To: The UMass Amherst International Community  
From: Kenneth Reade, Director of International Student & Scholar Services, IPO  
Date: May 9, 2017  
Re: Information and Advisories Regarding Summer International Travel

Summer is often a busy travel period for members of our university community. If you are preparing to travel outside of the United States this summer season, please take time to review the following recommendations:

**General Recommendations for non-US passport holders (UMass international students & scholars):**

1. UMass continues to recommend that community members who hold passports with expired visa stamps from the countries of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen avoid any non-essential international travel until further notice. Those planning to travel with a passport from these 6 countries who do already possess a valid visa stamp should contact the IPO travel prior to any international travel.

2. **At the time of this memo, there are currently no U.S. travel restrictions for any citizens or nationalities.** Unless you are from one of the 6 countries mentioned above, no additional considerations or advisories are currently in effect.

3. All UMass international community members, from all countries, who need to renew their visas at a U.S. consulate before re-entering the U.S. should anticipate longer wait-times this summer when scheduling visa appointments. Visa applicants should also expect and plan for additional screening during the visa interview process, and associated delays with visa issuance.

4. F-1 and J-1 students, and their F-2 & J-2 dependents, who are not U.S. passport holders or legal permanent residents are reminded to schedule a meeting with an IPO advisor to obtain updated travel signatures. See Travel Tips for F-1 Students: [https://www.fragomen.com/knowledge-center/immigration-alerts/travel-tips-f-1-students-opt-or-planning-change-status-h-1b](https://www.fragomen.com/knowledge-center/immigration-alerts/travel-tips-f-1-students-opt-or-planning-change-status-h-1b)

5. International employees (i.e. faculty members, postdocs, visiting scholars) who are not US passport holders or legal permanent U.S. residents are also encouraged to contact the IPO with travel questions not addressed in this communication.

6. Plan for possible delays related to additional background checks (also known as “Administrative Processing”). Certain visa applicants can be subjected to additional security checks by a U.S. consular officer. These checks are random and pertain to not only an applicant’s citizenship, but also their field of study. Students in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) tend to have higher instances of receiving these additional checks. These additional security clearances can take anywhere from a few days to several weeks. Please contact the IPO if your visa application receives additional “administrative processing” but also note that unfortunately U.S. consulates will absolutely not accept any requests from the IPO or your faculty advisor, etc. to expedite the process.
7. Employees in U.S. legal permanent residence status (“green cards”) planning to spend 6-months or more outside the U.S. should contact the UMass General Counsel’s Office to review whether a re-entry permit will be required. Contact Attorney Sandra Torres storres@umassp.edu or Sara Rufli srufli@umassp.edu.

8. Continue to monitor http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss and also http://www.umass.edu/federal-actions to stay informed of any updated changes in immigration law, international travel policies or recommendations and for additional information.

Practical Travel Tips:

1. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) travel and IPO travel information:
   b. http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss/travel

2. The IPO recommends that you make two copies of all pertinent immigration documents (passport photo page, visa page, I-20 or DS-2019 form, H-1B approval notice, etc.). Carry one set with you during your trip – separate from other travel documents – and leave one set with family or a trusted friend in the U.S. You may also consider storing a copy of these documents on your phone. Note, only original documents are valid for travel.

3. Consider whether you need to carry electronic devices such as cell phone or laptop. If so, protect yourself by practicing safe electronic travel processes outlined here: http://www.umass.edu/it/security

4. Communicate your travel plans with family or a trusted friend and create a check-in process for flights and clearing immigration and customs. For example:
   a. Text or call a friend immediately upon landing at your destination and again on your return to the U.S.
   b. Contact your friend again within 4-hours of your initial landing communication once you have cleared U.S. immigration and customs.

International Travel with Electronic Devices:
The U.S. Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security have communicated intent to review and/or limit the use of electronic devices at various stages of travel including: visa interviews in U.S. consulates, certain international flights from certain foreign destinations, and upon re-entry to the U.S. To take precautions see #4 above.

Prepare for Re-entry to the U.S.:
U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) has broad authority to screen, detain, and search all individuals – including U.S. citizens – when entering the U.S. For more information, see: https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/176/~/cbp-search-authority

In general, be prepared for additional screening at airports or other U.S. ports of entry and carry above-mentioned immigration documentation at all times in person (not in checked luggage). It is not uncommon to be asked to go to secondary inspection upon re-entry to the U.S. If you are instructed to do so, do not assume there is necessarily a problem. Be sure to follow instructions and carefully answer any questions asked. In secondary inspection you will generally not be allowed to leave or use your electronic devices until a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer grants permission to do so. Secondary inspection can sometimes take an hour or even much longer depending on what U.S. airport you arrive at and how busy
it is at the time; these delays do not indicate problems with your case but rather are often a reflection of high caseload.

1. Any attempts by CBP to have a legal permanent residents (“green card” holders) sign Form I-407 Record of Abandonment of Lawful Permanent Resident Status should be declined; this is a voluntary form. Contact Sandra Torres or Sara Rufli at General Counsel’s Office (Contact Attorney Sandra Torres storres@umassp.edu or Sara Rufli srufli@umassp.edu, if these issues occur.

2. After your re-entry into the U.S. please check your electronic I-94 arrival record to confirm your proper admission in the correct immigration status: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/recent-search. Contact the IPO if you have difficulty in finding your record or if there is any error.

Finally, all ports of entry into the U.S., including all airports, are considered Federal property. CBP actively enforces all Federal laws including the Controlled Substance Act that criminalizes, among other things, marijuana. As such, anyone entering the U.S. found in possession of even small quantities of marijuana and/or marijuana residue may be charged with a Federal crime; this could result in severe immigration consequences for U.S. legal permanent residents and non-immigrant visa holders alike. The fact that the state of Massachusetts recently legalized possession of certain quantities of marijuana will not prevent CBP from enforcing Federal law at all ports of entry, including Boston Logan Airport. CBP has drug-sniffing dogs able to detect the presence of illegal substances on clothing and travel articles even if you were not personally involved with any, so pack and prepare for re-entry into the U.S. with care.

Cut here and carry with you for your convenience:

• International Student & Scholar Services, IPO: http://www.umass.edu/ipo/iss
  Office Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday: 413-545-2710
  Contact IPO 24-hours a day in case of emergency via UMass Police Dept.: 413-545-2121
• UMass Federal Actions (updates on Federal policies and regulations): http://www.umass.edu/federal-actions
• Student Legal Services Office: http://www.umass.edu/slso/
  413-545-1995
• Dean of Students Office: http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/
  413-545-2684
• American Civil Liberties Union (“Know Your Rights”): https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights