

February 6, 2012

Chancellor Charles B. Reed
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

Dear Chancellor Reed,

We are members and supporters of the California Jewish community, who are deeply distressed by the hateful, bigoted, and politically-motivated and directed web pages of Mathematics Professor David Klein, which are hosted on the web server of the California State University at Northridge (CSUN) and bear the CSUN name:

- Professor Klein's "[Home Page](#)" contains a section entitled "CSU and Political Issues," that includes a link to two other CSUN-hosted webpages: "Boycott Israel Resources Page" and "An Open Letter to CSU Chancellor Charles Reed Regarding the CSU-Israel Study Abroad Program."
- Professor Klein's "[Boycott Israel Resources Page](#)" page contains a litany of false and inflammatory statements and photographs intended to incite hatred and promote political activism against the Jewish state. It also contains a prominently displayed advertisement for a conference on the boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign (BDS) against Israel, most of whose speakers have publicly called for an end to the Jewish state.
- Professor Klein's web page, "[An Open Letter to CSU Chancellor Charles Reed Regarding the CSU-Israel Study Abroad Program](#)," contains a signed letter calling for the cancellation of the CSU Israel Abroad program. The letter includes false and defamatory claims that Israel is an "apartheid" and "racist" state and that imply Israeli soldiers routinely murder U.S. citizens, including students. The web page also contains the names of signatories to the letter, including 37 CSUN faculty and administrators, among them the current interim President, the Associate Director of Graduate Programs, the Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Dean of the College of Science and Math, the Dean of the College of Humanities, the Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, 4 department chairs, and 33 faculty members in 16 departments.

We believe that the material on Professor Klein's web pages should be immediately removed from the CSUN web server, for the following reasons:

- 1) Using CSUN resources to express political animus towards the Jewish state and its supporters and to actively advocate for their harm -- activities which are wholly outside of the mission of a public University -- is a misappropriation of the funds received from students, donors, taxpayers, and the state and federal government.
- 2) Besides violating [CSUN's own policy](#), which prohibits the use of its name and

resources for political activities such as the promotion of boycotts, the material on Professor Klein's web pages violates [California Education Code 89005.5](#), which identifies the names of all CSU campuses as "property of the state," and notes that any person who would "display, advertise, or announce" the name of a CSU campus for the support, endorsement, or advancement of "boycott or of any political...movement, activity, or program," is guilty of a misdemeanor.

3) Professor Klein's web pages contain neither bona fide scholarly analysis nor legitimate criticism of Israel. The lies, distortions, and inflammatory material they do contain are clearly intended to delegitimize and demonize Israel, and to hold the Jewish state to a standard to which no other country is held. According to Hannah Rosenthal, the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, these are recognized by the US State Department as forms of anti-Semitism. In addition, Ms. Rosenthal has unequivocally condemned boycotts of Israel, especially academic boycotts, [saying](#): "when academics from Israel are boycotted – this is not objecting to a policy – this is anti-Semitism."

That a public university would knowingly host anti-Semitic material on its web server is morally reprehensible and deeply offensive, not only to members of the Jewish community, but to decent people everywhere.

4) Professor Klein's anti-Semitic web pages can't help but create a hostile environment for Jewish students at CSUN who identify with the Jewish state, especially in light of the unwillingness of CSUN administrators to remove or even publicly condemn these web pages, despite a clear policy on internet use which allows them to do so. Moreover, the fact that so many of their professors and top University administrators -- including current CSUN President Harry Hellenbrand -- have signed a letter expressing deep animus towards the Jewish state and seeking to bar students from studying there, can only add to the hostile environment many Jewish students experience at CSUN.

Although former CSUN President Jolene Koester has claimed that Professor Klein's web pages are protected by the doctrines of academic freedom and freedom of speech. We believe that President Koester is mistaken on both counts:

First, the claim that these web pages are protected by academic freedom is not only glib, but on its face, absurd. Academic freedom allows faculty to express views related to their scholarly expertise in the classroom, in publications, and at conferences. Professor Klein's field of expertise is mathematics, NOT political science or Middle East history. Moreover, as pointed out in the AAUP's 1940 Statement on Academic Freedom, and affirmed by the CSU Academic Senate in 2005, academic freedom "carries with it duties correlative with rights." These duties include abiding by the highest standards of scholarship and academic integrity. Professor Klein's bigoted and unscholarly web pages are a clear violation of these standards.

Second, the use of the taxpayer-supported University server is NOT protected speech. Federal and state law and CSUN's own policy on internet use indicate that

the University has the right to limit speech on its web server.

Many of us have raised this matter with former CSUN President Koester, but were deeply disappointed by her insensitivity to our concerns. We are therefore turning to you, who, as Chancellor of the California State University system, have oversight over all 23 CSU campuses. We respectfully petition you to ensure that the offensive material on Professor Klein's web pages be removed as soon as possible.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned