Presidential Funding to Address Antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of Bias, Bigotry and Discrimination

OVERVIEW

The University of California must be safe, respectful and inclusive for all who study, live, teach, conduct research and work here. This factsheet outlines new and expanded activities and services underway across the UC system to better address antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of bias, bigotry and discrimination.

All UC campuses, Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Office of the President have responded to President Drake’s November 15, 2023 call for proposals to address antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bias, bigotry and discrimination at the university.

Campuses and locations are using $7 million in one-time funds to provide the following services:

- Emergency mental health and trauma support
- Voluntary extracurricular educational programming
- Training and professional development for leaders, faculty and staff

Campuses and locations received funds in two phases. Phase 1 focused on immediate actions that could be taken. Phase 2 focused on longer-term efforts to create safer, more respectful and more inclusive campuses through new or expanded programs and services.

Systemwide, all campuses and locations have additional new resources:

- A new Systemwide Office for Civil Rights, which will oversee UC’s new Anti-Discrimination Policy;
- Professional development and training for campus leaders and staff on free expression, bias interruption and managing major events and incidents provided by the UC National Center on Free Speech and Civic Engagement and the Office of the President; and
- New systemwide campus climate partnerships with Hillel International and other organizations.

All activities comply with university and campus policies on the use of state funds, and the University Policy on Relations of University Staff Members with State and Federal Officials, which provides guidance on lobbying and advocacy activities.

UC BERKELEY

Following a campuswide call for proposals to combat antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bias and discrimination, 17 projects will receive funding, in addition to a mini-grant program that supports additional efforts. These projects will benefit a range of campus constituents including students, faculty, and staff. Read the complete list of the projects that are being supported.
For more information about actions and efforts at UC Berkeley, contact: Roqua Montez, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications & Public Affairs; montez@berkeley.edu

UC DAVIS

UC Davis is addressing bias, bigotry and discrimination by increasing student access to counseling, providing trauma-focused training to faculty and staff, leveraging faculty expertise to develop educational resources and host educational programming, challenging stereotypes through a diverse performing arts series, promoting culturally competent medical care among practitioners and students at UC Davis Health and more.

For more information about actions and efforts at UC Davis, contact: Julia Ann Easley, News & Media Relations Specialist; jaeasley@ucdavis.edu

UC IRVINE

UC Irvine is enhancing staff support and training for protest and event management as well as improving response protocols for complaints of bias and bigotry. Beginning in spring 2024 and continuing into the 2024-25 academic year, all students, faculty and staff may submit proposals to fund programs that build community and connection while countering hate and extremism.

For more information about actions and efforts at UC Irvine, contact: Sheri Ledbetter, Director of Internal and Critical Communications; ledbetts@uci.edu

UC LA

UCLA is enhancing its educational programming, training and professional development opportunities. Initiatives include an educational series related to the Israel-Palestine conflict; an enhanced student leadership development program facilitated by Student Affairs practitioners and educators, and centered on conversations across difference, implicit bias, combatting hate, and dispute resolution; and staff training related to de-escalation, event management, implicit bias and combating hate.

For more information about actions and efforts at UCLA, contact: Monroe Gorden, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; mgorden@saonet.ucla.edu

UC MERCED

UC Merced has increased mental health support and healing for students and is offering capacity-building professional development for employees on conflict resolution, free speech, compassionate listening, and optimizing awareness and understanding of the dynamics of bias and bigotry. Multiple campus divisions will lead these efforts through in-person training, online webinars, cultural film presentations and discussion, improved campus messaging, and enhanced campus healing spaces. Leaders will participate in professional learning that elevates inclusive practices.

For more information about actions and efforts at UC Merced, contact: Delia Saenz, Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion; dsaenz@ucmerced.edu
UC RIVERSIDE

The Riverside campus efforts broadly focus on mental health support, educational programming, training and professional development. Initiatives range from educational workshops on antisemitism and Islamophobia to developing clear processes related to bias complaints on campus to a speaker series on international conflict. UC Riverside will offer mini grants to campus organizations and departments for new initiatives to address bias and bigotry beginning in spring 2024.

For more information about actions and efforts at UC Riverside, contact: Luisa Levario, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer/Chief of Staff for Student Affairs; luisa.levario@ucr.edu

UC SAN DIEGO

Under its umbrella program, Tritons Belong, UC San Diego has created a multipronged effort that includes events addressing dialogue across difference, free speech, Islamophobia and antisemitism. This initiative also includes a call for grant proposals for projects that ensure that every Triton feels as if they belong.

For more information about actions and efforts at UC San Diego, contact: The Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; vcedi@ucsd.edu

UCSF

UCSF will provide new programming spanning mental health and trauma support, educational programming on the history and current manifestations of antisemitism and all forms of hate, skill-building in respectful disagreement, and leadership training and optimizing campus climate in challenging political situations. Many of the efforts are multidisciplinary and cross-divisional in nature.

For more information about actions and efforts at UCSF, contact: Renee Navarro, Vice Chancellor, Diversity and Outreach; renee.navarro@ucsf.edu

UC SANTA BARBARA

UC Santa Barbara will enhance its training and educational programming for faculty, staff, and students with a series of public programs, workshops, and conferences to address discrimination and bias and to encourage dialogue. In response to proposals from students and registered student organizations, the campus will provide enhanced mental health services, trauma support, educational programs and training for undergraduate and graduate students.

For more information about actions and efforts at UC Santa Barbara, contact: Kiki Reyes, Media Relations Manager; kikireyes@ucsb.edu
UC SANTA CRUZ

Following extensive outreach to gather ideas and input from the campus community, UC Santa Cruz will expand mental health resources, educational programming, and leadership development opportunities for students, staff, and faculty. It will also develop new educational programming for staff and faculty to foster greater awareness of and provide tools to combat Islamophobia, antisemitism, and other forms of hate and bias.

For more information about UC Santa Cruz’s actions and efforts, contact: The Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; vcdei@ucsc.edu