

SENT VIA EMAIL:

Date: Tue, Mar 19, 2024 at 6:03 PM

Subject: Report on Anti-Zionist Activism of UC Faculty

Dear University of California Regents and President Drake,

We would like to bring to your attention a detailed report entitled “Academic Agitators: The Role of Anti-Zionist Faculty Activism in Escalating Antisemitism at the University of California After October 7, 2023” that our organization, [AMCHA Initiative](#), recently released (see attached or at this [link](#)). The report investigated the anti-Zionist activity of UC faculty - as individuals and members of departments and faculty organizations – and graduate students (who serve as undergraduate instructors), on the ten campuses of the University of California in order to explore their possible contribution to the post-October 7th surge in antisemitic activity. Compared to the same 23-week period last year, we found a staggering increase of more than 1000% in the number of incidents (e.g. lectures, statements, rallies, etc.) involving anti-Zionist advocacy and activism carried out or supported by UC faculty and graduate students. We believe that this activism not only violates UC Policy and California law, but breaches the most basic standards of scholarship, coerces the consciences of students and fellow faculty, and incites harm toward members of the UCSC community, especially Jews.

As co-founders of an organization that investigates and combats antisemitism on campuses across the country and former UC faculty ourselves (UCLA and UCSC), we are particularly sensitive to the deleterious impact of departmentally sanctioned and sponsored anti-Zionism on Jewish students. Our [research](#) has consistently shown that on campuses where individual faculty and departments use educational spaces for anti-Zionist political advocacy and activism, rates of antisemitic activity – including assaults, threats of harm, vandalism, and bullying – are significantly elevated. This report further strongly suggests that UC faculty and graduate students are major contributors to antisemitic activity on their campuses. As individuals and members of departments and campus organizations, they have engaged in anti-Zionist indoctrination and activism under the mantle of academic freedom, provided material support for anti-Zionist students and student organizations, and incited animus and harm towards the Jewish state and its on-campus supporters.

Although the University of California has policies prohibiting faculty and graduate students from using their academic positions and university resources to engage in political indoctrination and activism, campus administrators are simply not enforcing these regulations. Unless and until this changes, we believe University of California campuses are not safe for their Jewish members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

AMCHA Initiative, Co-Founder and Director

Leila Beckwith

AMCHA Initiative, Co-Founder

CC: UC Chancellors