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To: Chancellor Howard Gillman  
Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor Hal Stern  
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs Willie Banks  
Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Dyonne Bergeron  
Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Life & Leadership & Dean of Students Rameen Talesh

CC: Associate Chancellor & Chief of Staff Lars Walton  
Associate Provost & Chief of Staff Kate Brigman  
Assistant Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff Edgar Dormitorio  
Associate Dean of Students & Executive Director, Student Government Student Media Stephanie N. Van Ginkel  
Professor, School of Law and Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair Katie Tinto  
Associated Graduate Students Executive Cabinet  
Associated Students of UCI Executive Cabinet

Subject: Urging Against Further Escalation

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Dear Chancellor Gillman, Provost Stern, Vice Chancellor Banks, Vice Chancellor Bergeron, and Dean Talesh,

We hope this email finds you well. In a similar vein to our [4.25.24 memo](#), we write to you today to once again urge the university not to take excessive and retributive action against our students demonstrating peacefully against the genocide of the Palestinian people. Many of our elected and appointed student leaders, members of the Police Accountability Board, and more have been directly on site today from the moment the UCI encampment for Gaza was launched, and were disheartened to witness the hyper-policing our university decided to employ right from the start against our students. As student leaders, we fully stand in support of our students' rights to peacefully protest and emphatically reject any attempt to remove the encampment through the use of hyper-policing.

The conduct of our peacefully protesting students has been in full compliance with university policies and directives, with our students engaging with university administrators in good faith. Yet, despite this, in threatening to arrest them, constructing barricades around them, preventing them from receiving basic supplies like food and water, intimidating them with tactical units from the OC Sheriff's office and other neighboring city police departments, and more, you have effectively shattered what semblance of trust our students had in this university's governance to begin with. This will unfortunately make it more challenging in the future to ensure that our campus community is well cared for and that the efforts put

\*This statement is the express view of the signatory officers and does not reflect the official position of AGS and ASUCI.\*

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forward by all of us are conducive to a safe and inclusive learning environment that embodies the core values of our institution.

Drawing on the message the Chancellor just sent to our campus community, we cannot emphasize enough how much hyper-policing is completely ineffective and counterproductive to the overall goal of fostering a safe campus climate. As we observed this morning, the measures taken by the university and Irvine PD only served to severely exacerbate the situation on the ground, leading to increased tensions, safety concerns, and overall stress for our community. Furthermore, if the goal of our campus' response is to "support the right of our community to protest" and "stand against non-affiliates taking over university spaces where their activities threaten our core mission," creating a setting that places our students, staff, and faculty in inherently hostile environments directly contradicts these goals. How can our students feel comfortable with their right to protest when armed officers are hovering by them and observing their every move? How can our campus stand against non-affiliates taking over university spaces when hyper-policing actively emboldens such off-campus actors to interfere with our campus' climate?

We are particularly concerned with how hyper-policing will inevitably affect our students of color, international students, and undocumented students who choose to exercise their rights to free speech as well. Conduct charges and arrests have a much more significant impact on these student members of our community, ranging from excessive uses of force to revocation of their visas to potential deportation under the influence of state agencies. If the true goal of our campus' measures is to ensure all of our students are able to demonstrate safety, the active presence of police, especially the tactical units deployed by the Sheriff's office, completely undermines all of the work our campus has done to support these communities. We urge the university to recognize the disproportionate impact these actions will have on students who already feel neglected and targeted by administration.

We recognize and appreciate the university's de-escalation efforts thus far, including the visible demobilization of police units and the willingness of Student Affairs staff and Vice Chancellor Bergeron to engage in meaningful dialogue past general working hours. Their efforts have been amongst the most productive efforts the university has put forward so far, and we found it heartening to see Vice Chancellor Banks, Vice Chancellor Bergeron, and the Student Affairs response team present at the encampment in an attempt to directly address the concerns of our students. We were also heartened by the support of Mayor Farrah Khan and her commitment to ensuring the safety of students demonstrating peacefully. However, fundamentally, we remain deeply concerned about any future escalation, given the escalation that has already occurred and especially as we approach the second day of this demonstration. We strongly urge you as administrators to continue putting students first in your efforts, and against taking further escalatory action against members of our community. As always, our priority is making sure our students stay safe as they peacefully engage in free speech activities towards the brilliant future we as a university constantly strive to achieve.

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Associated Student Governments  
Memo to UCI Administration  
Date Issued: April 29, 2024



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In Solidarity,

Zoë Chaetana Miller-Vedam & Jun Jang

Presidents, 2023-2024

Associated Graduate Students & Associated Students of UCI

Rebecca Angela Ruiz & Michelle Dong

Vice President Externals, 2023-2024

Associated Graduate Students & Associated Students of UCI

Amelia Roskin-Frazee & Justin Nguyễn

Vice Presidents Internals, 2023-2024

Associated Graduate Students & Associated Students of UCI

Mia Dimalanta

Academic Affairs Vice President, 2023-2024

Associated Students of UCI

Eduardo Deo Barbero

Student Services Vice President, 2023-2024

Associated Students of UCI

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