

From: "Leung, Ginny" <g.leung@northeastern.edu>

To:

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:34 PM

Subject: Important Message

Northeastern University

Office of the Provost

Dear Graduate Students:

I am writing to follow up on my welcome letter to students this past fall. The letter introduced many ongoing initiatives by the University to support and continue to improve the graduate education experience here at Northeastern. These ongoing efforts have recently expanded in the wake of the Trump Administration's travel ban, which is antithetical to Northeastern's core values.

The University has responded to the travel ban and the uncertainty it has created by providing one-on-one guidance and assistance to students who are or may be impacted, holding information sessions on campus and posting updates on the [Office of Global Services](#) webpage. In addition to outreach on campus, the University has been partnering with other higher education institutions, and a broad range of elected officials, to address these serious concerns. We want you to know that we are available to you should you have questions about the travel ban.

It was disappointing to see, in the midst of these efforts, the United Autoworkers Union attempting to capitalize on fears that our international students may have about the current immigration uncertainty. Specifically, the Autoworkers has emphasized as part of its initial union organizing message to graduate teaching and research assistants that international students need a union on campus to protect their interests in light of the recent travel ban turmoil. It is unfortunate that the Autoworkers are seeking to exploit student fears and use the campus immigration protests as a means to leverage support for a graduate student union.

I ask that you treat the Autoworkers' presence on campus with the same skepticism that you might view any unknown organization that could have a substantial impact on your graduate experience. If you are approached by a fellow graduate student who asks you to sign an "Authorization Card" to support the union, or asks you for personal information, I hope that you will think about the implications before you sign. It is important to understand that an Authorization Card is a legal document.

Take the time to become informed about all the issues concerning unions and how the Autoworkers might impact your graduate experience here at Northeastern. For more information on unions, Authorization Cards and what it means to have a union involved in your graduate education, please see a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). More information will be forthcoming on these important issues.

Regards,

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Phil He
Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education