



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS - REGION IX

March 7, 2011

Ms. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

(In reply, please refer to case no. 09-09-2145)

Dear Ms. Rossman-Benjamin:

On June 25, 2009, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received your complaint against the University of California-Santa Cruz (Recipient). Your complaint alleges discrimination on the basis of national origin. OCR has identified the following issue:

1. The Recipient failed to take steps in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to respond to notice of a then existing hostile environment for Jewish students based on their actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulation. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs and activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance. The Recipient receives funds from the Department and is subject to Title VI and the regulation.

We have determined that the issue is appropriate for investigation under the laws enforced by OCR. OCR is now beginning the complaint resolution process.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was filed timely or qualified for a waiver of the timeliness requirement, it is opening these allegations for investigation. Please note that opening the allegation(s) for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to their merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the allegations, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the *Case Processing Manual*.

We will contact you or your designated representative soon to discuss the allegations and complaint resolution process. OCR may close this complaint prior to making formal findings of compliance or non-compliance, provided that the circumstances or

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information gathered establishes an administrative or other basis for resolution in accordance with the *Case Processing Manual*.

Federal regulations prohibit the Recipient from retaliating against you or from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or harassing you or anyone else because you filed a complaint with OCR or because you or anyone else take part in the complaint resolution process. Contact OCR if you believe such actions occur.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related records upon request. In the event that OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call our office at 415-486-5555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Zeidman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arthur Zeidman
Director
San Francisco Enforcement Office