



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

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169-12-17

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Suite 4300
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March 11, 2010

BY EMAIL COMMUNICATION (DPARK@UCSD.EDU)

D. Park, Esq.
Chief Campus Counsel
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Dr.
La Jolla, CA 92093

Re: University of California San Diego

Dear Mr. Park:

It has come to our attention that there have been allegations of racial harassment of black students attending school at the University of California San Diego. Specifically, according to media reports, students at the University of California San Diego ("UCSD") organized a social event off campus calling it a "Compton Cookout" and promised to expose guests to "life in the ghetto." See Larry Gordon, Students Walk Out of UC San Diego Teach-In, Los Angeles Times, February 25, 2010. Additionally, it has been reported that the school also found a cardboard sign with the words "Compton Lynching" at one of the school's radio stations and that students working at the school sponsored radio station were accused of using racial slurs on the air. Finally, there was another incident involving a student hanging a noose in the campus library at UCSD.

Since the conduct described above may implicate the civil rights laws the Department of Justice enforces, including Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000c-6 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1703, we request that you provide us the following information to assist us in evaluating these allegations and to determine what further action, if any, is warranted. We emphasize, however, that we have reached no conclusion as to whether a violation of any federal law has occurred. Unless otherwise specified, all requests apply to the 2009-2010 school year.

1. Please provide the student enrollment of all University of California San Diego students, by classification (e.g. freshman) and race/ethnicity.

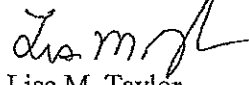
2. Please provide copies of the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 student yearbooks for University of California San Diego. These will be returned to UCSD.
3. Please identify whether the organization or persons organizing the cookout event were part of an organization recognized or supported (in any way) by UCSD. If so, please provide the name, description of the organization, as well as any documents describing the organization, included but not limited to the constitution, by-laws, membership rules, etc.
4. Please indicate the amount of school funds allocated, if any, by UCSD for this organization. Additionally, please indicate if any funds were allocated specifically for the cookout event, and whether students utilized school property for the planning or fund-raising of the cookout.
5. Please state whether or not tickets for the cookout were sold on school grounds and whether campus personnel or UCSD students participated in the collection of funds for the event.
6. Please state whether or not any UCSD employees attended the cookout.
7. Please indicate whether or not posters or flyers advertising the cookout were posted or distributed on campus grounds.
8. Please state whether UCSD provided support of any kind for the media outlet (Koala) (e.g., advisors, transportation, food, etc.).
9. Describe UCSD's relationship with the media outlet Koala.
10. Please indicate the amount of school funds allocated, if any, by UCSD to the Koala media event, and whether students utilized school property for the planning or fund-raising related to Koala. In addition, please describe what, if any actions, the school took in response to the sign containing the words "Compton Lynching" at the Koala media outlet.
11. Describe UCSD's investigation, if any, into the use of racial slurs by Koala personnel/invitees and the results of the investigation.
12. Describe the circumstances surrounding the discovery of a noose hanging in the campus library. Please include in your description the location of the noose, the duration it was present, and how and by whom was it discovered.
13. Describe UCSD's investigation, if any, into the noose hanging at the library, and what discipline actions, if any, UCSD took to address the incident.

14. For the 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010 school years, please provide all documents (e.g., investigative summaries, discipline reports, internal memoranda, electronic mail, reports to law enforcement agencies, and minutes from school board meetings where the complaints were discussed) reflecting complaints, allegations, investigations, and/or responses taken by UCSD regarding incidents of discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race and/or national origin at UCSD. Please include any incidents based on race and/or national origin at UCSD involving student-on-student, teacher-on-student, and student-on-teacher discrimination and/or harassment. In addition, for each complaint received - whether written, verbal, or otherwise communicated - please provide the following information:
 - a. the date, time, and location of the alleged incident(s);
 - b. the name, race, national origin of the alleged harasser(s) (indicate whether student, teacher, or other);
 - c. the name, sex, race, and national origin of the alleged victim(s) (indicate whether student, teacher, or other);
 - d. the names of all witnesses of the alleged incident (indicate whether student, teacher, or other); and,
 - e. UCSD's response to each complaint and allegation including the discipline imposed (if any) for each incident.
15. Please provide a copy of the UCSD's anti-harassment/discrimination policies.
16. Please describe what information or training has been or will be provided to staff, students, and others in response to incidents involving harassment and/or discrimination at UCSD. Please indicate when the training, if any, was or will be provided, as well as who attended or will attend.
17. The attached article includes a description of a teach-in organized in response to the incident. Please identify (1) the organizer of the event; (2) provide any copies of information disseminated at the event; and (3) discuss, what, if any response UCSD received from black students attending school at the University, and whether UCSD has taken subsequent remedial measures to address students concerns.

We are aware that UCSD has been working with the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service ("CRS"), and we encourage UCSD to continue such work. Our inquiry is separate from that of CRS as our offices have differing responsibilities.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please send the requested information to our office by **March 26, 2010**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 616-1622.

Sincerely,


Lisa M. Taylor
Attorney

Copy to:
Lynn Do (LynnDo@ucsd.edu)
Assistant to D. Parks

Attachment