

April 29, 2024

President Granberg, Provost Bracey, Chief Tate, Board of Trustees -

We are family, students, alumni and concerned community members of the George Washington University (GWU).

The past five days have been quite challenging for GWU with the takeover of University Yard (U-Yard) by a group of protestors who then called for support from other schools and community within the DMV. Once the crowd mostly dissipated, the protestors refused to leave, at which point the George Washington University Police Department (GWPD) called for, and was refused, help clearing U-Yard from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). The MPD not only refused to assist but allowed protestors to set up an encampment on H Street, and aided them by closing off the block, allowing the small gathering of a few dozen protestors outside of U-Yard to swell again to several hundred. After last night's chaotic events of protestors tearing down police barricades and once again erecting tents in U-Yard, that matter is squarely back in GW's hands.

We call on you to immediately take action and clear the university of unlawful agitators.

THE PROTEST WAS NEVER PEACEFUL

From the outset, the protest broke numerous policies within the Student Code of Conduct which it is incumbent upon every student to follow. The Code states that "The George Washington University is committed to the protection of free speech, the freedom of assembly, and the safeguarding of the right of lawful protest at the university, Therefore, student organizations and individual students shall have the right to engage in behaviors such as distributing pamphlets, collecting names for petitions, and **conducting orderly demonstrations provided these actions are not disruptive of normal university functions and do not encompass the physical takeover or occupation of university facilities and spaces**, whether or not they are in use at that time. While all students have the right to dissent and to protest, these **rights shall not be exercised in such a manner as to obstruct or disrupt teaching, research, administration, conduct procedures, or other university activities**. No one group or organization holds a monopoly on dissent or on freedom to hear all sides. Further, the fact that students may pursue their interests through speech and assembly at the university **does not abrogate their accountability as citizens to the laws of the larger society**, and the university is entitled to reflect these constraints in its own regulations". Every single point in here was violated.

Verbal violence has been prominent since the outset. Racist, antisemitic and anti-American chants, rants and threats such as these have been heard and are on record: "Death to Zionism, Death to America", "This time we're bringing Israel down", "Fuck Zionism", "America is responsible for the exploitation of humanity" and many more.

Signs prominently displayed read "Students will leave when Israelis Leave", "Students will go back home when Israelis go back to Europe, US, etc (their real homes)" and the Nazi sympathizing "Final Solution" which refers to the extermination of all Jews.

The mob has invited speakers, unauthorized by the university, who preach hate and allegiance to terrorist and anti-American ideals and organizations.

Protestors have engaged in disorderly conduct disturbing the peace, unlawful assembly, threats, harassment and have overall created a toxic environment on campus.

And now they've turned violent, dismantling and throwing police barricades and storming an off-limits area of campus. It is truly astonishing that no one has been seriously injured at this point. We strongly condemn these behaviors and implore you to take immediate action to dismantle this violent enterprise before anyone gets physically hurt, or worse.

This is not an education free from harassment, pursuant to Title VI.

SECURITY

According to GW Hatchet, GWPD believes that 400 additional security officers are needed to dismantle the illegal tent encampment on U-Yard. We call on GW administration to immediately release funds in order to secure an additional 400 officers in order to clear out U-Yard from protestors and restore order to the campus.

We ADVOCATE for you to take any and all actions necessary to immediately clear the campus of lawbreaking protestors and return the campus to the students.

- Press charges against any individuals who have broken the law by trespassing, engaging in unlawful demonstrations pursuant to DC Code 22-1307, or any other law
- Non-temporary sanctions should be levied on all individuals who have breached school policy and codes of conduct, including but not limited to: access without authorization, community disturbance, discriminatory misconduct, creation of a hostile environment, destroying and defacing property, non-compliance, and regulation violations.
- Revoke GWorld privileges immediately for all protestors who have participated
- Immediately and permanently ban all organizations that make up Student Coalition for Palestine, including SJP, JVP and other organizing groups
- Require tap access to all buildings and have extra security posted around campus so no additional 'encampments' can be set up in any area not designated as a protest area by GWU administration
- Take adequate measures against any faculty members who have engaged in gross personal misconduct by aiding and abetting the unlawful actions of the student protestors

President Granberg, GWU must not let the actions of a relative few dictate the workings and proceedings of an entire university. Thus far classes, exams and presentations have been modified in time place or manner, buildings have been closed, GW community cannot access the full campus, and a hostile environment is rampant on campus. The disruption and torment they have created on campus negatively affect all students, staff and faculty who want to simply complete the end of the semester without threats to their education, safety and well-being. DO NOT let GWU fall in the same trap as USC and Columbia and let the violators control the narrative. GWU administration sent a clear message to protestors not only allowing them an approved protest area, but explicitly stating that their encampment would not be



tolerated, which was wholly ignored. You've tried negotiating and they've told you – they won't leave. For the good of the GWU community, these students infringing on the rights of others must be removed.

We are heartened that you are committed to classes, finals, and commencement as usual on campus. We want nothing more than that.

We believe that unlike Gay, Kornbluth and Magill, you have not wavered in denouncing hate on campus. And unlike Shafik, you are not afraid to take action. But this is an urgent and pressing matter. The entire GWU campus cannot be held hostage to a rogue faction. As president, you cannot choose the events that happen during your tenure, but you can choose how to react. Please act decisively. NOW

Sincerely,

GWU J PULSE Coalition

GWU Community Joining Jewish Parents United Leading Student Empowerment