
From: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 7:33 PM

To: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Cc: Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Fox, Andrew <andrew.fox934@csuci.edu>, Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>, Heck, Julia <julia.heck@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Dear SJP Leaders,

You are most welcome regarding that additional reassurance; it is indeed my sincere intention to continue the dialogue and the educational processes necessary for it to be meaningful.

I must contradict the claim that I have violated any agreement or have not defended First Amendment rights. Our public university campus will always be a place where the rights to free speech and peaceful assembly are protected. What is also unequivocally true is that the University has the legal right and responsibility to define and enforce the appropriate time, place, and manner of protest activity, ensuring that any such activity will not disrupt normal university operations.

Once again, my temporary suspension of the prohibition of overnight camping over the course of 40 days was offered in the hope that we could find the middle ground that would satisfy each of us – not perfectly, naturally, given that concession is a necessary element in the process of shared conflict resolution – but to the extent that we could all walk away knowing that we had each been heard and our needs had been valued. However, I have repeated my position on the remaining items – in person, when we last met at the Peace Pole on June 17, and in writing this week – and I do not have evidence to help me believe that we are making further movement toward resolution together. As such, my suspension of the Time, Place, and Manner Policy's restriction against overnight camping is no longer defensible.

The Foundation Board has the fiduciary responsibility to make decisions about the investment policy; I will not be forming a task force to work with them in making those decisions. That

being said, I have already committed to recommending an off-cycle review of the policy and have given my promise that students will be invited to provide feedback as part of this process. As I've previously noted, the structure and process by which broad student feedback is gathered will be facilitated by our Student Government leaders in collaboration with our Vice President for University Advancement. I want to ensure that student feedback is well-informed and data driven; this will take time and require sound methodology, intentionality, and perhaps most importantly, willingness on the part of all engaged in the process to study the information available on our Foundation Board website before providing feedback and making recommendations.

Please decamp immediately as a strong gesture of good faith in finding our middle ground, and as a positive step you can take now to help ensure collaborative and constructive dialogue in the future.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.
President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 11:31 AM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Cc: Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Fox, Andrew <andrew.fox934@csuci.edu>, Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>, Heck, Julia <julia.heck@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

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Dear President Yao,

Thank you for the additional reassurance that dialogue will continue. We are eager for further engagement and a speedy and satisfactory agreement. On both ends, it has been recognized that we have been "peaceful since May 13th" (day one). Despite your commitment to defending our First Amendment rights, you violated our agreement and called the police on the encampment yesterday, June 21st. With our disappointment, we would like to focus our

attention on meeting the divestment demand.

We reiterate our ironclad commitment to maintaining peace. We share the goal of resolving this phase of the campaign and ending the encampment. However, our decision to end the encampment is contingent on both parties signing a mutually agreed upon document to be released to the public. We share the goal of this happening as soon as possible and are eager to finish ironing out the details of the agreement.

As part of the agreement, we will commit to decamping within 24 hours of the document being signed. We appreciate your engagement on the issue of divestment and your willingness to incorporate student voices. However, in order for us to sign an agreement, can you define your meaning of "broad student engagement" in relation to the investment overview?

We demand this investment overview to entail a task force incorporating meaningful student voices. Above all, we demand that CSUCI create a new policy that, "prohibits investing in corporations and funds that profit from genocide, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and activities that violate fundamental human rights (as defined by the United Nations)." At multiple points in our dialogue, you have emphasized the importance of structure whilst maintaining the mission statement of the University. This new policy strongly represents both.

Negotiations Committee
Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

SJP serves to educate students about Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and the apartheid system.

I acknowledge that I live on the unceded, colonized, indigenous homeland of the Chumash nation.

Free Palestine

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From: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Date: Friday, June 21, 2024 at 4:35 PM

To: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Cc: Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Fox, Andrew <andrew.fox934@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Dear SJP Leaders,

I appreciate your efforts to provide your response by the end of day yesterday and the clarity of your final position. I, too, am proud of the work we have done together and of the work that my team and I have done to respond affirmatively to your concerns. Although we still differ in our positions on three items, I look forward to the continuation of our dialogue moving forward.

That said, while I fully hope that this dialogue will continue, we have reached a point where I must revoke the temporary allowance of overnight camping that I had put in place on May 13, 2024, in the hope that doing so would allow us time to reach agreement. Further overnight camping is a violation of our Time, Place, and Manner Policy that the University can no longer support. I ask that you bring an end to your encampment with the same commitment to peaceful engagement that you have demonstrated since May 13.

While I have no new information to share regarding your call for a boycott and a new CSUCI statement, I do want to respond to the new requests and context shared in your message of June 20 related to your call for divestment. I believed that we had previously reached agreement on this point, per your response on June 6. My interpretation of your response was that through my recommendation to the Foundation Board for an off-cycle review of our investment policy and an assurance of broad student engagement in this process, we had reached agreement on how to move forward. It now appears that we do not agree on this point, so I offer my thoughts accordingly.

It is not possible for me to separate divestment from disclosure in the context of your June 20 message, given the extent to which I have provided transparency on the latter. I noted on May 24 that we had published full quarterly investment reports, which would provide you the level of specificity to further research your concerns. My proposed plan for broad student engagement and feedback, in collaboration with our Student Government leaders and Vice President for University Advancement, would allow for the necessary amount of time beyond your encampment to fully understand the complexities of the Foundation's portfolio, including the portion that is governed by

our ESG/SRI values and accompanying social profile. This collaborative process will help ensure that student feedback regarding the policy is well-informed and data driven.

I assure you again of my commitment to engage students in this work. Our Vice President for University Advancement, Richard LeRoy, and I will be reaching out to Student Government leaders this summer to create that student engagement plan beginning in Fall 2024.

Thank you, once again, for your efforts over the past several weeks to ensure peace and safety for yourselves and the campus community.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.
President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 10:14 PM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Cc: Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Fox, Andrew <andrew.fox934@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

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Good evening,

In response to Dr. Tollefson's follow-up email from our Monday meeting, here are copies of all requested documents we referred to during our conversation.

The attachments includes the following:

- Letter on Trans/Non-Gender Conforming discrimination regarding bathroom access (with details including discrimination unique to our encampment, and details about campus culture at large)
- Research Essay on the need to Boycott CSUCI's study abroad program to Israel's University of Haifa (a university known to have violated human rights of Palestinian students and student organizers at large)
- Research Essay on the need for CSUCI's call for the end of the occupation of Palestine (under the Israeli apartheid)

Your team has been very welcoming of our research regarding these needs. We hope that its depth can provide the additional insight needed for our ongoing discussion. Please let us know if you have any questions about the contents of these documents.

Regards,

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Negotiations Committee

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

SJP serves to educate students about Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and the apartheid system.

I acknowledge that I live on the unceded, colonized, indigenous homeland of the Chumash nation.

Free Palestine

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 9:58 PM SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com> wrote:

Good evening,

First off, we'd like to thank you for your patience in our responses. Not just today, but throughout this ongoing conversation. It is a great comfort that our campus president has been more than understanding of our schedules as student organizers maintaining our schooling, this campaign, and financial responsibilities simultaneously.

We are grateful for the relationship we have built with you and your team since the beginning of this encampment on May 13. Significant progress has been made with the student demands thus far, thanks to dedication on both ends. An agreement on three of our six demands (Disclosure, Amnesty, Palestinian Flag Representation) is a feat we are proudly reporting out to the community at large.

After our bargaining meeting this past Monday, June 17th, here is our stance in the negotiations process thus far:

We would like to reach a mutually accepted agreement to be signed by both parties and released to the public. The agreement would constitute a resolution to the current phase of

this campaign. This is our final stance on the contents of the agreement.

#2 - DIVESTMENT:

- Create a CSUCI policy that, "Prohibits investing in corporations and funds that profit from genocide, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and activities that violate fundamental human rights (as defined by the United Nations)"
- Establish a task force to look through CSUCI investments and make decisions on specific divestments regarding this new policy
- Including the newly added Student Government executive board to this financial review team, the new task force must include majority (or minimum half) students. These new students shall be elected by the Student Government executive board, and the SJP Negotiations Committee. This must be maintained regardless of the size of the task force.

#2 DIVESTMENT: ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

As you shared on Monday and we strongly agree with, CSUCI has the moral responsibility to uphold human rights. With such, we are excited for your call for expediting an early review of our Foundation's investment portfolio by Fall 2024 with additional student voices on the review team, further ensuring divestment from entities that violate human rights. However, we recognize this structure alone is not enough.

Engaging our student government alone is not enough, hence the need for a new policy. CSUCI's administration has a history of not prioritizing student government voices, and student leadership voices in general

Former President Daisy Navarette, and former Vice President Jasmine Guajardo shared such in a public statement in November 28ths Academic Senate meeting

This new policy will give our student representatives the means necessary to echo the need for divestment throughout the review of our university's investment portfolio.

Commit to continuing discussion and negotiation on the remaining two demands after the resolution on this phase of the campaign. This is our final position on those two demands:

#3 BOYCOTT:

- CSUCI cancels the study abroad program to Israel's University of Haifa
- CSUCI funds professorships, grants, or scholarships for Palestinians in Gaza

and the West Bank

#3 BOYCOTT: ADDITIONAL CONTEXT:

This can be met by satisfying one or both of the two needs.

#4 CSUCI CALL FOR THE END OF THE OCCUPATION:

- Letter recognizing or condemning Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine
- Letter calling for the liberation of Palestine
- Condemning the repression and violence towards Pro-Palestine activists and affirming their right to free speech on college campuses across the state, preference being within the CSU on our sibling campuses

#4 CSUCI CALL FOR THE END OF THE OCCUPATION: ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

This can be met by satisfying any one or multiple of the three needs. We respect your position in standing by your previous presidential message sent on October 11th. Despite the "context of the situation changing", you have shared that the themes still remain the same.

With such, we as the negotiations committee recognize that a new statement is needed altogether that respects your stance as an individual, but also matches the need of the student body, this demand, and campus community here at CI regarding human rights.

The statement that the campus community, as well as our local community needs is adding onto your dialogue shared in our previous meeting on Monday, June 17th "CSU Channel Islands has the moral responsibility to uphold human rights".

Once again, an agreement on our needs for Demand #2 would constitute a resolution to this current phase of our campaign. As always, we are grateful for your engagement and attention to these matters throughout this conversation.

Sincerely,

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Negotiation Committee

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

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Free Palestine

On Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 5:38 PM President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu> wrote:

Dear SJP Leaders,

I look forward to hearing from you later this evening.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.

President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 4:58 PM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

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Good afternoon President Yao and Team,

We thank you for this in depth follow-up from our previous meeting this past Monday.

To ensure we fully account for our collective, community, and demands while also maintaining our campaign amidst our student/work schedules, we are needing additional time to deliver our response today.

Our full response will be sent by 10pm tonight. We thank you kindly for your patience and understanding with this.

Respectfully,

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Negotiations Committee

Subject: FW: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request
Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 5:58:08 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: President Richard Yao
Attachments: image001.png

From: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 4:18:48 PM
To: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Dear SJP Leaders,

I thank you once again for your commitment to ongoing dialogue and finding our way together toward the peaceful resolution not only of your encampment, but of the several concerns that you have championed. I want to reiterate a point that I made yesterday afternoon during our meeting – that I do not see it as a bad thing when we experience disagreement from our varying perspectives, or even when fractures appear in the levels of trust we have been building together since May 13. What matters most is the continuity of commitment to overcome our reflexive responses focusing on a concrete or absolute mindset, and instead, improving communication through a clearer identification of boundaries, expectations, and terms of engagement. Most importantly, this is the necessary dynamic in ultimately facilitating movement, instead of stagnation.

More specifically, we need to better operationalize how we are utilizing the term “resolution” in our discussions, and as we reviewed yesterday, I see resolution existing on several levels: 1) resolution in relation to ending the encampment; 2) resolution in relation to the broader institutional improvements you have been championing; and 3) resolution in relation to the war itself. None of us are in position to bring resolution to the war, however much we yearn for it. From our differing positionalities, though, we control the first two layers. My primary focus at this point in time is achieving a resolution to ending the encampment, while concurrently committing to continuing the work at the University level once the encampment has ended (with much of this work already underway). With that context in mind, here is my understanding of where we are relative to the six areas you have identified:

1. Disclose: As noted in my correspondence on May 17, we sent you a Summary of Foundation Investments document in response to your initial request. As noted in my correspondence to you on May 24, our investment policy and quarterly report summaries had already been regularly published on the Foundation website. We expanded this level of transparency to now include full quarterly reports.
2. Divest: In response to our discussion yesterday regarding specific investments, my correspondence to you on May 24 still stands in relation to our Foundation’s investment

portfolio and path forward, focusing on a macro-level approach through the existing policy review process. As discussed yesterday, I will engage our Student Government President and Vice President, in collaboration with my Vice President for University Advancement, to begin the foundational work over the summer that is necessary for broad engagement in the Fall.

3. Boycott: As noted in our discussions and written correspondence, my basic stance is that the principle of academic freedom – that is, for scholars to be able to create curriculum, to teach that curriculum, and to conduct research, all without risk to their professional standing or interference from any official – must hold broadly or it will not hold at all. We cannot pick and choose when and where we want academic freedom to exist. I do not believe that a boycott on study abroad opportunities in Israel would serve academic freedom, any more than I believe a boycott on study abroad opportunities in countries that limit freedoms for women and members of LGBTQ communities would serve academic freedom. I cannot meet my obligation to protect academic freedom by dictating where and with whom the students, faculty, and staff of CSUCI wish to pursue their studies. I appreciate your request to better understand my position on an academic boycott as it relates to academic freedom. Relatedly, I look forward to reviewing the research you cited yesterday to gain a better understanding of your position. I always say that it is important to invest the time necessary to gain a better theoretical, epistemological, and contextual understanding of any complex issue and the associated varying viewpoints and positions. Developing a greater understanding does not necessarily equate to a change in position, however, but it does facilitate a more effective foundation by which shared work and commitment to change can be accomplished.
4. Statement: I have a great appreciation for the theoretical and epistemological foundations that informed the discussion yesterday. That said, I stand by my position that responsibility for presidential messaging is mine alone. Related to my response in #3 above, I welcome receipt of the work that SJP has done to communicate its priorities and concerns to the campus community and am open to developing a greater understanding of the scholarly work undertaken by SJP members.
5. Amnesty: My position is consistent with my correspondence of May 16 and 24.
6. Flag: I am pleased that actions taken have satisfied SJP concerns. I am committed to ongoing concerns for accuracy in representing UN-recognized countries in our flag display, as well as to the task force I will convene in Fall 2024 to examine flag display functionality and costs, and to make recommendations accordingly.

I reiterate my position that the most constructive way forward is for you to voluntarily de-camp at this time, with my full acknowledgement of your success in creating movement because of it. I have already committed to continuing the dialogue, and I believe that engagement will have the greatest chance of being impactful for the entire campus community if success is understood as a necessarily shared achievement. My decision to temporarily allow a student-led overnight protest was made so we could have the time we needed to make progress and enable a peaceful first-layer resolution – with my assurance of continuing engagement on our second-layer work. I therefore reiterate my direct request that SJP leaders now take the lead in

ending your encampment. I will greatly appreciate receiving your response to this request by 5 p.m. this Thursday, June 20.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.
President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 9:09 AM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

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Good morning President Yao,

We thank you for your thorough response. Many of us students here hold financial responsibilities that require to support not only ourselves, but our families as well. With such, all five Negotiations Committee members will be unable to attend a meeting this morning at 11am, due to unforeseen work circumstances.

To ensure consistency in our dialogue, we want maintain our model of all five of us being present. We hope you can understand this request, and would like to offer this new availability taking into account these work schedules:

- Monday 10am-5pm
- Tuesday | 10am-5pm
- Wednesday | 10am-5pm
- Thursday | 10am-5pm
- Friday | 10am-5pm

Sincerely,

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Negotiations Committee

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

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Free Palestine

On Tue, Jun 11, 2024, 8:24 AM President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu> wrote:

Dear SJP Leaders,

Thank you for your communication sent Monday morning in follow-up to my Friday email, written in response to your “Tattoos for Palestine: Fundraiser for Gaza” event that was originally planned to take place on campus. I sincerely appreciate your having subsequently moved the fundraiser to an off-campus location, ensuring that service providers, clients, and the University were all operating on firm legal ground – and even more importantly, prioritizing the well-being of all involved. I respect and am grateful for that decision. I also respect your emphasis on the importance of trust as we go through this campus experience of your encampment together.

Broadly speaking and in response to your concerns with my last correspondence, I hope that my communications with you over the past few weeks have amply demonstrated that I am as protective of your health and safety as I am of any other individual or group on campus. The level of trust achieved and maintained in any relationship is entirely dependent upon the extent to which all parties involved are not only committed and actively working to be deserving of trust, but also of being willing to invest their trust in that relationship. I have been deeply reflective through every step of this encampment experience and am satisfied with all I have done to deserve your trust while also investing my trust in you. And yes, my temporary suspension of the element of our Time, Place, and Manner Policy which does not allow overnight protest without prior approval is, to me, a tangible proof of that trust.

I also feel strongly that trust must be reciprocal to be meaningful. As noted in my May 24 and June 6 emails, and your subsequent response on the afternoon of June 6, we have made significant progress on the various issues that have structured our discussions and work up to this point. I feel good and hope that you do, too, about four of those six items having been satisfied. I will feel better, and hope you will, too, when we have data that shows your willingness to engage in both the give and take required for true and trusting negotiations to occur.

A final note on trust, that critical, fragile construct which is the foundation for all healthy relationships. I can appreciate that my message from June 7 felt like an undermining of trust from your perspective. I hope you can also appreciate that the planning of this particular event on campus without prior approval was not helpful in maintaining the trust you had been earning steadily from me. That event, scheduled and advertised online without any request from SJP for prior approval, would have been in clear violation of the Time, Place, and Manner Policy. Your unhappiness with my not having reached out to you for clarification is

met with my disappointment at the announcement of an SJP-sponsored activity that not only would have breached campus policy but state law and county ordinance, as well.

All of that said, please know that nothing has changed in my approach. In fact, I appreciate your prompt response and direct and honest communication. I remain committed to finding a way to address the issues that are the subject of your protest. I tried to communicate this in my previous email, when I stated that the dialogue and work would not end with the encampment. Our continuing efforts toward open, honest, and transparent communication is our way toward that goal.

I appreciate your invitation to continue our dialogue in person, and I am happy to meet with you at the Peace Pole on Wednesday, June 12, at 11:00 am, with Dr. Tollefson and Dean Heck accompanying me.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, PhD
President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 at 9:58 AM
To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>
Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of CSUCI. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Contact ITS if you have any concerns

Good morning President Yao,

As you mentioned, we have been planning a fundraiser for Palestine in collaboration with local, licensed tattoo artists. In making sure the event is put on both smoothly and safely, we have been in conversation with the artists involved as well the Ventura County Resource Management Agency with our most recent conversation being from Thursday, June 6th prior to your outreach on the matter.

In that conversation, we were able to engage in helpful dialogue to ensure the event follows all legal procedures. Shortly after the conversation on Thursday, it was agreed that the event will continue within the bounds of a local tattoo parlor instead of on-campus with the Mobile Body Art Facility, again, to further ensure we are all remaining safe in the process.

We as the negotiations committee find it disrespectful that you've taken such a stance on our fundraiser without the full context, nor attempting a conversation with us to gain

such. We find it even more harmful that you've requested a decampment going as far to revoke your "temporary suspension" based on a small piece of incomplete information.

Trust has been something we've built with you in this ongoing discussion. Referring back to the first day of our encampment, public building Rush Hall was completely locked and inaccessible, confirmed by multiple faculty and staff. This, and increased UPD surveillance including during our prayers and vigils has created understandable difficulties in maintaining our trust in you. This recent development does not help that tension.

Additionally, if you as our campus president must "temporary suspend" our Time, Place, and Manner policy in order for us as your students to exercise our first amendment right to gather, we cannot help but question the validity and purpose of the Time, Place, and Manner policy as it seems to restrict our federal rights.

The genocide in Palestine is still ongoing. Just this morning, the U.S's red line was crossed again and over 200 Palestinian civilians were unjustly martyred. Our campaign recognizes these tragedies. CSUCI's encampment is here to stay until an agreement is made between the students and admin of this university regarding these tragedies.

To meet your request of decampment, and to meet the needs of civilians in Palestine still being subjected to inhumane violence, further negotiations are needed. Our availability for such is the same as previously mentioned, omit Tuesday.

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Negotiations Committee

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

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Free Palestine

On Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 12:55 PM President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu> wrote:

Dear SJP Leaders,

Thank you for your message yesterday afternoon. It means a great deal to me that my communications with you about events taking place on campus over the past week helped assure you of our campus commitment to protect your safety and that of all campus visitors. Thank you for taking whatever precautions you did to ensure that those affiliated with your encampment were prepared accordingly, with those events on June 2 and June 5

having taken place without incident.

I have been informed that you are planning to hold a tattoo fundraising event on Saturday, June 8, 2024, called "Tattoos for Palestine," with the intention of having it take place in the area of the protest encampment. I must inform you, unfortunately, that this event is problematic from perspectives rooted in state law, county ordinance, and campus policy. First and foremost, based on public information and your social media posts, this event would violate provisions of the California Safe Body Art Act, as well as Ventura County Environmental Health Division regulations. In addition, it would violate components of the University's Policy on Time, Place, and Manner and Use of University Buildings and Grounds, as well as the California Code of Regulation Title 5 Section 42350, et. seq.

As you know, I had temporarily authorized suspension of one element of CSUCI's Policy on Time Place, and Manner and Use of University Buildings and Grounds, which prohibits overnight camping without prior approval. I have not waived other elements of the policy, and your advertised event would breach Section F of that policy. Perhaps most importantly, I am obviously unable to authorize activities that are not in alignment with State law and county regulations. We were informed by the Environmental Health Division of the Ventura County Resource Management Agency that you have been in contact with them and are aware that there is no permitted mobile unit for tattoos in the County. Hosting this event without meeting the legal requirements of permits and a host of other conditions would pose significant risk for CSUCI, the service providers themselves (who would be risking their license to practice), and clients whom these health and safety laws are designed to protect.

With all of this context in mind, and after much personal reflection and consultation with my leadership team, I have decided that I will need to rescind the temporary suspension of our Time, Place, and Manner Policy's provision against overnight camping. Before taking that step, though, I am willing to allow time to meet with you to continue the dialogue towards finding a resolution – a shared goal which I appreciated seeing in your response yesterday. All of that said, however, it would be preferable for you to end your encampment now. I am requesting that you do so, knowing that I have done all that I can to earn your trust in my willingness to engage, and that our dialogue will not end with the encampment. I have appreciated the nature of your protest and hope you embrace, in turn, the legal concerns that dictate my response.

Please know, I will honor all agreements made to date, as outlined in my May 24 and June 6 emails and look forward to the work that lies ahead. Additionally, and as we have discussed, you have my assurance that I will continue to engage with you towards the goal of finding continuing and productive avenues for navigating CSUCI's way forward together.

Sincerely,

Rich Yao, PhD
President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 4:09 PM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Cc: Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>, Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>, Fox, Andrew <andrew.fox934@csuci.edu>, Heck, Julia <julia.heck@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of CSUCI. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Contact ITS if you have any concerns

Good afternoon President Yao,

We hope your week thus far has been going well. On behalf of the SJP encampment, we would like to extend thorough gratitude for the notices sent in advance by your team regarding the Active Shooter Training, and the Casa Pacifica fundraiser occurring on campus. The transparency, acknowledgement, and care allowed us to take further precautions in keeping ourselves safe during these influxes.

Additional gratitude for your patience in our correspondence this past week. Our SJP chapter here at CI held yet another community vigil at the Peace Pole to mourn the recent martyrs lost in the Rafah refugee encampment airstrike, crossing the red line designated by U.S President Joe Biden. The still ongoing genocide continues to deeply impact our community, and your patience with such is much appreciated.

The provided documents following our last negotiations meeting on Thursday, May 23rd have been extremely valuable. It is reassuring that we are on the same page as our conversation continues around these layered topics. Most of the dialogue we were hoping to achieve with this campaign has been met at this point in time. With that, we are looking to schedule another meeting with you and your team regarding our further findings with the new financial information. Continuing to uphold the transparent, accessible values of our SJP chapter here, we want to invite you back to the encampment to hold this meeting. If you would prefer to meet elsewhere, we are open to convening in a different publicly accessible space.

Specific language we are looking to further is as follows:

- Tuesday | 8am-8pm

- Wednesday | 8am-4pm
- Thursday | 8am-8pm
- Friday | 8am

1. DISCLOSE

We recognize full disclosure pertaining to this demand has been met. We thank you and your team for your willingness to have reached this point, and your willingness to continuing conversation to help the SJP negotiations team better understand our university's finances.

2. DIVEST

As we were initially approaching this item from a micro level, we are open and wanting to explore a macro level approach and how it would fit the needs of our community and this campaign.

3. BOYCOTT

Our understanding of "academic freedom" was seemingly different from the your usage of the word, hence our appreciation for the ongoing dialogue to help us reach a common understanding. Building off of language provided by the [American Association of University Professors](#) (AAUP) we are wanting to revisit this topic to ensure we share the same understanding.

4. CSUCI CALL FOR END OF THE OCCUPATION

In our previous discussion, our team asked questions looking to better understand the nature of a campus global email from the President's Office. Not just as a piece of the university, but also as a piece of you as individual. You and your team were a great help in helping us understand both sides. We are looking to continue dialogue for some of the last confusions we have left on this item.

5. AMNESTY

No further clarification to add in addition to our previous dialogue on Thursday, May 23rd.

6. PALESTINIAN FLAG REPRESENTATION

Referencing previous conversation around our flag's implementation, we are appreciative of the university's urgency to add the flag prior to the Spring 2024 commencement. We are looking to receive further details on the UN Flag Collection's correction as part of the planned lighting project in the library this summer. Is there a date that has already been scheduled, and is there anything we can provide on our end to ensure this project's success?

We are especially excited to hear about the student voices of our Student Government executive board being included in the review of CSUCI's Foundation's Investment Policy. The intentional partnership is bound to have positive effects, and our community is eager to support the development.

Just as CSUCI is a better place with our activism, CSUCI is a better place under your leadership responding to campus community. We agree that a satisfactory resolution is within sight and are optimistic about our upcoming conversation furthering that notion.

Regards,

--

Negotiation Committee

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

SJP serves to educate students about Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and the apartheid system.

I acknowledge that I live on the unceded, colonized, indigenous homeland of the Chumash nation.

Free Palestine

On Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 9:13 AM President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu> wrote:

Good morning, SJP leaders,

I want to let you know of an event occurring on campus today from noon to 5 p.m., a 30th anniversary celebration and fundraiser for [Casa Pacifica](#). This is not a campus event, but rather, the premier annual fundraiser for Casa Pacifica hosted by them at CSUCI as an external event. There will be a few thousand people attending this ticketed event.

Similar to our plan for Commencement Day, we are taking the following steps to do our part to support your safety and commitment to peaceable assembly, as well as the safety of all who will be on campus today:

1. We are placing signage in parking lots, with the following message:

- Welcome to CSU Channel Islands! Please note that there is an encampment of peaceful protestors on campus, exercising their First Amendment rights. Please proceed directly to the South Quad.
- ¡Bienvenidos a CSU Channel Islands! Por favor, tengan en cuenta que hay un campamento de manifestantes pacíficos en el campus, ejerciendo sus derechos de la Primera Enmienda. Por favor, diríjase directamente a South

Quad para la ceremonia.

2. We will soon be placing barrier segments, spaced intermittently on the east and west ends of the camping area. Their purpose is to serve as a visual crowd management tool for people attending the event, to support the safety and flow of traffic in and around the Peace Pole.

3. University Police Department officers and security personnel routinely hired for this event by Casa Pacifica will be in both the South Quad and the Central Mall to encourage the smooth flow of traffic.

Your continued partnership in ensuring a safe and orderly protest is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rich Yao, PhD
President

From: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 4:59 PM

To: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Cc: Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>; sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>; Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>; Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>; Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>; Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>; Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>; SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>; Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>; Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>; Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Good afternoon, SJP Leaders,

It was good to continue our dialogue yesterday in the open air of our beautiful campus. As I stated at the start of that meeting, I have great respect for your student-led commitment to peaceful protest. Thank you for reinforcing that commitment once again on behalf of SJP, as well as the additional individuals who are participating in your campaign. Differing perspectives are never a bad thing – especially within an institution of higher education – and it is through confidence in our shared commitment to upholding peace and honoring policy that a productive space for engaging differing perspectives is made possible. Thank you for your partnership in building this confidence.

I want to provide you with a summary of my understanding of what we covered in yesterday's discussion, along with a few additional points added since yesterday which arose through consultation with members of my team following that conversation.

1. DISCLOSE

While recognizing the need for continuous improvement, I am proud of the level of transparency that my administration has demonstrated in numerous contexts across the University. With regards to this particular area of focus, we publish the CSUCI Foundation's [Investment Policy](#), along with quarterly investment summaries on the Foundation's webpages. We also sent you in a previous email correspondence an official [summary of Foundation investments](#) from our investor, Mill Creek. As we discussed, there is detail and transparency already present within the Investment Policy, including identified index benchmarks, specified target allocations, a more specific, operationalized ESG/SRI focus, as well as an operationalized social profile.

Within the context of continuous improvement for our campus community, I commit to taking additional steps in the interest of ensuring improved transparency in this realm:

- Since our conversation yesterday, we have already published the Foundation's [full quarterly investment reports alongside the quarterly summaries for FY 23-24](#). These full reports should enable you to examine our Foundation's investment portfolio in relation to your concerns, which can help inform and structure future discussions.
- The Foundation's position in the areas of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) is outlined in the Investment Policy Statement. I have asked my Vice President for University Advancement to add a webpage to the Foundation's website to provide more access to these aspects of our investment philosophy and values.

2. DIVEST

- As I discussed yesterday, instead of focusing at the micro level on individual aspects of the Foundation's investment portfolio, I am committed to taking a more macro-focused approach through an out-of-cycle review of the Investment Policy. In my view, this is a more impactful strategy, as it is at the policy level where we can ensure continuous assessment and alignment of our institutional mission and values with the Foundation's investment policy and associated behaviors.

Structural solutions to systemic problems are the best way to achieve lasting change; since policies define our realities, this is the most impactful way that I know to involve students directly in the goal of continuous improvement for CSUCI.

- Relatedly, while the Foundation's Investment Policy was last reviewed in August 2022 and is not yet due for its next review until August 2025, I will recommend to the Foundation Board an out-of-cycle review to commence in Fall 2024. I will work with our incoming Student Government President and Vice President to develop a formal structure by which we can broadly engage students in gathering feedback and concerns to inform this process. I have asked my Vice President of University Advancement, in collaboration with the Foundation's investment advisor and managers, to lead these engagement efforts to provide foundational information and understanding with regards to the Foundation's overall portfolio – the different fund categories/structures that make up the portfolio; investment philosophy and overarching goals; investment strategies and historical returns; and details with regards to how the Foundation operationalizes and implements the ESG/SRI values and Social Profile. Most importantly, this will be the platform by which student questions/concerns will be addressed and feedback will be collected and organized, which will inform our policy review process.
- With regards to your questions about indirect investments through mutual funds and ETF's, I confirmed with my team that what I communicated to you yesterday is accurate: mutual funds and ETF's are pooled funds overseen by the managers of those funds – not by our Foundation Board or investment advisors – and we are unable to restrict specific holdings in these investment vehicles. One such internationally focused ETF involves over 2800 companies, which is typical of these investment vehicles. Any attempt to restrict specific holdings would require us to pull out of the entire fund, essentially divesting of the international market, which would reduce the capacity for the kind of portfolio that lowers investment costs, improves risk adjusted returns, and thus maximizes support for students and programs at CSUCI. The Foundation Board has a fiduciary duty to ensure that the Foundation's investment returns and risks are serving the needs of our students and university programs within the Foundation's policy framework.

3. BOYCOTT

I genuinely appreciated your request for clarification on academic freedom and our subsequent discussion. Academic freedom is frequently utilized in various settings related to our campus and higher education more broadly – and I agree – we need to provide clarification and context by which we are utilizing this term in our discourse. Per our discussion, my understanding of academic freedom involves protecting the rights of faculty on several levels, including research, teaching, and curricular and co-curricular development. The content of what we discussed on each of these levels is why I do not

support the academic and cultural boycotts that SJP advocates. I do not want to restrict academic opportunities for faculty, staff, or students. My role is to protect the academic freedom of all faculty who facilitate these opportunities for critical engagement. Beyond faculty, students deserve similar academic freedoms in choosing what to study, how to do it, and where to do it. I do believe my views are in full alignment with the [American Association of University Professors](#) (AAUP), which I believe to be the most widely accepted conceptualization of academic freedom across higher education institutions in the United States.

4. CSUCI CALL FOR END OF THE OCCUPATION

I appreciate the continued dialogue and your suggested paths forward on this point. Per our discussion yesterday, I stand by what I discussed with SJP leaders last week and subsequently communicated to you all in writing previously.

5. AMNESTY

Again, I am grateful for your care in ensuring a peaceable approach by all participants to carrying out your campaign. My position has not changed from what we discussed at our initial meeting last week and what I have communicated to you all in writing.

6. PALESTINIAN FLAG REPRESENTATION

I am glad that our action on this point was meaningful. This was an unfortunate error that went unnoticed for too long. CSUCI is a better place for your activism in bringing this oversight to my attention and pressing for a satisfactory resolution. The University's regard for the flag of Palestine is equal to that of every flag hanging in the display.

Let me know if your understanding of the content of our dialogue today differs from what I have summarized here. I see the areas where we have been able to create movement - improved transparency, representation of Palestine in the Library's flag display, and engaging in a review of the Foundation's Investment Policy (Fall 2024) - as being beneficial to our entire campus community and moving us closer to a peaceful and satisfactory resolution to your encampment. I look forward to continuing this work with you moving forward as outlined above.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.

President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 12:04 PM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Cc: Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>, Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>, Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

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Good morning President Yao,

Your acknowledgement of the difficulties we've faced during this encampment protest last week, through the weekend, and to this point provides us much reassurance that this ongoing discussion has been productive. It is always affirming to feel you as our President resonates with our struggles as students here.

We are very excited to welcome you to the campus encampment! We are more than willing to further contextualize our intended dialogue here in writing to provide you and your team clarity. Such is as follows:

1. DISCLOSE

1. Response: Our ability to navigate divestment conversation is contingent on this item being fulfilled. We are hoping to ask questions about the financial reports you provided for further understanding. Specifically, regarding direct/indirect financial investments and international/national investments.

2. DIVEST

1. Response: Contingent on demand number one.

3. BOYCOTT

1. The negotiations team is looking to seek further understanding on your usage, and the university's usage of "academic freedom" as much of the dialogue for this item is rooted in this practice.

4. CSUCI CALL FOR END OF THE OCCUPATION

1. Similar to item number three, the negotiations team is looking to seek further understanding on your usage, and the university's usage of "academic freedom" as much of the dialogue for this item is rooted in this practice.

5. AMNESTY

1. We are grateful that again, both parties are in full compliance of the Time, Place, and Manner policy as it relates to amnesty with this ongoing protest.

6. PALESTINIAN FLAG REPRESENTATION

1. We are grateful and appreciative of you and your team's urgency in reaching a timely agreement on this item.

We look forward to seeing you at 11am tomorrow! Please let us know if anything else is needed in the meantime.

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

SJP serves to educate students about Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and the apartheid system.

I acknowledge that I live on the unceded, colonized, indigenous homeland of the Chumash nation.

Black Lives Matter
Free Palestine

On Mon, May 20, 2024 at 2:30 PM President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I want to thank each of you who participated in the protest last week and through the weekend for thoroughly upholding the spirit of the Peace Pole at the heart of your encampment. What you are doing is not easy, and I want you to know that I appreciate your prioritizing peace and safety while honoring the elements of our Time, Place, and Manner policy except for the temporary allowance of overnight protest.

I am glad that our in-person meeting and my emailed follow-up message were useful. It would be very helpful to me, in turn, to get a better understanding of where you are on your remaining demands, in writing, prior to our next meeting. My ability to enter our next conversation with clarity on your current position will help us to jointly structure that conversation accordingly and allow us to make the most of our time together.

If you can provide me with your written stance on your remaining demands by 12 p.m. Wednesday, I can meet with you on Thursday at 11 a.m. I will accept your invitation to meet with you at the camp area; I'll be accompanied by Dean Julia Heck and Dr. Kaia Tollefson.

I look forward to continuing this dialogue with you in person.

Sincerely,

Richard Yao, Ph.D.

President

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 6:23 PM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>
Cc: Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com
<sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory
<gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>,
Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>, Navarrete, Daisy
<daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>, Ford Turnbow, Eboni
<eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>,
Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>
Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

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Good afternoon President Yao,

We appreciate your timely follow-up to our previous meeting, and for the advance notice on the university's response to our encampment during commencement. We are grateful and encouraged by your transparency.

Additionally, we are especially excited about the addition of the Palestinian flag to our campus library prior to commencement. This has been an especially difficult academic year for our Palestinian students, as we've had to endure the still ongoing genocide of our people with over 34,000 dead. Thank you for your sense of urgency, and for the symbolic compromise.

Your response to each of our remaining 5 demands has provided us with the insight necessary to continue this discussion. After further examination of the documents provided and a review of our own demands, we would like to request our next meeting to further negotiate what has been laid out. Our availability is as follows:

Monday: 10am-7pm

Wednesday: 8am-8pm

Thursday: 10am-7pm

Friday: 10am-7pm

Regarding our previous discussion on May 14th at 2pm, our collective was uplifted by your agreement to a recording of the closed-door meeting within your office. Openness and transparency is an important value to our organization. For our next meeting, we would like to extend another invitation to our campus's encampment. Similar to President Eanes of CSULA, and President Mahoney of SFSU, we would love to hold a negotiations meeting with you and your team at the camp.

To provide reassurance, the only students speaking and engaging with the conversation will be the 5 students of the negotiations committee (Angelmarie, Connor, Gerado, Ryan, and Nadine) to ensure you and the dialogue is not overwhelmed.

Sincerely,

Negotiations Committee

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

SJP serves to educate students about Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and the apartheid system.

I acknowledge that I live on the unceded, colonized, indigenous homeland of the Chumash nation.

Black Lives Matter
Free Palestine

On Fri, May 17, 2024 at 6:52 PM President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu> wrote:

Good evening, SJP leaders,

I want to let you know that I asked my team to come up with a plan for tomorrow to ensure that the peaceable nature of your campaign continues throughout the day of Commencement.

Three explicit steps are being taken toward this goal of ensuring your safety as well as the safety of all who will be on campus tomorrow:

1. We are placing signage in parking lots, with the following message:
 - Congratulations, Graduates! We look forward to a celebratory day. Please note that there is an encampment of peaceful protestors on campus, exercising their First Amendment rights. Please proceed directly to the South Quad.
 - Felicidades, graduados! Esperamos un día de mucha celebración. Por favor, tengan en cuenta que hay un campamento de manifestantes tranquilos en el campus, ejerciendo sus derechos de la Primera Enmienda. Por favor, diríjanse directamente a South Quad para la ceremonia.
2. In the early morning we will be placing barrier segments, spaced intermittently on the east and west ends of the camping area. Their purpose is to serve as a visual crowd management tool for people attending Commencement, to support the safety and flow of traffic in and around the Peace Pole.
3. Ten campus administrators will be stationed on the east and west ends of the Central Mall, with five placed at each end to welcome graduates and their guests and encourage the smooth flow of traffic.

Your continued partnership in ensuring a safe and orderly protest is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rich Yao, PhD

President

From: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Date: Friday, May 17, 2024 at 8:20 AM

To: sjp.csuci@gmail.com <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>, Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>, Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>

Cc: Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Good morning, SJP student leaders,

I am pleased to report two important updates since my 5/16/2024 communication to you. It is possible that you may have already gotten word of one of these updates, as I sent a message late yesterday afternoon to all of our employees working in the John Spoor Broome Library regarding correction to the problem of Palestine's flag having been excluded from the Library's flag display when it was installed in 2008. This week, spurred by SJP's understandable urging for this issue to be resolved before the Summer 2024 timeline I had initially decided upon, my leadership team found a solution that did not disrupt Library operations during this critical time of the semester for students. I shared this solution with Library faculty and staff yesterday afternoon as soon as I was informed that it was possible, in deference to their need to be apprised of a change made in their working environment.

As of this morning, the flag of Palestine is on display in our Library.

My leadership team discovered that there are actually three missing flags from the display, per the listing of the United Nation's Member States (193) and Permanent Observer States (2). South Sudan became a Member State in 2011, three years after

the installation of our flag display. Palestine became a Permanent Observer State in 2012, and the Holy See (Vatican) had been a Permanent Observer State since 1964. I do not know why the latter was not included in our original display. This morning, our Facilities team installed, in alphabetical order (per UN regulations), flags for the Holy See, Palestine, and South Sudan. Because we cannot add these flags to the hanging display without causing disruption in the Library this week, they have been affixed to the east wall, above where the red and white WMC sign is located.

At the start of the Fall 2024 semester, as previously planned, a campus committee will be appointed with representatives from all divisions as recommended by my Cabinet, which will include Library and Student Government representatives. This committee will be charged with gathering campus feedback on the desirability of replacing the display, as we have learned that there are differing views on that question. The committee will also be asked to research the world's current flags and the cost of replacing the display, and to then provide recommendations on next steps.

My second update is in regard to the follow-up I promised on the investment portfolio of CSUCI's Foundation. As I shared with you on Tuesday, due to the nature of the investments already in CSUCI's endowment it does not include any direct investment in securities issued by companies or organizations that violate our adopted ESG/SRI principles. Our investor, Mill Creek, provided this [summary of Foundation investments](#) to verify that fact.

I am hopeful that the work of my leadership team, in responding swiftly to the core element motivating your conscientious protest, will provide you with the assurance you need to bring your action closer to a conclusion. I am committed to continuous improvement for our University, and I value student voices in driving that growth.

Richard Yao, Ph.D.

President - California State University Channel Islands

One University Drive / Camarillo, CA 93012

Phone: 805-437-8410

www.csuci.edu

From: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 8:34 AM
To: sjp.csuci@gmail.com <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>, Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>, Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>
Cc: Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>
Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Good morning, SJP Leaders,

I appreciated our meeting on Tuesday afternoon and the intentional focus on how we can work together going forward. It was a good starting point for our continuing dialogue. I want to provide you with a summary of my understanding of what we covered relative to your six core issues.

1. DISCLOSE:

Response: I asked my Vice President for University Advancement to provide me with information on the breakdown of our investments. Preliminary exploration with him and with our Foundation Board indicates the following:

For more detail, please reference our [CSUCI's Investment Policy](#), first updated in 2019 to incorporate ESG and SRI metrics and updated again in

2022. After much deliberation, the Board chose to exclude investments in:

Fossil fuel companies (oil, gas and consumable fuels),

Companies that receive any revenue from the sale of tobacco,

Companies involved in the production and distribution of civilian firearms,

Firms involved in predatory lending.

In addition to the portfolio exclusions, the Foundation created a Social Profile that will be used as a guideline for the ESG/SRI investments. This profile was created to align the investment portfolio with the values of the Foundation and the University. The profile was created in consultation with the Finance Committee, Foundation Board, Investment Advisor, and students at California State University Channel Islands.

2. DIVEST:

Response: The investments in CSUCI's endowment do not include any direct investment in securities issued by Israeli companies or organizations.

3. BOYCOTT:

Response: After further reflecting on this topic following our discussion on Tuesday, I cannot endorse a unilateral boycott of a nation. This would run contrary to the principles of academic freedom that we embrace and on which the foundation of higher education is built.

CSUCI CALL FOR END TO THE OCCUPATION

Response: My [10/11/2023 message](#) to the campus community stands. I have no additional words to speak to the atrocities of war visited upon innocents and the tragedies of hate being learned by the young. I understand the context has changed dramatically since then and can appreciate students wanting me to take a position on an international dispute. But this simply is not my province as a campus president in the CSU. My focus is on promoting CSUCI and assuring that we are meeting the academic and workforce needs of our region.

AMNESTY FOR PROTESTORS

Response: I categorically affirm that no one who abides by our campus's [Policy on Time, Place and Manner and the Use of University Buildings and Grounds](#) and for students, the Student Code of Conduct, will be subject to disciplinary action, arrest, or criminal charge related to the current protest. I support peaceful protests and will always defend the First Amendment rights of every member of our campus community.

Peaceful protest does not, however, excuse anyone from abiding by our Time, Place and Manner policy (outside of the temporary allowance of overnight protestors), and for students, for violating the Student Conduct Code. Students and others participating in protest are accountable for their actions.

PALESTINIAN FLAG REPRESENTATION

Response: On behalf of University leadership from 2002 to the present day, I apologize for the mistake made that neglected to include the flag of Palestine when the library was built in 2008.

I was grateful to have an opportunity to explore this question with a CSUCI student from May 3-10, who wrote to me directly about this very question. I appreciated that direct and collegial engagement, very much, as it opened the door to mutual exploration of the issues involved.

I am open to finding a way forward that is not disruptive to library operations in this critical week of the semester for students studying for final exams. My Facilities team has been exploring options since this issue first came to my attention. Prior to the encampment the determination had been made to correct the flag display at the same time as a planned lighting project in the library is to take place this summer. I am reopening that decision and expect to have a report today from my AVP overseeing Facilities on any immediately feasible options.

I very much appreciated seeing SJP leader Angelmarie Taylor's statement in Tuesday night's

[Ventura County Star article](#) on the encampment. That very direct acknowledgement of what is important to all of the protestors is a model for transparency that this communication from me continues. I look forward to more dialogue as we work together to achieve an amicable resolution.

Richard Yao, Ph.D.

President - California State University Channel Islands

One University Drive / Camarillo, CA 93012

Phone: 805-437-8410

www.csuci.edu



CHANNEL YOUR **POTENTIAL**

[Ventura County Star article](#) on the encampment. That very direct acknowledgement of what is important to all of the protestors is a model for transparency that this communication from me continues. I look forward to more dialogue as we work together to achieve an amicable resolution.

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CHANNEL YOUR **POTENTIAL**

From: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 12:27 PM

To: sjp.csuci@gmail.com <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>, Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>, sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>, Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>

Cc: Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Good afternoon,

I thank each of you, especially our student leaders, for ensuring that your protest remains

peaceful. Hopefully, it is evident in the directions I have given my leadership team that I support your right to protest, going so far as to allow elements of our Time, Place, and Manner policy to be temporarily suspended (i.e., amplification system, stakes in the ground, camping) while we find our way toward dialogue and peaceful resolution.

I want to emphasize the importance of mutual trust in the process, and I am confident we can get there. That said, I understand from Dr. Tollefson that you are experiencing a lack of trust on my part, given that I have learned to be cautious from events happening elsewhere across the state and nation of video recordings being used against campus leaders, and that I made the call to not allow free access to the Office of the President while we are allowing the encampment to stand. I need to reiterate what Dr. Tollefson indicated to you this morning, both via email and in person, that the email sent to me this morning does not align with what she was told yesterday about the intended nature of the meeting I had scheduled with you at 10:00 am. She did not hear from students yesterday that "that all negotiation/bargaining meetings need to be accessible to the public" – though both she and I respect that commitment of SJP – and she appreciated Angelmarie's assurance that five student leaders would meet with me, given that SJP had no intention of wanting to "overwhelm" that meeting with multiple participants. Introducing new terms to our meeting in this morning's email did not help to build trust but created a question in my mind as to the consistency of SJP requests.

All that being said, building trust is our mutual first step, I believe, and I am committed to this process. Toward that end, in addition to my sincere thanks for your care in ensuring a peaceful encampment, I add my appreciation for your professionalism and positive energy in reaching out to me, and for Gerardo Santos's most sincere outreach to professors in his program, eloquently requesting their support and expressing his gratitude for their good work. It is in this spirit of wanting to initiate genuine dialogue that I extend another invitation and accept your desire to record a conversation with me. I have asked Dr. Tollefson to meet you at the encampment at 1:55 p.m. and escort Angelmarie, Gerardo, Connor, Ryan, and Nadine to our meeting.

Richard Yao, Ph.D.

President - California State University Channel Islands

One University Drive / Camarillo, CA 93012

Phone: 805-437-8410

www.csuci.edu

From: Tollefson, Kaia <kaia-joan.tollefson@csuci.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 9:49 AM
To: sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>; Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>; Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>; Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>; Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>; Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>; Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>; Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>; Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>; SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>
Cc: Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>; Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>; Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>
Subject: Fw: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

Good morning,

My understanding from my two conversations with student leaders Angelmarie, Gerardo, Connor, Ryan, the second of which included Nadine, was different than what is communicated in this request. Angelmarie indicated that these five student leaders would be the ones to meet with President Yao, and that there was no interest on the part of the group to "overwhelm" the dialogue, in her phrasing.

The President is very interested in meeting with the five student leaders identified to me yesterday.

I'll come to get you a few minutes before 10.

Best,

Kaia

Kaia Tollefson, PhD

Chief of Staff

CSU Channel Islands

One University Drive Camarillo, CA 93012

(805) 437-3998

From: SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com>

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 8:03 AM

To: President Richard Yao <president@csuci.edu>, Ford Turnbow, Eboni <eboni.fordturnbow@csuci.edu>, Dean of Students <deanofstudents@csuci.edu>, Avila, Mitch <mitch.avila@csuci.edu>

Cc: sqe.csuci@gmail.com <sqe.csuci@gmail.com>, Luna, Jennie <jennie.luna@csuci.edu>, Wood, Gregory <gregory.wood@csuci.edu>, Caravello, Jonathan <jonathan.caravello@csuci.edu>, Guajardo, Jazmin <jazmin.guajardo557@csuci.edu>, Navarrete, Daisy <daisy.navarrete147@csuci.edu>, SGASI <SGASI@csuci.edu>

Subject: Re: SJP Encampment: Negotiations Meeting Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of CSUCI. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Contact ITS if you have any concerns

Good morning President Yao,

We hope this finds you well. Per our conversations with Dr. Kaia Tollefson yesterday afternoon, we look forward to meeting with you today at **10am**.

In regards to our meeting location today, we communicated to Dr. Tollefson that all negotiation/bargaining meetings need to be accessible to the public. Within SJP, and here at the CSUCI SJP Encampment, we always prioritize openness and transparency with our collective.

With that, we would like to further extend our invitation to our encampment and hold our meeting here today at 10am. The community is a welcoming one, and we would love to share this new campus space with you, similarly to the SJP of San Francisco State University with campus President Lynn Mahoney.

Thank you again for your prompt response to our meeting request, as well as Dr. Tollefson's support in setting this up. We look forward to beginning discussions with you today.

Regards,

Negotiations Committee

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

sjp.csuci@gmail.com

SJP serves to educate students about Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and the apartheid system.

I acknowledge that I live on the unceded, colonized, indigenous homeland of the Chumash nation.

Black Lives Matter

Free Palestine

On Mon, May 13, 2024 at 1:40 PM SJP CSUCI <sjp.csuci@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon President Yao,

I hope this finds you well. We are Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), and we are announcing our official encampment as students here at California State Channel Islands as a response to SJP National's call to establish "Popular University" encampments to further advocate for a free Palestine on our academic institutions, and make it clear that we do not want our student dollars nor student participation to fuel/fund the ongoing genocide happenig in Palestine.

We would like to invite you to our encampment **today, May 13th** at **4pm** and after for a formal greeting, and begin conversations on how to work on this campaign together.

Our encampment and campaign will remain until our demands are met through mutual, fair bargaining with campus President Richard Yao. SJP's demands are as follows:

1.) DISCLOSE:

- COMMIT TO COMPLETE FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY BY DISCLOSING ALL CSUCI AND CSU WIDE DIRECT AND INDIRECT INVESTMENTS

2.) DIVEST:

- DIVEST FROM ALL INVESTMENTS AND CUT ALL FINANCIAL TIES FROM APARTHEID STATE "ISRAEL"

3.) BOYCOTT:

- ENGAGE IN A FULL ACADEMIC BOYCOTT (AS OUTLINED BY THE US CAMPAIGN FOR THE ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL) OF ANY PARTNERSHIP WITH INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT INVEST IN, SUPPORT AND LEGITIMIZE THE ZIONIST REGIME

4.) CSUCI CALL FOR END TO THE OCCUPATION:

- WE DEMAND THE CSUCI PRESIDENT RELEASE A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE OCCUPATION, COLONIZATION AND ETHNIC CLEANSING OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BY ISRAEL, INCLUDING A CALL FOR A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE

5.) AMNESTY FOR PROTESTORS:

- CSUCI MUST AVOID SEEKING ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION, ARRESTS, OR CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST PROTESTORS. THEY MUST ALSO DROP ANY CURRENT OR POTENTIAL FUTURE CHARGES LEVERAGED AGAINST STUDENTS, STAFF, OR FACULTY PROTESTING IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE

6.) PALESTINIAN FLAG REPRESENTATION:

- ALL IMMEDIATE PROTOCOL MUST BE TAKEN TO PROMPTLY ADD THE PALESTINIAN FLAG TO THE UN FLAG COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAMPUS

JOHN SPOOR BROOME LIBRARY

Our availability to begin these negotiation meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, May 14 | 10am-8pm

Wednesday, May 15 | 8am-8pm

We look forward to working together on this campaign, and ensuring the voices of this student movement are heard and echoed in all the necessary spaces.

Regards,

Negotiations Committee
Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

California State University Channel Islands

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I acknowledge that I live on the unceded, colonized, indigenous homeland of the Chumash nation.

Free Palestine