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April 19, 2016

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

I attach, for your information, a copy of a letter the Chancellors and I have sent to the American Association of Anthropologists expressing our concern about the Association's proposed resolution to boycott Israeli academic institutions. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours very truly,


Janet Napolitano
President

Attachment

cc: Chancellors



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS

We write to express our concern about the American Association of Anthropologists' resolution to boycott Israeli academic institutions, which is currently before the Association's membership for approval. The University of California believes that an academic boycott is an inappropriate response to a foreign policy issue and one that threatens academic freedom and sets a damaging precedent for academia.

Free expression, robust discourse, and the vigorous debate over ideas and principles are essential to the mission of academic institutions worldwide. These freedoms enable universities to advance knowledge and to transmit it effectively to its students and to the public. The University of California has a strong tradition of free speech and the free exchange of ideas, and it is our responsibility to defend academic freedom and our scholars' ability to choose their research and colleagues. Limits to the open exchange of knowledge and ideas between our universities stand in direct opposition to our values and goals.

An academic boycott goes against the spirit of the University of California, which has consistently championed open discourse and encouraged collaboration with scholars and peers from international institutions of higher education. We urge Association members to consider the boycott's potentially harmful impacts and oppose this resolution.

Sincerely,

President
University of California

Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks
University of California, Berkeley

Chancellor Linda Katehi
University of California, Davis

Chancellor Howard Gillman
University of California, Irvine

Chancellor Gene Block
University of California, Los Angeles

Chancellor Dorothy Leland
University of California, Merced

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox
University of California, Riverside

Chancellor Pradeep Khosla
University of California, San Diego

Chancellor Sam Hawgood
University of California, San Francisco

Chancellor Henry T. Yang
University of California, Santa Barbara

Chancellor George R. Blumenthal
University of California, Santa Cruz