




Homeland Security

August 17, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: William Bratton, Chair, Homeland Security Advisory Council
FROM: Chad F. Wolf, Acting Secretary 
SUBJECT: **New Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) Tasking to Create an Academic Subcommittee**

I am requesting that you establish a new Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) subcommittee to undertake reviews of critical homeland security issues related to academic institutions. The new subcommittee will be named the Academic Institutions Subcommittee.

The subcommittee will provide advice and recommendations on matters related to homeland security and the academic community, including: student and recent graduate recruitment; international students; academic research and faculty exchanges; campus resilience; and homeland security academic programs.

The subcommittee's mandate will include, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- A. The threat of malign foreign influence and interference in our academic institutions.
- B. The openness of academic research and the exchange of ideas between institutions of higher education and DHS. This should also include DHS research programs.
- C. Promoting campus resilience resources to address a range of threats or hazards affecting institutions of K-12 and higher education.
- D. International student engagement:
 - Obtaining and maintaining nonimmigrant status;
 - Processing student nonimmigrant applications and Optional Practical Training requests;
 - a. Student and Exchange Visitor Program, and
 - b. Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.
- E. Monitoring student visa recipients who violate their status.

The first of your series of recommendations are due to the full Council no later than 180 days from the date of the subcommittee's formation. I would like an update from the subcommittee at our next HSAC public meeting. Thank you for your work on these important matters, your service on the HSAC, and your dedication to securing our homeland.