

From: Chancellor Departmental <chancellor@berkeley.edu>

Subject: Re: Serious concerns about vetting procedure for DeCal courses at UCB

Date: September 13, 2016 at 10:26:36 AM PDT

To: Tammi Rossman-Benjamin <tammi@amchainitiative.org>

Dear Ms. Rossman-Benjamin,

On behalf of Chancellor Dirks, thank you for your message regarding one of the University's student-taught "Decal" courses, called, "Palestine: A settler Colonial Analysis".

It has been determined that the facilitator for the course in question did not comply with policies and procedures that govern the normal academic review and approval of proposed courses for the Decal program. As a result, the proposed course did not receive a sufficient degree of scrutiny to ensure that the syllabus met Berkeley's academic standards before it was opened for enrollment to students. For that reason, approval for the course has been suspended pending completion of the mandated review and approval process. It should also be noted that the Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science is very concerned about the offering of any course, even a student-run course, which espouses a single political viewpoint and/or appears to offer a forum for political organizing rather than an opportunity for the kind of open academic inquiry that Berkeley is known for.

Campus leadership remains committed to fostering and sustaining a campus climate where every individual feels safe, welcome and respected. In a recent survey, 75% of our Jewish students reported feeling comfortable on this campus—a number that is identical to the campus average and two points higher than comfort levels reported by students with a Christian affiliation. However, we believe we can do better still, not just for Jewish students, but for all of our students. That is but one of the reasons we recently took the unprecedented step of forming *Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Jewish Student Life and Campus Climate*, a group that includes students, faculty, staff and leading members of the Bay Area's Jewish community who are joining us in this important effort.

Berkeley also great pride in our our new kosher dining facility; vibrant Hillel chapter; the broad range of other Jewish student groups; the Institute for Jewish Law and Israeli Law at the Berkeley law school our library's Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life; and our world class Center for Jewish Studies.

UC Berkeley will continue to confront intolerance, bias, and the campus fully supports the Regents recently issued [Principles Against Intolerance](#).

Sincerely,

Carolyn