses that may lead to visa and SEVIS cancellation;
- transparent communication by the Department of State with university administration about actions to be taken against international students and scholars, including what can legally be shared with the campus community to minimize the disruption of our educational mission;
- the restoration of visas and SEVIS access for any affected scholars or students who are found to have been wrongfully accused and affected by recent actions; and
- support for scholars and students found to have been appropriately charged in their pursuit of due process before being imprisoned or deported.

The University of Utah's [Academic Senate](#) represents faculty, students, and staff from across the campus. Our faculty bring their expertise as educators and scholars, catalyzing the economy and culture of our state; our students bring their perspective as learners who benefit from having international students share their classrooms, their activities, and their living spaces; and our staff bring the myriad ways they support international students, educational processes, and lived experience at the U. We thank you for your efforts and look forward to collaborating with you in supporting our international community.

Sincerely,

Harriet W. Hopf

Harriet W. Hopf, Academic Senate President

On unanimous behalf of the University of Utah [Academic Senate](#)