

## **Statement from Graduate Student Representatives to the USA Patriot Act Steering Committee**

The Patriot Act represents a significant and concerted effort on the part of the federal government to profile and monitor persons deemed dangerous to national security, but in a covert and largely unchecked manner. We feel that blanket compliance with the Patriot Act – especially around the issue of subpoenas for student records issued from closed courts – compromises the University’s commitment to maintaining the privacy of students and personnel. Thus, we stand against compliance with Patriot Act investigations in principle, even if compliance is demanded legally and contesting the Act is pragmatically unfeasible at this time.

Furthermore, we share Committee members’ concerns that the Patriot Act’s requirement that “restricted persons” be barred from research in laboratories containing select agents conflicts with the University’s policy against prohibiting access to its facilities according to citizenship status, as well as with values integral to an environment of academic freedom. We are also concerned that further restrictions on non-citizens’ access to academic laboratories may be detrimental to the progressive research in relevant scientific fields. We endorse the Working Group on Research Compliance’s recommendation that classified research not be conducted on campus.

### **Recommendations Supplemental to the Records Report:**

1. Creation of a list of all records maintained by the University on students, academic personnel, and non-academic personnel. We recommend that this information, as well as policies related to retention and destruction of such records, be made widely available to all members of the campus community.
2. Inclusion of warnings on all forms subject to subpoenas from closed courts under the Patriot Act. Posting of signs in applicable areas informing students of new status of records under the Patriot Act.

### **Other Recommendations:**

1. Proactive education and training for students and University personnel on issues related to the Patriot Act. This includes training Residential Assistants on issues related to compliance with the Act.
2. The University should commit to provide assistance to students and other academic personnel involved in research who believe that they are being unfairly treated according to Patriot Act provisions, e.g. being barred from labs according to nationality/citizenship or allegations about psychiatric hospitalization.
3. Impact report after 1 year for revision of the policy.

May 12, 2003