



**American Association of University Professors  
Iowa State University Chapter**

**Statement on Deportation of International Students**  
Summer 2020

The ISU chapter of the American Association of University Professors strongly supports the university's position on the federal requirement for international students not engaged in face-to-face instruction to return to their home country. The ability of the university to maintain such instruction remains uncertain and will depend on the spread of COVID-19 within the ISU community. The flexibility to move instruction online is essential for managing the threat to the health of students, faculty and staff, and the community of Ames.

International students are a vital part of our academic community. Their presence expands cultural diversity and exposes domestic students to valuable perspectives. They bring creativity and new ideas to our intellectual horizon. We are greatly enriched by having international students and scholars among us and will be diminished in their absence. International students represent 38% of our graduate student population and thus contribute significantly to research and other scholarly endeavors. They account for 5% of undergraduate students.

We are concerned about the impacts of the requirement to leave the institution on students who are forced to do so. It will expose them to increased risk of COVID-19 infection associated with travel. Many of them have made personal sacrifices to study abroad and being deported will have a lasting damaging impact on their future. There are students whose home countries may not have adequate internet access allowing for online education and some may be returned involuntarily to a dangerous or abusive environment. Therefore, for many students deferring their dream of studying in the US will result in a dream lost.

We are concerned about the additional stress on ISU's administration that is already making an extraordinary effort to manage the health risks associated with the pandemic and financial threats to the institution. This new requirement further restricts their options for balancing health risks with financial security.

In summary, the ISU AAUP Executive Committee applauds the university administration for taking swift and appropriate actions to protect the university community. We are sympathetic to the threat that this new requirement imposes on their ability to protect the health of the university community and maintain the financial security of the institution. Finally, we encourage all faculty to communicate their appreciation and support to international students and to work with the administration to support international students during the upcoming semester.