



- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- California Institute of Technology
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- Iowa State University
- The Johns Hopkins University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- McGill University
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- The Ohio State University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Rice University
- Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Stanford University
- Stony Brook University –
- State University of New York
- Texas A&M University
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- University at Buffalo –
- State University of New York
- The University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- The University of Chicago
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Florida
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- The University of Iowa
- The University of Kansas
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- University of Missouri, Columbia
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of Southern California
- The University of Texas at Austin
- University of Toronto
- The University of Utah
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- The University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yale University

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Office of the Secretary  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

Representing America’s leading research universities, I write to thank and commend you for your leadership in reestablishing the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC).

Reestablishing HSAAC creates an important channel for communication between the academic community and policymakers to exchange ideas and discuss matters of mutual interest related to homeland security and science. Prior to 2017, the previous HSAAC served as a valuable forum to discuss policies on international students, campus emergency preparedness, cybersecurity, and homeland security related academic and research programs.

The restoration of HSAAC was one of the key [recommendations](#) AAU made in December 2020 to then President-elect Biden. I also raised this as one of AAU’s top priorities when I met with the Department of Homeland Security Transition Team members in February 2021. I am grateful for your attention and quick action. Let me also recognize and thank the members of your staff who worked to reestablish the HSAAC.

AAU and our member campuses are excited about this process and anxious to engage. We look forward to learning more about the HSAAC nomination process and how our members’ interests may be represented on the Council. Thank you again for your leadership. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to ensure that HSAAC is a worthwhile experience for all involved.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Snyder  
President