Special Meeting
"All Graduate Students are Members Automatically"

Friday 3th, 2017 @ 5pm
Location: Bernhard Center -Rooms 211@ 5 p.m.
Topic: Support for students in regards of the new 90 days extreme vetting measures taken by the current administration: Discussion to explore how we could help.

I. Open Floor -5 p.m.
Graduate Student Concerns about the executive order on immigration.

Introduction.
• Students were welcome by the GSA Director of Legislative Affairs and the Parliamentarian

Concerns of students directly affected.
• Students are concerned about the possibility of future funding restrictions, and the instability that this type of uncertainty generates. Thus, they are unable to focus on their studies.
Response: the Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Susan Stapleton explain that there is a chance for future Federal funding to be affected. However, she emphasized that funding provided by the University is not affected by these executive orders.

• A caution when traveling outside U.S. as right now all travel may be considered risky. The extreme vetting includes limitations until April 27th. Then, new considerations will need to be updated.
• Students are concerned about whether there might be problems to get extensions on the DS-2019 and I-20 forms.
Response: no changes have been implemented to any of these policies. Moreover, the GSA encourages students to contact the immigration advisors at the WMU International Admissions Office.

• Students suggested a combine effort between GSA and WSA to provide legal counsel on immigration by bringing lawyers to WMU.
Follow up: Dr. Stapleton suggested to contact Lee Ryder who is the director of immigration services at WMU. In addition, Dean Stapleton indicated that there are several resources available for those students that might suffer financial hardship because of the executive orders on immigration. She highlighted that WMU has a food bank available for students; there are also other resources in the Kalamazoo community through churches and other institutions.
Finally, the GSA President indicated that he is currently in communication with the WSA President to discuss the possibilities of a combined effort between the two student governments.

- Students asked questions about the possibility of campus employment during the summer.
  Response: GSA will find out if there is a possibility for the students affected by the executive order on immigration to get employment on campus during the summer without being registered for courses. More information on this topic will be provided in the future.

- Several students highlighted that there is professional help in Sindecuse Health Center, for those students who need someone to talk to regarding the current issues that affect them.
  The Dean Susan Stapleton expressed that WMU is committed to being a welcoming and supportive place for everyone. There are flyers of “you are welcome here” that have been and will continue to be distributed. In addition, she indicated that there are many venues to make your voice being heard as individuals, not as a university to have a powerful statement.
  - The GSA Executive Board made a commitment to follow up with these issues and find ways to effectively advocate on behalf of those students who are affected.

II. Adjournment. 5.40 p.m.