

January 26, 2017

Regents of the University of California
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin St., 12th floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Regents Principles Against Intolerance a Remedy for Increasingly Polarized Campus

Dear UC Regents:

Many of our 47 organizations have come to you in the past regarding escalating anti-Semitism at the University of California. In the current increasingly polarized climate, however, we are gravely concerned that not only Jewish students, but students of multiple diverse identities and beliefs, are feeling increasingly threatened and unsafe.

In recent months, a sharp spike in anti-Semitic activity has been reported nationally, as well as hundreds of acts of hatred and intolerance targeting other historically vulnerable groups, including African Americans, LGBTQ community members, immigrants, women, Muslims and many others. At the same time, we are also witnessing a sharp rise in hateful, intolerant acts directed at individuals holding divergent ideological and political viewpoints.

Intolerance has become a serious and growing problem at UC. On too many campuses, one group's freedom of expression has been used to denigrate, harass, intimidate and shut down the expression of another group. Debate is veering into hate, and the campus climate is at risk of becoming toxic for a variety of students targeted for actions of intolerance.

We believe the landmark Regents Statement of Principles Against Intolerance, which you adopted last March in the wake of spiking anti-Jewish hostility, couldn't be more relevant, timely and important not only for Jewish students, but for all UC students. As you rightly point out in the statement:

“Acts of hatred and other intolerant conduct, as well as acts of discrimination that demean our differences, are antithetical to the values of the University and serve to undermine its purpose...Each member of the University community is entitled to speak, to be heard, and to be engaged based on the merits of their views, and unburdened by historical biases, stereotypes and prejudices.”

We applaud UC Irvine Chancellor Gillman for recognizing the value of the Regents' statement and being the first chancellor to commit his campus to a full implementation of it. We ask that you urge the remaining UC Chancellors to follow Chancellor Gillman's lead and encourage them to take the following steps on their campuses:

- Review, update and enforce campus policies and procedures to ensure the protection of all students' rights to freedom of expression and a campus climate free from harassment, intimidation, denigration and the suppression of speech.
- Develop educational programs that can help students recognize and avoid intolerant behavior, teach and encourage them to express their diverse views in a productive and respectful manner, and foster a tolerance and appreciation of diverse identities and opinions.

You advanced an excellent framework for addressing and preventing intolerance last March. Now more than ever each UC campus should implement the Regents' Principles Against Intolerance, to ensure the safety and well being of all members of the campus community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Academic Council for Israel
Accuracy in Academia
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi)
Alums for Campus Fairness - National
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Davis
Alums for Campus Fairness – UCLA
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Riverside
AMCHA Initiative
American Institute for Jewish Research
American Truth Project
Americans for Peace and Tolerance
Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)
BEAR: Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources
Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
Chabad Jewish Student Group at UC Berkeley
Club Z
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)
Davis Faculty for Israel
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
Fuel For Truth
Hillel at UCR
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel
Iranian American Jewish Federation
Israel Peace Initiative (IPI)
Israeli-American Coalition for Action
JAM - Jewish Awareness Movement
Jerusalem U
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)
National Conference on Jewish Affairs
National Council of Young Israel
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations
Roc4Israel
Santa Barbara Hillel
Santa Cruz Hillel
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi
Simon Wiesenthal Center
StandWithUs
Stop BDS on Campus
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism
Students Supporting Israel
Students Supporting Israel at UC Irvine
Students Supporting Israel at UC Santa Barbara
Students Supporting Israel at UCLA
The Israel Christian Nexus
The Shofar Project
Training and Education About the Middle East (T.E.A.M.)

Cc: UC President Janet Napolitano

UC Chancellors

Regent Eddie Island, Chair Academic and Student Affairs Committee UC Board of Regents

Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair California Senate Standing Committee on Education

Assembly Member Jose Medina, Chair California Assembly Higher Education Committee

Assembly Member Shirley Weber, Chair Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson