



Presentation for UC Regents on 1/22/14 – Unabridged Remarks

- We are UC faculty members who are also co-founders of the AMCHA Initiative, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to investigating, documenting, educating about and combating anti-Semitism at institutions of higher education. AMCHA Initiative is comprised of UC alumni, parents and grandparents and CA rabbis, religious school principals and synagogue members who have joined together to speak in one voice to ensure the safety and well-being of our Jewish students on UC campuses.
- First, we would like to commend UC President Janet Napolitano and most of the UC Chancellors for issuing statements condemning the recent boycott of Israeli universities and scholars. However, these condemnations are diminished if UC faculty and academic departments are permitted to use the name and resources of the University, and even to give course credit to students, for promoting the academic boycott of Israel on UC campuses.
- In this regard, we are very concerned about events that took place on 3 UC campuses last week that, we firmly believe, violate university policy, state law and create a hostile environment for Jewish students.
- UC Davis, UCLA and UC Riverside Departments sponsored events featuring Omar Barghouti, the founder and most vocal advocate of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. At UC Riverside, students received course credit for attending.
 - Attendees reports and videotapes of the events at UC Riverside and UC Davis reveal that Barghouti’s talk was pure propaganda and political screed laced with classic anti-Semitic tropes. For instance, he invoked the classic blood libel, accusing Israelis of “hunting children,” saying that Israeli soldiers “entice them like mice” into playing football and then shooting them with silencers. He also invoked the antisemitic trope of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, accusing “Israel and its well-oiled lobby groups” of “buying and paying for the allegiance of Congress” and controlling the media. Both of these examples are identified as antisemitic by the US State Department.
 - The unambiguous purpose of Barghouti’s talk was to demonize and delegitimize the Jewish state and actively promote the academic boycott of Israel.
 - As UC faculty members we can attest that this is not education, it is pure political indoctrination.
- Political and ideological indoctrination is NOT protected by academic freedom.

According to the "[nonindoctrination principle](#)" of the American Association of University Professor's committee on academic freedom (Committee A): "faculty will not use their courses or their position for the purpose of political, ideological, religious, or antireligious indoctrination."

- You yourselves have also prohibited the use of the University for political indoctrination, writing in the Regents Policy on Course Content (also known as the Regents Policy on Academic Freedom) the following:
 - “[The Regents] are responsible to see that the University remain aloof from politics and never function as an instrument for the advance of partisan interest. Misuse of the classroom by, for example, allowing it to be used for political indoctrination... constitutes misuse of the University as an institution.”
- Departments which offer course credit or fulfillment of course requirements for attendance at an event whose sole purpose is to promote the academic boycott of Israel, and even departments which use their names and university funds to encourage students to attend such an event, are in clear violation of your Regents Policy.
- They also violate at least two state statutes which prohibit the use of the University of California name and public resources for partisan purposes or for promoting a boycott.
- In addition, these events cannot help but create a hostile environment for Jewish students on UC campuses. In the Jewish Campus Climate Report of 2012, commissioned by former President Mark Yudof, Jewish students on several UC campuses reported that BDS events and other anti-Zionist activities “engender a feeling of isolation, and undermine Jewish students' sense of belonging and engagement.” Jewish students reported that their feeling were exacerbated when these event were sponsored by their faculty and departments.
- The University of California should not be using its name and resources to promote what hundreds of academic leaders across the country, including UC President Janet Napolitano, have deemed a violation of academic freedom and antithetical to the very mission of a university, and what the United States government, state and federal legislators, and Jewish leaders have deemed anti-Semitic.
- **We ask you, the governing body of the University of California, to carry out your fiduciary responsibilities to the State of California, by taking the following 3 steps:**
 1. Conduct a formal investigation into these 3 departmentally-sponsored events and their violation of the Regents policy forbidding political indoctrination and the violation of state law prohibiting the use of the University’s name and resources for advancing a boycott.
 2. Make public the results of your investigation and what steps you intend to take regarding any violations of University policy and state law.
 3. Define and identify for faculty and the university community what constitutes political indoctrination and what actions will be taken when University faculty or departments use the University’s name and resources for the purpose of indoctrination.