

Senate Recommendation to the Provost

Originating Body: Faculty Senate

Originator: James Fox

Date Submitted: 2/18/2022

Requested Effective Date: Immediate

Recommendation:

Whereas the Salisbury University Faculty is concerned about two recent international events which share a common outcome of displacement of large numbers of people: (1) the 8/14/21 earthquake in Haiti, and (2) the withdraw of troops from Afghanistan which has led to large numbers of people fleeing the country; and

Whereas Governor Hogan has announced his commitment to accepting displaced Afghanistan refugees for residence in the state of Maryland. The State of Maryland is one of twenty states to already join the *Welcome US network* (<http://welcome.us>); and

Whereas the City of Salisbury is currently considering joining 37 other cities as members of the *Welcome US network*, providing an opportunity for town/gown collaboration in this initiative; and

Whereas the University System of Maryland Chancellor, Jay Perman, seeks an engagement across the USM to support refugees; and

Whereas the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus (UMBC) have all announced the intention to host refugees on their campuses; and

Whereas dozens of universities outside the USM also are working towards engagement with the *Every Campus a Refuge Network* including Syracuse University, Appalachian State University, Coastal Carolina University, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Scripps College, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and dozens more in response to the current refugee crisis; and

Whereas key SU faculty leaders in Psychology, Social Work, and Political Science have offered their commitment in their teaching, scholarship, and service in supporting a refugee family in the process of integrating to our greater community; and

Whereas the Faculty Senate supports the faculty leaders who have offered their teaching, scholarship, and service in support of a hosted refugee family; and

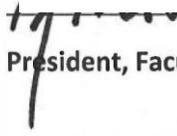
Whereas the *Every Campus a Refuge Network* (<http://everycampusarefuge.net>) and the *Church World Service* (<http://cwsglobal.org>) are interested in partnering with Salisbury University to place a refugee family on our campus for a limited time of 6-12 months;

Therefore, the Faculty Senate recommends that Salisbury University become a member of the "*Every Campus a Refuge Network*" and the "*Welcome US Network*" and host a refugee family in our campus community. This decision would entail such actions as SU offering in-kind support to a refugee family in the form of free housing, limited access to dining services, fundraising infrastructure hosted by the SU Foundation, tuition remission for the English Language Institute, donations of seized bicycles by the SU Police, and other non-monetary in-kind support.

Date Approved by the Faculty Senate: 2/15/2022

Anita Brown

18 Feb 2022



President, Faculty Senate

Date

Action Taken by Provost

Date: 3/27/22

- Recommendation Accepted
- Recommendation Not Accepted
- Recommendation returned to the Originating Body for further review (see attached)

Disposition for Approved Recommendation:

- President
- Faculty Senate President
- Consortium Chair
- Webmaster
- Catalogue Editor
- VP Student Affairs
- VP Finance
- School Deans
- Graduate Council
- Provost Council
- Assistant Provost for International Education



3/27/22

Provost

Date

Provost's Feedback on FS Recommendation to Join ECAR: [ECAR](#) focuses on housing and supporting families in collaboration with approved refugee resettlement agencies. There are currently no designated resettlement agencies servicing our area (see below) and but there may be opportunities to focus on college students displaced by war, natural disaster, etc. I ask that the FS reconsider their recommendation perhaps with input from Brian Stiegler (Assistant Provost for International Education) and the International Education Committee on alternative actions the University can take at this time.

Update to the Faculty Senate from the Center for International Education on SU Support Activities for Refugees and Asylees (included in 3/8/22 Faculty Senate Meeting Provost's Announcements)

We have been aware since the late summer that members of the faculty are keenly interested in the University's response to the plight of refugees and asylees. Brian Stiegler, Assistant Provost for International Education, has been actively exploring opportunities for the SU to engage in this area and has been reporting regularly to the Provost. We have made the following progress:

- Multiple meetings with Dr. Diya Abdo, Founder and Director of ECAR; ECAR has a membership status called "interested campuses" for universities not ready yet to host refugees but continuing to explore possibilities (SU is currently on that list);
- Meeting with Mr. Myat Lin, Director of the Maryland Office of Refugees and Asylees (MORA). MORA is the State agency responsible for placing refugees in Maryland in collaboration with the US Department of State;
 - Federal regulations allow nine NGO's to coordinate refugee resettlement nationwide. NGO's work with each state's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and with a network of local 501c3 organizations to funnel federal resources to the local communities that host resettled refugees;
 - Federal regulations disallow the placement of refugees through the state ORR's to any community located more than 100 miles from the offices of the closest of the nine authorized NGO's or the 501c3 organizations authorized by the federal government to assist in the refugee resettlement process. Currently, MORA has not approved any 501c3 organizations on the Eastern Shore to support refugee resettlement and is therefore unable to resettle refugees in Maryland outside a 100mile radius of Baltimore or Silver Spring;
- Meetings with the authorized national refugee resettlement agency, HIAS, based in Silver Spring, the office of Salisbury City Mayor Jake Day, and the local immigrant and asylee 501c3 organization Haitian Development Center of Delmarva to advocate to

MORA and the US Department of State to approve a refugee resettlement program based in the city of Salisbury to serve the Eastern Shore.

Dr. Stiegler has additional meetings scheduled in the coming weeks and months with local and State leaders in government, faith-based groups and community organizations in an effort to actively partner with our community to welcome refugees and asylees to Salisbury but there is much more work to do. Dr. Stiegler welcomes the nominations by the Faculty Senate of faculty interested in collaborating on this work. SU faculty can be a strong resource to help Maryland better respond to the needs of refugees and asylees in our own backyard.