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August 5, 2021

By electronic delivery only

Michael V. Drake, M.D.  
President, University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: UCLA Asian American Studies (AAS) website

Dear President Drake,

Together, our six independent but affiliated Jewish Federations represent most of the Jewish communities and Jewish people throughout our state. For over 100 years, each Federation has worked to sustain the Jewish people and ensure strong, safe Jewish communities. Unfortunately, antisemitism is again on the rise and in recent months our people have been targeted with hate speech and violent attacks throughout the state and nation. It is for this reason why we are deeply concerned about the Statement of Solidarity with Palestine posted on the UCLA Asian American Studies (AAS) website on May 21, 2021 that is filled with hateful rhetoric and false accusations against Israel and the Jewish people.

Our organizations have long worked with leaders—administrators, faculty, professionals, and students—on all University of California campuses. We understand and respect the positive virtues of free speech and academic freedom. And of course, we know that what makes university environments remarkable is the diverse voices, opinions, and political perspectives that are shared and discussed. However, when those freedoms are used to attack or otherwise create a hostile environment towards Jews, we expect appropriate action. For far too long, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement has continued to veil clear antisemitism within political discourse vis-a-vis the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The BDS movement continues to demonize, delegitimize, and hold to a double standard the Jewish people and Israel. We are aware that the Ad Hoc Committee for Academic Integrity has also reached out to you and has also referenced the specific ways the statement posted violates UC standards and guidelines.

Of top concern for our community is how antisemitism permeates college campuses or other educational environments. As you know, our organizations are regularly contacted by concerned parents and families of prospective UC students. Until now, the AAS's statement has not been condemned or otherwise addressed. As a first step, we ask that you condemn their statement for the way it inaccurately frames the creation of the State of Israel and the identity of all Jews. Secondly, we request your office work to remove it from any UC-operated platform (per UC rules). Finally, we ask to work with you and your office to create guidelines on antisemitism for all UC campuses.

Jews are facing discrimination and hostility from many types of groups and from all political extremes. We hope that your office will accept our request to tell prospective students that UCLA and all UCs are free of any anti-Jewish hostility and rhetoric. We invite you to reach out to Alisa Finsten, Senior Vice President, Community Engagement at [afinsten@jewishla.org](mailto:afinsten@jewishla.org) or 323-761-8077 so that we can work together on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles  
Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund  
Jewish Federation of Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys  
Jewish Federation of Orange County  
Jewish Long Beach  
The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region