



The University of Mississippi

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Office of International Programs

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Director, Regulatory Management Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20529

RE: USCIS-2006-0044

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Office of International Programs at the University of Mississippi to express our objection to proposed fee increases under USCIS-2006-0044.

As the International Programs Advisor for faculty and scholars, I process many forms on behalf of the University in support of our numerous international faculty and scholars.

Under the new Carnegie classifications, the University of Mississippi is a comprehensive, research institution with high research activity. Our university is home to 20 national research centers, including the National Centers for Natural Products Research, Physical Acoustics, and Computational Hydroscience. The international researchers and faculty are key to the function and success of the university. Our research centers rely on international collaboration and attract many international researchers, professors, and scholars to the institution.

The new fee increases will hinder the University of Mississippi's ability to attract prominent researchers and needed faculty and instructors. Some departments with limited budgets, such as Modern Languages, will not be able to afford to support H-1Bs or Permanent Residency for future instructors and faculty. This means that the University of Mississippi will no longer be able to offer the same level of quality education to its students.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1, 2006, the University of Mississippi has hosted 250 international faculty and researchers on J-1s, H-1Bs, TNs, O-1s, and PRs. The actual monetary impact on the University of Mississippi based on the fee increases could be as much as \$20,000 in additional filing fees for I-129s and I-140s alone. The additional cost to the international faculty and researchers and their families who are seeking Permanent Residency using the I-485 would be around \$50,000. These figures do not include the additional thousands of dollars for other application fees. Again, for many departments and many of the international faculty and researchers, these fees may prove to be one obstacle too many, and we may lose valuable minds to other institutions and to other areas of the world.

We ask that you reconsider the proposed fee increases. A modest increase in fees to cover additional expenses is to be expected, but the near doubling of some fees will devastate our institution's ability to function as a competitive research institution.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Charter Morris
International Programs Advisor

A Great American Public University

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