Antisemitic Incidents on Grounds at UVA

Sampling of Student Reports of Antisemitic Incidents on Grounds. The students' statements were made without prepared materials. As a result, the following is a summary of the statements made from our recollection at the meeting.

1. SJP made a statement "unequivocally supporting" the wiping out of Israeli villages. Support for a terrorist organization which calls for the destruction of Israeli villages (including the people in them) is antisemitic.

2. At an October protest UVA students chant "from the river to the sea Palestine shall be free" which calls for the destruction of the state of Israel– ie, death of more than 1⁄2 the population of Jews.

3. The SJP student organization and their supporters were instructed in detail via a pamphlet to wear masks in order to cover up their identity when conducting protests chanting "From the River to the Sea Palestine shall be free." Mask-wearing for the purpose of hiding one's identity is against the law in Virginia, however, the violation of this law is being tolerated on Grounds without consequences. Additionally, the masked students are calling for the destruction of the Jewish population ('from the river to the sea…) from their national homeland which is blatant discrimination and harassment.

4. Due to the hostile environment on Grounds, Jewish students fear being identified and targeted. Thus, many Jewish students are hiding or no longer wearing their Star of David and chai necklaces, Israeli t-shirts, and any Jewish symbols while on Grounds.

5. Statements using language, referencing "the Intifada" occurred on October 12th by the SJP group. This language questions the right of the Jewish people to exist here or in Israel.

6. A Jewish UVA student stopped wearing his yarmulke due to verbal and physical assault by fellow students on multiple occasions. He reported these acts to the UVA reporting system and to administration but no action has been taken to stop this harassment. There was no investigation or disciplinary action taken against the perpetrators.

7. A student reported being harassed by his roommate and dorm mates for being Jewish. Instead of the perpetrators being investigated or disciplinary action taken, the Dean offered him the option to move rooms.

8. A student was spat on 3 times when he was spotted wearing a yarmulke on his head. He reported it however nothing was done.

9. An antisemitic student at the restaurant Trinity attempted to 'indoctrinate' a group of UVA students and one parent as he joined their conversation to explain why Hitler's Final Solution to murder all of the Jews should be used for world issues in general. Upon learning this group was

Jewish, the student proceeded to more aggressively push that Hitler's Final Solution was the correct answer and needed for the Jews.

10. Posters were hung in Alderman library with the phrase "From the river to the sea Palestine shall be free." This calls for the eradication of all Jews in Israel. The flier also had a QR code that was linked to a 17 page document full of sensational and inaccurate sources calling for the destruction of the Jewish people and Israel.

11. Posters and flyers were distributed with the image of the bulldozers used to break through the Gaza & Israel border. Thus, allowing 1000 Hamas terrorists into Israel to murder, rape, burn alive, and abduct 1400 unarmed civilians.

12. The Divest referendum used inflammatory anti-Israel rhetoric, including labeling Israel as an "apartheid state" and a product of "settler colonialism." This is defamatory disinformation which invites more Jewish hatred, hostility, discrimination, and aggression. The referendum was aligned with BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel) which in and of itself is antisemitic and banned in 37 states. President Ryan's message post the referendum vote emphasized student self governance and freedom of speech and NOT about the antisemitic nature of the referendum.

13. Prior to October 7, 2023, a Jewish student was told by an Egyptian/ Moroccan student that he is a bloodthirsty human, and they can never be friends. This was said to this Jewish student after learning that he was Israeli.

14. The same student who wore a yarmulke was pushed and cursed at by ProPalestinians, who called him a "Nazi," and a "murderer." This was reported to the school however there was no investigation nor disciplinary action taken against the perpetrators.

15. This same student again wearing his yarmulke was given a death threat by two UVA Arab students via social media. This was reported to the school however there was no investigation or disciplinary action taken against the perpetrators.

16. This same student was hit in the face by a LGBTQ student. This was reported and again, there was no investigation or disciplinary action taken against the perpetrators.

17. The Jewish student wearing a yarmulke was not protected by the police. In his words, "the police did not uphold their promise." Two Pro-Palestinian students arrived at the Jewish student's peaceful and much smaller counter protest and called him a Nazi, a genocide pursuer, and Hitler while surrounding him and harassing him.

18. The same student in many of the incidents above explained he has been ostracized by members of his community, friends included. His then girlfriend has also lost friends. He was told by students that winter that he is racist against Muslims and that he sells the organs of

Palestinians. All of these incidents of harassment and discrimination have been reported without investigation or disciplinary action taken to the perpetrators.

19. A Jewish student was at a small gathering/party on Grounds. After learning this young lady was Jewish, approximately 8 other students began an assault of insulting statements which were referred to as “jokes.” Such as: “tunneler,” in derogatory tone “Jew,” “turn sideways so we can see your nose.” Due to this hostile threatening environment this Jewish student left crying.

20. Two Jewish female students were in line at a party. Another student learned they were Jewish and began calling them Kikes. They left the party; “Kike” is an offensive, derogatory term for a Jewish person. It’s an ethnic slur. It’s a highly offensive term used to insult and denigrate people of the Jewish faith and is widely considered to be a form of hate speech. Kike equates to other minority offensive slurs. In the past at UVA, such slurs made against other minority students would immediately be investigated with disciplinary action enforced.

21. An employee of the Halal Kitchen food truck parked on Grounds and asked customers if they supported the Palestinians. If they answered "yes," they were told they would receive a discount. This incident was reported to Colette Sheehy who said someone from the university told the worker to cease and desist. Sheehy then explained in email “In conversation with the Resident Director of Aramark I learned that the vendor uses the Grub Hub platform for orders and could not offer any kind of discount without prior consent.” That doesn’t mean the worker did not ask the question and say he would offer a discount. The student who heard the worker ask the question about Palestinian support and offered a discount has not reported it and doesn’t want to talk about it.

22. JLSA (Jewish Law Student Association) arranged a bake sale fundraiser for the Israeli Hostages and Missing Families Forum. The students were permitted by administrators to hang up posters of the Israeli hostages to promote the event. After hanging the posters, several of them were ripped down by other students. JLSA members complained to the Student Affairs department who told them they were going to investigate the incident and let JLSA know what they found. After several days, JLSA received an email stating the university identified the students who took down the posters but was unable to take any further actions against them because they didn't want to interrupt finals. JLSA kept pushing and wrote to a professor and this professor then sent an email to the law school and asked that something be done about it. Then, JLSA received another email notifying them about a conversation the school had with the student who removed the poster. According to the school, they explained to the student that the school's policy does not allow the removal of posters of student organizations. Nothing else has been done to address the issue and JLSA feels that all students already know removing flyers of school events is not allowed. Having this conversation is stating the obvious. Not surprisingly, the next day, more posters were removed.

This is how the former law school dean (Risa Goluboff) responded to our email about this incident. She does not think JLSA members reported correctly to us and we have no way of knowing if what the law school did is true. Her email states “that the Law School investigated the

improper removal of two of JLSA's posters and identified a student who is responsible. The email then states that the Law School "was unable to take any further actions against them because they didn't want to interrupt finals." This is not true. The Law School took prompt action, though, as I am sure you know, the Law School does not and cannot publicize whether student disciplinary action has been taken because such information is protected by the Family Educational Rights"

23. Jewish UVA female student on the women's rugby team repeatedly comes home crying after practices due to antisemitic comments from her Teammates.

24. In an Immigration and Law class, a student gave a presentation about the US and tourist visas to Israelis. Students in the class found out later that the Professor edited the class' recording and removed the Jewish student's presentation from it, unlike any other class that is posted as it is. There seems to still be debate as to whether or not the student asked for the presentation to be deleted or if in fact the professor deleted it herself.

25. Law school students had been asked not to post anything about the situation as long as it's not a school-related issue, but restrooms were full of random flyers about the 'genocide in Israel' and anti-Zionist messages that had nothing to do with school." According to former Dean Goluboff, "no law school administrator has asked, or ever would ask, that students not speak or post about these matters." Law school students disagree with her statement. Regarding the anti-Israel flyers Jewish students found in restrooms, the former dean emailed, "administrators heard on Sunday that posters had been hung in law school restrooms in violation of our posting policy. On Monday morning we inspected every restroom in the law school, and we did not find any posters." An inspection does not equate to an investigation which should have taken place.

26. A Jewish student walked with his Professor, Arthur-Montaigne, to Roots cafe where the student was called a "filthy Jew" by another UVA student.

Faculty Incidents:
1. Professor Tessa Farmer offered students in her class extra credit to attend a Pro-Palestinian discussion about how to "stand in solidarity with Palestinians resisting occupation." Farmer sent a message to her students to promote an SJP sponsored "teach-in" and demonstration about the current situation in Gaza, the events and history that led to this moment, and a discussion about how we can "stand in solidarity with Palestinians resisting occupation." No doubt this teach-in presented unbalanced views and blatant lies about Israel. A later article in the Washington Examiner discusses how UVA DEI staff privately downplayed Farmer's pro-Hamas rally extra credit offer.

2. Christa Robbins canceled class to support the BDS referendum walkout. "I'm writing to let you know that I am canceling class today in solidarity with the 'Yes on Divest Walkout' that the UVA Apartheid Divest Coalition organized," she said. Days prior, the Provost had told professors

NOT to cancel classes due to the walkout or referendum vote. “I realize this issue is polarizing right now, so I want to take a moment to let you know why I made this choice…My decision to cancel class comes from my own sympathies with the people of Palestine and out of a desire to see them live freely,” Robbins wrote. Her personal sympathies are not an excuse to cancel class.

3. In an Open Letter to UVA Administration with 80+ faculty signatures aligning with Hamas terrorist organization asking for administrators to consider the barbaric attack on Israel in its context.

4. A “teach in” was held by Professor Bishara and Tessa Farmer sponsored by a Coalition of Concerned Faculty Members. The event was advertised on flyers with the UVA logo which suggests UVA’s endorsement of this event.The “teach in " took place in a university lecture hall presenting a one sided anti Israel campaign, again suggesting UVA supports the anti-Israel content presented. One speaker said, with regard to the atrocities of October 7, 2023,“You can debate the morality of it blah blah blah.” The "blah, blah, blah" is completely offensive in this context given the barbaric brutal violence Hamas terrorists actions–including cutting off womens breasts, mutilation, gang raping, raping mid murder, lighting Jews on fire alive, beheadings. Additionally, Professor Bishara, in response to a comment that the ‘teach-in’ was one-sided, said at the event, “I never said that any of us had to be academic," despite UVA professors promoting this event on flyers with the UVA logo. In the beginning of the program it was stated that “any recording is Prohibited.”

Other antisemitic professors from other Universities spoke via zoom at this teach in which again was promoted on flyers with the UVA logo and held in a UVA lecture hall: Darryl Li , Daniel Segal, Jennifer Lynn Kelly, Loubna Qutami.

5. Associate Professor of Global Studies, invited BDS referendum supporters into his classroom to push their agenda. Two issues here. The professor never should have allowed these students into his class. And students are not allowed to interrupt classes/walk into classes to push their political agenda.

6.Tessa Farmer went up to a student at a silent and peaceful counter protest and said, “he must be ashamed of himself for coming out to protest for a genocide.”

7. Introduction to Studio Art taught by Conrad Cheung: From the student: We were told we were going to have a guest speaker, a former student of Conrad’s, introduce us to the world of filmmaking and help us navigate the new software we were using for the project. Not even two minutes of the presentation, however, the guest speaker flips to a slide with a work done by a famous Palestinian artist. The speaker analyzes the work for about thirty seconds before adding “and I thought this would be particularly relevant given the current genocide committed by Israel.” According to the student, the professor had access to the presentation materials prior to the presentation.