ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Student Town Hall Summary

Immigration Enforcement: Your Rights, Your Resources, Your Community

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 | University Towers Auditorium

Know Your Rights: The Legal Briefing

Sharon Stone from the Office of General Counsel delivered a thorough legal briefing—the kind of information every student should have in their back pocket. Let's walk through it together.

What Is ICE?

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a federal law enforcement agency within the Department of Homeland Security. It employs more than 20,000 personnel in over 400 offices and is responsible for enforcing immigration laws.

Can ICE Come to Campus?

Yes, they can. On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded the 2021 policy that had restricted immigration enforcement near schools, hospitals, and places of worship. That protection is gone. ICE officers may now come to campuses to apprehend individuals, request information, conduct I-9 employment inspections, or perform visa compliance visits.

The Big Distinction: Public vs. Non-Public Spaces

This is perhaps the most important thing to understand. Where you are on campus matters enormously:

Public Spaces	Non-Public Spaces
Freely accessible to anyone: • Sidewalks, lawns, walkways • Parking lots • Cafeteria, student center **ICE can enter these areas without a warrant.**	**Restricted access:** • ID-restricted buildings and rooms • Residence halls and dorms • Faculty and administrator offices • Classrooms and labs in session • Locker rooms, operational facilities **ICE needs a judicial warrant or your consent to enter.**

Judicial Warrant vs. Administrative Warrant

This distinction could make all the difference. Not every piece of paper an officer shows you carries the same legal weight:

- **A judicial warrant** is signed by a judge and authorizes entry into non-public spaces. Even so, you should still contact Campus Safety before granting access.
- **An administrative warrant** is signed by an immigration official (not a judge). It does NOT authorize entry into non-public spaces. Andrews is not legally required to open doors or help ICE based on an administrative warrant.

Your Constitutional Rights

Regardless of your citizenship or immigration status, you have rights under U.S. law. These are not negotiable:

- **The right to remain silent.** You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, your immigration status, or anything else.
- **The right to refuse entry.** You can refuse to open your door without a judicial warrant—including your dorm room.
- **The right to an attorney.** You have the right to legal counsel.
- **Do not physically resist.** If ICE attempts to detain you, do not react with violence or try to obstruct. State your objection clearly, document what happens, and seek legal help afterward.

Are Your Records Protected?

Yes. Your academic records are protected under FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). The university cannot turn them over without your written consent or a lawfully issued judicial subpoena. An administrative warrant does not meet that standard. If ICE requests records, staff are instructed to contact the Office of General Counsel immediately.

Your Dorm Room, Your Rights

This came up many times during the Q&A, and the answer is important: your dorm room is a non-public space. So is any residence hall, and so is your off-campus apartment or home.

What This Means for You

ICE officers cannot legally enter your dorm room, residence hall room, or private living space without a judicial warrant or your voluntary consent. You are not required to open the door. If ICE enters the lobby of a residence hall, contact Campus Safety immediately.

The key phrase to remember: **"I do not consent to you entering this space."**

Campus Safety: What They Will and Won't Do

Ben Panigot was transparent about Campus Safety's role. Here are their three objectives:

1. Ensure the campus community follows university expectations and legal guidance.
2. Maintain safety across campus and de-escalate interactions.
3. Coordinate all law enforcement requests with the Office of General Counsel.

A Critical Fact

Under federal law, Campus Safety is not required to assist ICE with locating individuals or making arrests—except where ICE presents a lawfully issued judicial warrant. Michigan currently has no state or local laws requiring cooperation with ICE.

Campus Safety 24/7 Line: 269-471-3321

International Student Services: Stay in Compliance

Dr. Thorpe and Silmara Ferreira from International Student Services (ISS) shared critical reminders. If you are an international student, this section is especially for you:

Keep Your Documentation Current

- Be registered for full-time status.
- Ensure your I-20 is valid and reflects your current program of study.
- Keep your passport current.
- Work only on campus (unless otherwise authorized).

Carry Copies of Your Documents

ISS recommends carrying copies (not originals) of the following: your passport ID page, I-94, visa, I-20, and DS-2019 (if applicable).

Stay Connected with ISS

Make sure your mailing address and phone number are up to date with the ISS office so they can keep your SEVIS record current. If anything changes in your program, reach out to ISS right away.

Student Expectations

Dr. Faehner acknowledged the passion many of you feel—the desire to help those who are struggling and fearful. That passion is valued. And it comes with responsibilities:

- Your conduct must reflect the Code of Student Conduct at all times.
- Peaceful assembly and expression of views must follow the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook.
- Clubs and organizations must work with their sponsors when planning any related activities.
- Respect both the laws the university will follow and the rights the university will protect—as well as the laws you are expected to follow and the rights you can expect.

Care and Support: You Are Not Alone

"We hear you. We see you. We feel you."

That was the message from Dr. Faehner. Andrews believes that every student—from every nationality, every culture, every background—is a valued member of this community.

The university's entire Student Life team—Chaplains, Residence Life Deans, Student Life Deans, and Counselors—recently completed Trauma-Informed Training from Andrews' own Trauma Center (led by Professors Ingrid Slikkers and Dustin Young). They are equipped and ready to walk with you.

How Faculty and Staff Are Being Called to Support You

- Acknowledge the reality of your experiences—your uncertainty and your fears.
- Affirm your value and belonging as a member of this community.
- Create approachable spaces where you feel safe to share.
- Understand that what you are carrying may affect your ability to focus in the classroom or workplace.

Your Support Resources

Andrews Telehealth

Available 24/7 for students.

Crisis Line: 866-349-5575

Online: myacademiclivecare.com

Student Access Code: ALCANDU23

On-Campus Support

- Counseling and Testing Center (CTC)—Confidential counseling
- University Chaplains
- Student Life and Residence Life Deans
- Your professors and work supervisors

Immigration Concerns

The university may provide referrals and contact information to immigration attorneys. (Note: The university cannot provide direct legal counsel to students, but it can connect you to professionals who can.)

Anxiety Mitigation Guidelines are being developed by the CTC to help you manage anxiety related to immigration concerns.

Your Questions, Answered

The Q&A was moderated by Chaplain Simona Mills-Pitcher, with questions submitted live via Google Form. Dozens of questions came in. Here are answers to the themes that came up most often:

If ICE Approaches Me

Q: If I'm stopped by ICE, can I remain silent and ask for a lawyer?

A: Yes. You have the constitutional right to remain silent and the right to legal counsel. You do not have to answer questions about your birthplace, immigration status, or anything else. You may say: "I am exercising my right to remain silent. I would like to speak with an attorney."

Q: If I'm off campus without my documents, can I be arrested and deported?

A: All individuals have constitutional rights regardless of where they are. However, carrying copies of your immigration documents is strongly recommended. If detained, remain calm, do not physically resist, assert your right to remain silent, and request an attorney.

Q: Can ICE enter the Seminary or other buildings that don't require ID to enter? Are those considered public?

A: Whether a space is public or non-public depends on whether it is freely accessible to the general public. Buildings that do not require ID swipes during operating hours may be considered public spaces during those hours. The university is reviewing access protocols to strengthen protections.

Protecting Yourself

Q: Is it legal to film ICE officers as a bystander?

A: Generally, you have the right to record law enforcement officers in public spaces, as long as you do not interfere with their operations. However, be aware that ICE has detained bystanders in some reported situations. Maintain a safe distance and do not obstruct.

Q: What's the difference between a judicial and administrative warrant? Can I see a sample?

A: A judicial warrant is signed by a federal judge and authorizes entry and/or arrest. An administrative warrant is signed by an immigration official and does not carry the same legal authority for entering non-public spaces. The university plans to include visual examples and "Know Your Rights" materials in follow-up resources.

Q: What about "red cards"—are they helpful or harmful when interacting with ICE?

A: This question was raised during the session. Red cards (which state that you are exercising your right to remain silent) can be a tool for asserting your rights. Consult with an immigration attorney for guidance on your specific situation.

What the University Will Do

Q: Will students be notified if ICE is confirmed on campus?

A: The administration has committed to providing timely communications if a verified ICE presence is confirmed. Campus Safety is the first point of contact for any reports.

Q: Can Campus Safety confirm it will NOT assist ICE in locating or arresting students?

A: Campus Safety is not required under federal law to assist ICE with immigration enforcement—except in response to a lawfully issued judicial warrant. Campus Safety's role is to maintain safety, de-escalate, and coordinate with University Counsel.

Q: Will the university provide "Know Your Rights" cards and legal contacts to international students?

A: Follow-up resources, including campus guidelines, rights information, and support contacts, are being prepared and will be distributed to the campus community.

Community and Conduct

Q: What about insensitive or racist posts from people welcoming ICE? What will the university do?

A: The university expects all members of its community to treat one another with dignity and respect, consistent with the Code of Student Conduct and the values we profess as a faith community. Concerns about specific conduct can be reported through the university's reporting channels.

Q: Is this not a matter of civil disobedience—protecting our community members from unjust treatment?

A: This is a deeply felt question. The university's position is to operate within the law while exercising every legal right to protect its students. Staff and faculty are not permitted to obstruct law enforcement, but the university will assert its legal rights regarding non-public spaces, warrants, and student records.

Quick Reference: What to Do If You Encounter ICE

Situation	What to Do
ICE on campus	Call Campus Safety immediately: 269-471-3321.
ICE at your door	You do not have to open it. Ask if they have a judicial warrant. Say: "I do not consent to entry." Call Campus Safety.
Stopped by ICE	Stay calm. You may remain silent. Say: "I am exercising my right to remain silent and wish to speak to a lawyer." Do not physically resist.
Asked for records	Do not provide anything. Direct them to Campus Safety or the Office of General Counsel.
Witnessing an encounter	Do not physically intervene. You may observe from a safe distance. Call Campus Safety to report.
Feeling anxious	Reach out to the CTC, a Chaplain, your RA, or call the 24/7 crisis line: 866-349-5575. You are not alone.
ICE uses threats	Stay calm. Do not consent. State clearly: "We do not consent." Document what happens and contact Campus Safety and General Counsel.
Unsure about documents	Visit International Student Services to review your compliance status and ensure your records are current.

Our Sacred Calling

The town hall closed with a reflection on who we are and who we are called to be. The North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church issued this appeal on January 31, 2025:

An Appeal for Human Dignity and Decency

"In light of the fact that we have a shared humanity, in light of the fact we all are created equal, in light of the fact we should love our neighbor as ourselves, and in light of the fact that Jesus said, 'whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' (Matt. 25:40, NIV), our appeal is for us, as Adventists, to show our immigrant families that we love them by lifting up our voices and standing by their side in these times of uncertainty."

In a community as beautifully diverse as ours, people hold different perspectives. Some see ICE as a threat; others believe law enforcement should not cause fear. The call from that evening was simple and scriptural: "Be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourself" (Philippians 2:3). Be charitable in your interpretations of others' views. And in all things, reflect our sacred calling to follow in the just and merciful footsteps of Jesus.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me." — Matthew 25:40

Campus Safety 24/7: 269-471-3321

Crisis Line 24/7: 866-349-5575 | Student Code: ALCANDU23