

The Big News is that the BIG, BAD NEWS from last week has been reversed.

- The TRUMP administration canceled it's plan to revoke the emergency measures that had been put in place in Spring, which would have meant many F1 students would have needed to leave the country or transfer out from any school offering courses exclusively online.
- IMMIGRATION and CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT will now allow student to remain in the US and study online if their institution has chosen that delivery mode due to the pandemic.
- There could be restrictions on new, incoming F1's who are coming from outside the US to begin programs. We are waiting for final guidance on all of this. There has not been a final published rule, but the guidance from last week has been removed from the ICE website.
- Of course, as our deans have explained, they are hoping to maintain AS MUCH normalcy in the mode of delivery offering face to face, hybrid and alternating schedules to accommodate social distancing.
- Nonetheless, for our KUMC, while we didn't think we would be directly impacted last week, this definitely takes any pressure off of us to maintain face to face or hybrid as delivery modes...if something were to change midstream due to the pandemic, our F1 students would be allowed to move off campus and follow the online instruction if these types of emergency measures are needed due to COVID19.
- Most importantly this was seen as a win for international students and a recognition of the value they bring to our country both culturally and intellectually as well as financially
- All of these immigration issues in the news has caught the student diversity councils attention. Co Presidents Diana Aceveda and Beth Lui are particularly concerned about the impact on our international student population so they have organized an IDEAL conversation for Monday, July 27th at noon. Please feel free to join in and listen to our students voice their concerns and struggles during COVID19 and amidst the current immigration atmosphere. Both Irina Aris and myself will be there to cover any F1 regulatory concerns, and our university approved immigration attorney Judy B will also attend to answer any general immigration questions.

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"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." – Marcel Proust