Subject: Recent Presidential Proclamation
Date: Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 3:50:05 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: EVC Simmons
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CC: 'gc-asstdeans-l@ucsd.edu', 'gc-dbo-l@ucsd.edu', Brenner, David, Leinen, Margaret, Brown, Sandra A., Hawkins, Faith, Callaghan, Patrick, Miller, Roark, Rhodes, Brandon, Whiting, Brittany, Sanders, Alison, McMahill, Angela
Priority: High
Attachments: What-is-MCF-One-Pager.pdf

Dear Deans and Chairs:

As you have seen, on May 29, 2020, President Trump announced, through a Presidential Proclamation, further restrictions on certain foreign nationals affiliated with the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Although we recommend you read the full proclamation, below is what we hope will be helpful information.

The proclamation applies to all F-1 and J-1 international students and researchers, including visiting graduate students, visiting scholars, postdoctoral scholars, academic researchers and visiting professors performing research, who are: 1) Chinese nationals; and 2) affiliated with any institution that “implements or supports” the PRC’s “military-civil fusion strategy” (past or present affiliation), to include employment, study, conducting research and/or receiving funding from these institutions. It is important to note that this proclamation does not apply to undergraduate students.

Although the proclamation principally seeks to deny visas to Chinese nationals proposing to enter the U.S., there is also a provision by which the State Department is authorized to revoke the visas of Chinese nationals currently in the country. If the State Department exercises this authority, the disruption will be significant not only to impacted Chinese nationals, but also to research labs and UC San Diego’s overall vision to be a research-focused public university.

We are concerned that the language in the proclamation lacks specificity. For instance, the government does not provide a list of Chinese institutions that fall under its “military-civil fusion strategy” designation. There are over 3,000 Chinese nationals affiliated with UC San Diego as graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, academic researchers and visiting scholars. We recognize that the lack of details regarding the proclamation will likely cause great anxiety among our Chinese national students and researchers.

We know many unanswered questions remain, and we are working to obtain clarity through contacts at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the State Department. We are also working at the national level with Members of Congress and other policymakers, as well as advocacy organizations including APLU and AAU, to find a more balanced approach for protecting national interests while also supporting the research institutions whose work is the foundation of our country’s innovation and scientific advancements.

This proclamation is a good reminder that although the COVID-19 pandemic has predominantly taken over our day-to-day work, issues with foreign engagement remain at the forefront of the federal government’s priorities. You should remain mindful of the following:

- Faculty members may be contacted by the federal government or law enforcement officials about Chinese nationals in their classrooms or labs. If you have any questions about how to respond, please contact Research Compliance and Integrity Executive Director Angela.
McMahill and Export Control Officer Brittany Whiting so they can guide you through the process.

- For sponsored research, if you or your students or postdocs are working abroad, there may be specific reporting requirements to federal agencies related to foreign components.
- If you or anyone in your lab plans to leave the United States with university-owned equipment, materials or unpublished data, please contact the Export Control Office, which will advise on the required export paperwork or export licenses.
- Please note that international shipments also require an export license review. Attentiveness to export control procedures is especially important now, as many students, postdocs and researchers may be working remotely in their home countries with UC San Diego-owned equipment, material and data. Contact the Export Control Office for guidance.

Below is a list of resources to support the UC San Diego research community:

- If you have questions about visas: International Faculty & Scholars Office (IFSO): ischolars@ucsd.edu; https://ifso.ucsd.edu // International Students & Programs Office (ISPO): istudents@ucsd.edu; https://iStudents.ucsd.edu
- If you have questions about Export Control: export@ucsd.edu
- If you have questions about sponsored research foreign component or foreign work reporting: Office of Contract and Grant Administration (OCGA): ocgainfo@ucsd.edu // SIO Contracts and Grants: Frank Truong, ftruong@ucsd.edu
- If you have questions about postdoctoral and visiting scholar appointments: Office of Postdoctoral and Research Scholar Affairs: opsa@ucsd.edu
- If you have questions about unannounced visits by federal and state agencies: rci@ucsd.edu

We want to assure you that UC San Diego fully supports our Chinese national population on campus. We value the work of all our students, postdoctoral and visiting scholars, and researchers, regardless of nationality. We believe that a diverse population and open research environment are the keys to addressing the most pressing issues facing our planet. We will continue to update you as we receive more specifics on the implementation of the proclamation.

Elizabeth H. Simmons
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David A. Brenner
Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences

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