

Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Cornell University
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
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
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
University of Virginia
University of Washington
The University of Wisconsin – Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

November 21, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Ave. Center, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

I commend you for reestablishing the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC) earlier this year. Since its formation in 2012, HSAAC has served as an important forum for discussion of homeland security and immigration issues between higher education community leaders and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). HSAAC meetings have addressed important issues involving international students, campus emergency preparedness, homeland security-related academic programs and research, faculty exchanges, and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). The ongoing opportunity for dialogue and engagement between DHS and the higher education community on pressing issues of common interest is of enormous value, and I ask that AAU and other major higher education organizations be reinstated to HSAAC.

As you may know, because of leadership retirements, some leading higher education associations, including AAU, are no longer listed as members. I respectfully urge you to renew AAU's membership, as well as that of the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in HSAAC. Together, our three organizations represent the vast majority of our nation's public and private research universities.

We are mindful of recent heightened security concerns regarding international students and researchers. We strongly believe that international students, scholars, and scientists contribute much to our country, and we will continue to do our part to ensure that our campuses and America are secure. Accordingly, higher education leaders have been engaged in a continuing dialogue with Congress and security and science agencies, including the FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Departments of Defense and State, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation.

We would welcome a conversation about these issues, as well as new rules and policies affecting higher education, including the accrual of unlawful presence and increases to student visa fees. In addition, the fall 2018 Unified Agenda regulatory plan indicates that DHS intends to issue proposed regulations on establishing a maximum period of authorized stay for F-1 visas. We hope HSAAC can provide a timely forum for us to engage in a meaningful and constructive dialogue with DHS on these issues of common interest.

Sincerely,



Mary Sue Coleman, President

cc: Michael Dougherty, Assistant Secretary for Border, Immigration, and Trade Policy
Trent Frazier, Executive Director for Academic Engagement