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July 2, 2010

Executive Director Avi Davis, *American Freedom Alliance*  
Executive Director Andrea Levin, *CAMERA: Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America*  
President Doris Montrose, *Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors The David Project*  
President Ealon Joelson, *Israel Peace Initiative*  
Executive Director Ted Bleiweiss, *Orange County Independent Task Force on Anti-Semitism*  
Rabbi Steven Weil, Rabbi Steven Burg, Rabbi Alan Kalinsky, *The Orthodox Union*  
President Peter Haas, *Scholars for Peace in the Middle East*  
Rabbi Aron Hier, Rabbi Meyer H. May, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, *Simon Wiesenthal Center*  
Executive Director Roz Rothstein, *Stand With Us*  
Rabbi Steven Wernick, President Richard Skolnik, Executive Director Joel Baker, and Director Merrill Alpert, *United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*  
President Morton Klein, *Zionist Organization of America*  
Professor Emeritus Leila Beckwith  
Lecturer Tammi Rossman-Benjamin  
Lecturer Roberta Seid

Dear Friends:

This is in response to your letter of June 28, in which you cited feelings of fear and frustration among Jewish students attending the University of California. While the letter no doubt was well-intended, I found it to be a dishearteningly ill-informed rush to judgment against our ongoing responses to troubling incidents that have taken place on some of our campuses.

While I am disturbed when any UC student feels he or she is being harassed or intimidated, I am concerned that the points you make based on sample responses from the student questionnaire imply a level of statistical reliability and representation of the UC Jewish student community that is not substantiated in your letter. The quotations are selective. I also personally make it a point to engage Jewish students in person and by mail to assess their reactions to campus incidents. My take is that their perspectives are more mixed than you suggest. Having said that, you raise serious and justifiable concerns, and it is incumbent on me to address them.

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I am extremely sympathetic to the concerns of Jewish students, as I am for any students subjected to acts of intolerance. I have stated and restated that concern publicly, most recently at a national meeting of the Hillel board. Sadly, the cancer of bigotry and anti-Semitism runs deep and long through human history. As Berkeley Law Dean Chris Edley, who I assigned last spring to act as a special advisor on these issues, told The Regents, this is not rocket science – it's more difficult than rocket science. It also must be noted that under the U.S. Constitution suppression of speech, however odious it might be to civilized people, is not an option – speech on campuses is generally protected by the First Amendment.

Such difficulties, of course, do not lessen our obligation to do everything in our power to eradicate this cancer whenever and wherever it flares anew. With the Board of Regents, campus leadership and affected students, I have worked hard to ensure that all such incidents have been met with swift and appropriate action. We have condemned these despicable incidents and published statements outlining the unacceptable nature of this behavior. Those determined to be responsible for the interruption of Ambassador Oren's speech at UC Irvine, for example, have been disciplined, subject to appeal. All incidents of hate speech, including the depiction of swastikas on campuses, have been promptly investigated. In such matters, I have sought guidance from the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, and other Jewish groups.

We will do everything in our power to protect Jewish and all other students from threats and actions, but there is no silver bullet when campus climate change is the overriding issue. To that end, the Board of Regents and I have created separate campus climate committees, both of which are just beginning their work. They will be briefed on details of incidents, the remedies in place and the structural outlines that detail the mechanisms both on campuses and systemwide to deal with incidents. I am looking forward to working with the esteemed individuals on my Advisory Council, who represent a wide array of cultural, racial and religious viewpoints, to identify some of the best practices in place in communities and institutions that can be adapted to both implement and then measure climate for tolerance at the University of California for the long term. Many of the campuses have taken their own actions. Chancellor Katehi at Davis has worked with Jewish leaders to aspire to a hate-free campus. Chancellor Fox at San Diego and Chancellor Drake at Irvine have worked with the Jewish community to resolve campus issues. At Berkeley and San Diego, student efforts to endorse measures aimed at Israel have been set aside.

I am disappointed that you have already have written off the systemwide Advisory Council and campus committees as destined to fail. This is premature and disheartening, given that their work, in what will be a long and complicated struggle, has barely begun. I would ask you, respectfully, to take another look at the names on the committee and to gauge the depth and breadth of their experience and their commitment to changing campus climates.

Executive Director Avi Davis, *American Freedom Alliance*, et al.

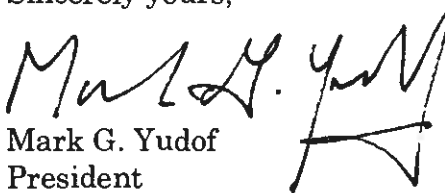
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In closing, let me be as clear as possible. The incidents we have witnessed – swastikas, nooses and the like – cannot be accepted on any University of California campus or, for that matter, in any venue of civilized society. I have and will continue to be among the first to speak out against such vile behavior. I have and will continue to respond to hateful incidents with appropriate action. And I have and will continue to do everything in my power to protect Jewish and all other students from threats or actions of intolerance. In this effort, as in the past, I know I can count on the full support of the distinguished organizations you represent.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Mark G. Yudof  
President

cc: The Regents of the University of California  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Howard Berman  
The Honorable Brad Sherman  
The Honorable Chuck DeVore  
The Honorable John Campbell  
Chancellors  
Provost Lawrence Pitts  
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley  
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