Dear international students:

Please know that the Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) has rescinded and withdrawn its earlier policy requiring F1 students to study in-person or in face-to-face classes while pursuing degrees in the United States. The announcement of this policy on July 6th caused a large outcry from institutions of higher education and organizations associated with higher education in the U.S. Letters demanding the policy be rescinded and removed were sent to elected representatives in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere. These communications included a letter from UNI President Mark A. Nook and co-signed by the presidents of Iowa’s other two public universities. The letter was sent to the Iowa delegation in Washington, D.C. and supported rescinding the new policy. Moreover, several states, institutions, and organizations brought lawsuits against ICE condemning the new policy and demanding it be rescinded.

On July 14th in Boston, a court hearing was made and ICE formally rescinded its policy before a federal judge. This is a major decision that came about because so many Americans were concerned, unsettled, and/or distressed with the unjust nature of the policy and its effect on internationals pursing their education in the United States. UNI, like so many others, expressed its support for international students and scholars as valued members of our community who bring richness of thought, diverse experiences, and perspectives to our communities to the benefit of all. We are glad for the outcome of the court proceedings. We also realize that the current health crisis continues to pose challenges to our international students and that International Programs staff at UNI are working directly with our international students to support them, answer their questions, and ensure they have an exceptional educational experience at UNI. Please share any questions or personal challenges you may have with Dr. Isabela Varela at isabela.varela@uni.edu or questions about immigration with Mr. Ross Schupbach at ross.schupbach@uni.edu. I wish you much success in your education at UNI and welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,

Philip Plourde
Executive Director for the Office of International Programs
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