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STATEMENT ON “SANCTUARY CAMPUS” ACTIVITY

(Lowell, MA) –

In response to the President’s understandably strict stance on illegal immigration to the United States several students and faculty have assembled to create a completely disastrous petition that recommends making all universities in the UMass system to be sanctuary campuses.

The main goals of this petition start out peaceful and easily agreeable by stating that the UMass universities strive to have a truly global community and to be role models for institutional diversity; however, this goal can be accomplished without harboring illegal immigrants.

The next section of this document goes on to state, “Guaranteeing student privacy by refusing to release information regarding their immigration status or collaborating with immigration officials.” This line is completely and utterly illegal and idiotic. If the Feds ask for immigration documentation it MUST be provided. This action would be completely irresponsible for anybody to accept or to promote.

A few lines after the petition reads, “Regulating the presence of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials on campus.” If we put our minds to work and think about this, this is one of the most illogical things to include in a petition of this sort regardless if the reader would like the universities to become sanctuary campuses. ICE does much more than just enforce the law by deporting illegals and expired visas. ICE also conducts counter-terrorism procedures, drug and human trafficking, and many more endeavors that are essential to national security.

Following the above quote, the petition suggests banning federal vehicles and personnel from the campuses to reduce the enforcement of federal law and to halt any attempts to recruit into federal organizations. With this being said, all universities in the UMass system are public, and UMass Lowell in particular encompasses much of the entire city or Lowell. Restricting federal vehicles would be restricting public roadways – Illegal, again.

Despite these blatant illegalities and fallacies, the group arranged a meeting that was comprised of many students and many faculty of all levels. It is absurd that so many people are willing to break federal law for illegal immigrants and, at the same time, put danger on those that do not agree with the efforts outlined in the petition as the President has repeatedly threatened to strip federal funding from any “sanctuary” entity. This puts the university’s very existence and their research in grave danger. If the leftists want to solve their big problems like climate change and pollution they should be fighting for more federal funding so researchers at institutions like the UMass universities can innovate an adequate solution.

On Friday, 2/17, there is an initiative entitled, “Student Strike for Sanctuary” that encourages students of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to walk out of class to raise awareness for this illegal, illogical, and absurd idea that has been so horribly created. On one last note, this event, and the groups that are promoting these illegal acts are freely utilizing the UMass Lowell’s from all of their university systems which is an absolute disgrace. To maintain their integrity, the high-ranking staff from the university system should immediately order these logos to be dissociated with these illegal ideas and denounce these movements. Federal law is law with no exceptions, and breaking these laws puts every student’s safety, research, degree, and learning in the UMass system in great, unnecessary danger.