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4 **Condemning Ignorance of Racism and Equating Anti-Zionism with Anti-Semitism**

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6 *Recommendation to Pass 15-0-4*

7 **AUTHOR(S):** Chair of the Committee on Environmental Sustainability Bugra Sahin, Senator  
8 James Kosmopoulos, Senator Sudarshana Rao, Senator Anna Sekiguchi, Senator  
9 Akil Guruparan

10 **SPONSOR(S):** Senator James Kosmopoulos, Senator Arnoldo Ayala, Director Kirsten Peterson,  
11 Senator Icardo Isasa, Speaker Pro Tempore Susan Zhou

12 **ENDORSEMENT(S):** Chief of Staff Ali Mirza, President Connor Josellis

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14 **WHEREAS,** The Illinois Student Government stands in solidarity with marginalized populations and  
15 aims to advocate against acts of injustice; and;

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17 **WHEREAS,** the University administration has repeatedly ignored clear, active, and threatening anti-  
18 Semitic behavior, and have yet to take sufficient or appropriate actions given the  
19 severity of these events and,

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21 **WHEREAS,** the University administration has created space for holocaust deniers, Nazis, and other  
22 individuals -- by allowing an individual to spread hateful anti-Semitic ideologies on  
23 campus; and,

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25 **WHEREAS,** the ongoing, anti-Semitic actions at this university have not been publicly addressed via  
26 mass mail; and,

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28 **WHEREAS,** the Illinois Student Government does not take issue or condemn the acknowledgement  
29 of pervasive and increasing prevalence of Anti-Semitism on the University of Illinois  
30 campus; and,

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32 **WHEREAS,** University of Illinois Administrators stated to the members of the public and the  
33 Committee on Diversity and Inclusion that hate crimes are a common occurrence and  
34 that if the administration was to "send out a safety alert every time hate crimes were  
35 committed," we "would get safety alerts every day"; and,

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37 **WHEREAS,** the University has not actively invested a sufficient amount of its time or resources to  
38 prevent hate crimes; and,

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40 **WHEREAS,** the University has not provided its students with an adequate level of transparency  
41 necessary for these types of situations in order for students to be informed and aware  
42 of the safety concerns present at the University of Illinois; and,

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44 **WHEREAS,** the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a history of responding with empty  
45 words to hateful events that have occurred on campus without taking the necessary  
46 immediate restorative measures to prevent future hateful occurrences; and,

48 **WHEREAS,** the University of Illinois administration, including Chancellor Robert Jones, has  
49 repeatedly refused to include the student body when deciding measures to be taken to  
50 respond to hateful or predatory acts on campus; and,  
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52 **WHEREAS,** the presentation mentioned in Chancellor Jones' Massmail on October 9, 2019, was  
53 improperly characterized, had no Anti-Semitic content in it; and,  
54 **WHEREAS,** this presentation should not have been equated with the image of a swastika, a symbol  
55 that literally and violently threatens Jewish people across the world; and;  
56

57 **WHEREAS,** Zionism is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as a political stance whose object is  
58 "the assured settlement of [Jewish people's] race upon a national basis in Palestine,"<sup>1</sup>  
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60 **WHEREAS,** while Anti-Semitism is defined as "Prejudice, hostility, or discrimination towards Jewish  
61 people;"<sup>2</sup> and,  
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63 **WHEREAS,** the administration has had a history of equating Anti-Zionism with Anti-Semitism; as  
64 with the 2018 Divest campaign, and;  
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66 **WHEREAS,** this false equivalence has gained national prominence as a method for cloaking  
67 legitimate anti-Semitism behind attacks on political ideologies opposed to religious  
68 violence; and;  
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70 **WHEREAS,** this false equivalence has been used as a scare tactic against students and workers in  
71 the Palestine movement, and it is rooted in a false understanding of what the  
72 movement advocates for; and;  
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74 **WHEREAS,** the rights of the student targeted in the email are being violated by the very  
75 administration responsible to protect them, including possible legal defamation issues;  
76 and,  
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78 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Illinois Student Government condemn the following part of the  
79 University of Illinois administration's October 9, 2019, mass mail that reads the  
80 following:  
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82 *"In addition, concerns were raised about a recent presentation with anti-Semitic*  
83 *content at a staff development program by a Housing student-worker. Housing*  
84 *staff have been meeting individually with all who were present to understand*  
85 *fully the presentation and the nature of the conversations that followed.";* and,  
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87 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Illinois Student Government further condemn any and all other  
88 mentions of the equation of Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism in the  
89 Administration's October 9<sup>th</sup> Massmail; and,  
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<sup>1</sup> "Zionism, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, September 2019. Web.

<sup>2</sup> "anti-Semitism, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, September 2019. Web.

91 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government condemn the constant conflation of Anti-  
92 Zionism and Anti-Semitism; and,  
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94 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Illinois Student Government condemns the passive tolerance shown by  
95 the University to racism, hate speech, bigotry, and white supremacy on campus;  
96 and,  
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98 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Illinois Student Government request the retraction of the part of the  
99 mass mail that conflated Anti-Zionism as Anti-Semitism and an apology to the  
100 student(s) in question and to the general university public for wrongfully  
101 categorizing Anti-Zionism as Anti-Semitism, slandering many students' image  
102 and their cause; and,  
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104 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Illinois Student Government support the demands put forth by  
105 Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) with the exception of calling for the  
106 resignation of Chancellor Jones should these demands not be met; and  
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108 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Senate requests the President direct the Executive to take any action  
109 necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

