SG 65.03

RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THAT RIT AND RIT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ACTIVELY SUPPORT THOSE AFFECTED BY U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IMMIGRATION

This resolution is an official response from RIT Student Government regarding the issue of U.S. President Donald Trump's recent executive order to ban entry to the United States from 7 countries, which include, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Somalia. RIT currently has 45 students from the aforementioned countries, and we urge RIT to actively support those students and other members of the RIT community affected, as well as oppose the executive order within their jurisdiction.

Version 1.0

Introduced by: Andrea Shaver (SG President) and Amar Bhatt (SG Vice President)

First Reading: 3 February 2017

WHEREAS, on January 27th, 2017 U.S. President Donald Trump signed the Executive Order *Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry To The United States*[1] which bans nationals from 7 countries (Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Somalia) from entering the United States for 90 days, and

WHEREAS, this order affects students and visitors from the aforementioned countries, and

[1] https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/01/29/protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states

WHEREAS, this order states that the banning of additional countries may take place after a 60 day review in accordance with foreign government participation or by recommendation from the U.S. Secretary of State or U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, and

WHEREAS, RIT currently has 45 students enrolled, 9 faculty, and some staff employed from the aforementioned countries on the New York campus, and

WHEREAS, 1 faculty member is still unable to return to the U.S., and

WHEREAS, RIT President Bill Destler has stated, "RIT, will do everything within its legal powers to support our community and keep our members safe," on January 28th, 2017, and

WHEREAS, RIT is committed to "foster an environment that promotes education, research and international collaboration," and

WHEREAS, on February 1st, 2017 RIT President Bill Destler signed a letter authored by The American Council on Education (ACE) that expresses U.S. Higher Education Institutions' concerns about the Executive Order, and

WHEREAS, RIT has issued a statement to discourage international students from the aforementioned countries from traveling outside of the U.S. for at least 90 days, and

WHEREAS, the 90 day ban adversely affects travel for specific international students, families and relatives visiting U.S. for graduation or going home in cases of family emergencies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government does not support the Executive Order to ban nationals from foreign nations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government will advocate for RIT to exercise any legal and political authority within their means to push back against this policy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government calls for additional support to ensure those students who are affected by the Executive Order continue to have a positive student life, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government supports all affected members of the RIT community, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government will work with International Student Services to make sure that all affected members of the RIT community are educated on their rights and ways that they may be affected, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: This resolution is not politically motivated and is instead an affirmation of the values of RIT and our support for members of the RIT community affected by this policy and does not represent the political position of the Student Government, RIT, or the student body as a whole, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government will join and support others in higher education who oppose the order, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: RIT Student Government is committed to communicating our position on this issue to the student body, the staff, faculty, and administration of the RIT community, including the RIT Board of Trustees, President Bill Destler, Student Affairs, International Student Services, Rochester City Mayor's Office, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Members of Senate and Congress.

Andrea Shaver, *SG President*

Amar Bhatt, *SG Vice President*

This resolution was adopted on February 3rd, 2017, at Student Government Senate