



February 5, 2013

Dear Chancellor Katehi,

Thank you for your letters¹ to us and our colleague Kenneth Marcus in response to our letter² regarding the Dutton Hall "occupation" on November 19, 2012. We are pleased to hear your commitment to investigating the events we described and to providing a safe environment for all students to learn freely and practice their civil rights.

The takeover event is now in the past, but many members and supporters of the Jewish community are concerned about subsequent action and policy in the future. As a result, we do have a few follow-up questions:

1) As described in our letter – the protestors unlawfully "occupied" an administration building, blocked the building's entrance to "Zionists" and administrators, violated students' right to freedom of speech, and, most egregiously, intimidated, harassed and bullied Jewish students. Five administrators were present, and even if they weren't aware of all of these events, they were at least aware of the "takeover" and blocking of access to a public building in violation of University policy. These events, including the violent nature of them, were covered in news stories immediately after they occurred in the *Aggie*,³ the *Davis Enterprise*,⁴ and on Aggie TV,⁵ and they were commented upon in at least three opinion pieces in the *Aggie* a week later⁶.

It seems that early knowledge of these events was readily available, and as a result, we'd like to know that in the future when, and if, such events transpire, **immediate** action will be taken – including everything from a public condemnation of the unlawful events to a high priority investigation.

2) Along these same lines, five administrators knew there was an unlawful takeover of an

¹ <http://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Response-01-31-13.pdf>

² <http://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/UCD-Letter-about-Dutton-Hall-Occupation.pdf>

³ <http://www.theaggie.org/2012/11/20/protesters-occupy-dutton-hall/>

⁴ <http://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/ucd/gathering-to-mark-nov-18-protesters-turn-focus-to-gaza/>

⁵ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Piuhj5ri-Fw>

⁶ <http://www.theaggie.org/2012/11/27/editorial-let-students-speak/>

<http://www.theaggie.org/2012/11/27/guest-opinion-17/>

<http://www.theaggie.org/2012/11/27/guest-opinion-19/>

administration building, and they were blocked from entering. According to UC and UCD policy, this is unacceptable behavior.

We'd like to know in the future that such unlawful "takeovers" will not be tolerated. The forceful nature of the takeover, the prevention of student and administrator access, and the inflammatory banners,⁷ which read "Death to Zionism" and "Long Live the Intifada," all suggested its potentially hazardous nature. At a maximum, the takeover should have been shut down. At a minimum, at least one administrator, if not a UCD police officer, should have been present inside the building during the 45- minute takeover to intervene if necessary given the impermissible and virulent nature of the protest.

3) Your letter mentions that no Jewish students complained to administrators about the Dutton Hall incident. We are concerned that UCD students may be reluctant to complain about anti-Semitism on campus given a perceived sense of unresponsiveness on the part of the administration. In an op-ed piece one week after the takeover, a Jewish UCD student referenced two other incidents of anti-Semitism that had occurred at UCD earlier in the year, and questioned:

"I wonder how the administration has continuously ignored Jewish students' feelings of unease on campus when blatant anti-Semitism is alive on a UC campus in 2012...It is time the University administration do something, and do it quickly. This is not an atmosphere that can continue, and Chancellor Katehi and her vice chancellors need to take notice of this problem and do something about it. The tension is there, and the hate is boiling beneath the surface."

We worry the fact that Jewish students did not come forward to administrators in this matter may indicate that these students have lost confidence in the administration's willingness to address their concerns, despite their being verbally harassed and physically threatened.

4) Lastly, as you mention in your letter, we know you wish to affirmatively protect the physical and emotional safety and civil rights of Jewish (and all) students on your campus. In our letter, we suggested the following substantive steps that could be taken to further this mission:

- University policy spells out actions that campus police, administrators, and staff are responsible for taking to ensure the safety and civil rights of all students, and we urge that this policy be published widely to the campus community.
- Police, administrators, and staff are immediately informed about actions they should take and protocols they can access to afford all members of the campus community — including Jewish students — the protections that are afforded to them under University policy and state and federal law.
- Perpetrators of disruptive and threatening behavior are identified and appropriately disciplined.

⁷ <http://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/UC-Davis-Pic.2.jpg>

- Behavior which targets other students for harassment and intimidation is consistently and publicly condemned by the University.
- The official status and funding of student groups that engage in behavior which targets other students for harassment and intimidation is subject to suspension and revocation.

Can such steps be taken to ensure that all students feel safe and protected on the UCD campus?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Cc: UC President Mark Yudof
UC Regents
UC Chancellors
UC General Counsel Charles Robinson
UC Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, and Inclusion (c/o Jesse Bernal)
UC Davis Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph Hexter
UC Davis Counsel Steven Drown
California Speaker of the Assembly John A. Perez
California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
California State Senator Lois Wolk (Davis)
California State Assembly Member Mariko Yamada (Davis)
Congressman John Garamendi (3rd District)

Bcc: Members and supporters of the Jewish community