



September 18, 2013

To the California State University Board of Trustees:

We are the co-founders of the AMCHA Initiative, a grassroots organization representing members and supporters of the California Jewish community – including thousands of CSU students, alumni, parents, donors and taxpayers – who continue to grow deeply concerned about CSU Northridge Mathematics Professor David Klein’s use of the CSUN’s name and resources to promote the boycott of Israel.

This matter is of great concern to the California Jewish leaders copied on this email, as well as to members of the Jewish community, who overwhelmingly view boycotting the Jewish state as a virulently anti-Semitic assault against the Jewish people. In addition, last year the California State Assembly, whose Speaker is copied on this email, unanimously approved [a resolution](#) recognizing that "student- and faculty-sponsored boycott, divestment, and sanction campaigns against Israel" are a form of campus anti-Semitism.

As you may know, last month we provided CSUN President Dianne Harrison with evidence that Klein had used his CSUN email account on August 10 to promote a U.S. congressional candidate who supports the boycott of Israel (BDS) to the list serve of the Campaign to End Israel Apartheid - Southern California (CEIA-SC). Soon after receiving our letter, [President Harrison replied](#) that she had investigated the matter and taken "appropriate action."

It is important to point out that this was not the first time Prof. Klein had misused his CSUN email account to promote a BDS-supporting U.S. congressional candidate to the list serve of CEIA-SC, an organization that actively works towards the elimination of the Jewish state by promoting the [boycott of Israel](#). On at least two previous occasions Klein has misused his CSUN email account in an identical way.

In [one email](#) to the CEIA-SC list serve (dated 4/6/12) Klein wrote:

"Mike Powelson is the Green Party Candidate for congress in the district that includes CSUN. He is running against super-Zionists Brad Sherman and Howard Berman. Mike strongly supports BDS. Please check out his website and consider making a donation: <http://michaelpowelsonforcongress.org/>"

In a [second email](#) to the CEIA-SC list serve using his CSUN email account (dated May 9, 2012) Klein wrote:

"If you have friends in the 30th congressional district (in the San Fernando Valley), please urge them to vote for Mike Powelson. He is running as the Green Party candidate

against Brad Sherman and Howard Berman, two extreme Zionists. Powelson supports BDS of Israel."

As President Harrison understood, Klein's misuse of his CSUN email account to promote a congressional candidate was a violation of both state law and university policy prohibiting the use of university resources to promote a political candidate. However, to the extent that Klein's three emails not only promote a political candidate but a particular political activity, namely, the boycott of Israel, Klein is also in potential violation of [California Education Code 89005.5](#), which states:

"No person shall, without the permission of the Trustees of the California State University, use this name [California State University], or any abbreviation of it or any name of which these words are a part ...to display, advertise, or announce this name publicly at, or in connection with, any...promotional activity of any kind which has for its purpose or any part of its purpose the support, endorsement, advancement...of...boycott."

In this regard, Klein's CSUN-hosted "[Boycott Israel Resource Page](#)," whose sole purpose is to promote the academic, cultural, and economic boycott of Israel, is an even more flagrant example of the use of the university's name and resources for the "support, endorsement, advancement...of...boycott."

Please understand that the law is quite clear on this matter: If Klein has received your permission to use the name and resources of the California State University to promote the boycott of Israel, he has not violated Cal. Educ. Code 89005.5. If, however, you have NOT given Klein your permission to use the name of the California State University for the support, endorsement, or advancement of the boycott of Israel, then Klein's use of his CSUN email account and the CSUN server for that express purpose is a violation of state law, and he is guilty of a misdemeanor.

AMCHA therefore asks you to publicly clarify your position on this matter: Has the Board of Trustees given Prof. Klein permission to use his CSUN email account and the CSUN server to promote the boycott of Israel?

As you might imagine, a great many individuals are eager to hear your answer to this question.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. If we do not, we will assume that you have given Klein permission to use CSUN's name and resources to promote the boycott of Israel, and we will inform the alumni, donors, Jewish supporters and members of the Jewish community throughout the state and across the country that the CSU Board of Trustees not only condones anti-Semitic behavior at California State University, but is directly responsible for its spread.

Sincerely,

Tammi Rossmann-Benjamin
Co-founder, AMCHA Initiative

Leila Beckwith
Co-founder, AMCHA Initiative

CC: CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White
CSUN President Dianne Harrison
CSU Interim General Counsel Andrew Jones
Attorney General Kamala Harris
Deputy Attorney General Stepan Haytayun
Senior Assistant Attorney General Douglas Wood
California Speaker of the Assembly John A. Perez
California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
California State Senator Alex Padilla (Northridge)
California Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee
California Senator Carol Liu, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Education
U.S. Congressman District 30 Brad Sherman
California Jewish community leaders

BCC: Wide circulation in the Jewish community