
Subject: Serious Concern!
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 1:29:10 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Sarita Bronstein
To: Voltaire Villanueva
CC: Kristina Whalen
Attachments: image001.png

Dear President Villanueva,

My name is Sarita Bronstein; I am the Executive Director for Hillel of Silicon Valley. We serve Jewish students at five campuses in Silicon Valley, including Foothill College.

I am writing to share the deep concern of the Jewish community on campus and off campus about the Resolution “*Recognizing Sustained Peace and Safety for All Students*” that the Academic Senate is proposing.

While many students are rightfully concerned about the loss of life in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from the Israel-Hamas war, resolutions like these that rely on factual inaccuracies and the erasure of Israeli and Jewish experience cause harm to the campus community. The resolution describes the tragic yet unintended loss of Palestinian life among Palestinian civilians as collective punishment rather than the consequences of war, particularly a war that Israel did not start or want while giving cover to a terrorist organization that has oppressed Palestinians in Gaza and attacked Israelis for years.

The resolution is riddled with misinformation, the use of biased sources, and the troubling accusations against the State of Israel. These errors, the inflammatory tone of the statements, and the manipulation of the truth are dangerous because they may lead to hatred against Jews and even violence.

There have been 680 incidents of antisemitism on 130 campuses since October 7, an increase of 700% over the same time last year!

I pray that Senators rather than using their platform to promote personal agendas will consider the impact of their actions on the campus community. Will this resolution promote civil discourse, unity, or a conducive campus climate for learning?

Adopting this resolution maligning the Jewish State will undoubtedly negatively impact the campus culture going forward. It will only help to divide the campus community and lead to Jewish students feeling marginalized, unwelcomed, and unrepresented.

May the Academic Senate cease the opportunity to leave a legacy that promotes dialogue regarding this complex issue and that is respectful of the experiences of all groups and individuals affected by it.

Sarita Bronstein

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