

May 3, 2024*

To the President, Provost, Deans, and other leadership of UT Dallas:

We write as Comet faculty proudly committed to the University's stated mission of "graduating well-rounded citizens whose education has prepared them for rewarding lives and productive careers in a constantly changing world." The students, alumni, and community members who recently formed the "Gaza Liberation" encampment on our campus were exercising the responsibilities of political voice and conscience that demonstrate their readiness to be valuable citizens in our tumultuous world. We the undersigned members of the UT Dallas faculty interpret the use of police force to break up the encampment, and the arrests of students, community members, and faculty who were attempting to protect our students and their exercise of free expression, as a violation of the University's mission and core values.

The Gaza Liberation encampment was a heartening example of peaceful political demonstration, while simultaneously developing into a site of communal gathering, mutual education, and creative as well as critical expression. Although we are deeply troubled by the university's turn to police force on May 1st, we hope that our university leadership reorients its response to the encampment to be peaceful and productive.

Specifically, we call for the university leadership to:

- Drop or refrain from pressing legal charges against all individuals
- Allow student activists to complete their semesters' coursework, without suspension, expulsion, or other punishment this semester, and without restricting their future options to enroll in classes or live in university housing
- Affirm that faculty who were detained will face no professional repercussions.

Conversely, we would strenuously object to the suspension, expulsion, or other punishment of students participating in the encampment. We would likewise oppose any further use of force, should students attempt to reestablish an encampment or similar demonstration.

UT Dallas has the opportunity during this historic moment in higher education to be an exemplar. We hope it embraces this chance with the institution's characteristic courage, innovativeness, and conscience.

Sincerely,

Erin Greer, Assistant Professor of Literature

Ravi Prakash, Professor of Computer Science

Annie Gray Fischer, Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Whitney Stewart, Assistant Professor of History

Nomi Stone, Assistant Professor of Poetry

Jonathan Tsou, Professor of Philosophy and Distinguished Professor of Humanities in Medicine and Science

Ashley Barnes, Associate Professor of Literature

Ann Wu, Assistant Professor

Kate Davies, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Audra Heaslip, Assistant Professor of Instruction in Critical Media Studies

Rose Skelton, Writer and Instructor of Creative Writing, BAHT

Maurine Ogonnaya Ogbaa, Assistant Professor of Literature & Creative Writing

Charles Hatfield, Associate Professor of Literature

Kaaz Naqvi, Associate Professor of Instruction, Interdisciplinary Studies

Christine Veras

Daniel Wickberg, Associate Professor of History

Dr. Florence E. Castillo, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Salena Brody

Torrie Cropps, Research Scientist

David A. Wright, Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Studies

Tonja Wissinger, Interim Dean and Professor of Instruction, Interdisciplinary Studies

Liz Trospen, Assistant Professor of Instruction, BAHT

Susan Waring, M. Ed., University Field Supervisor, Teacher Development Center

Larissa Werhnyak, Program Head, American Studies

Mark Rosen, Associate Professor of Art History

Kimberly Hill, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History

Mai Wang, Assistant Professor of Literature

Dorothee Honhon, Professor of Operations Management in JSOM

Monica Rankin, Associate Professor, BAHT

Dr Gretchen VanWormer, Assistant Professor of Literature

Zafar A. Anjum, Assoc. Professor of Instruction, BAHT

Jessi DeFusco, Assistant Professor, EPPS

Jacquelyn Delin McDonald, Lecturer, BAHT

Jonathan Pinckney, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Horace Robb, Professor, JSOM

xtine, Professor, BAHT

Wafa Jaffal, Adjunct lecturer, School of Engineering and Computer Science

Gasan Elkhodari, Associate Professor of instruction

Josef Nguyen, Associate Professor, School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology

Dora R. Valkanova, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, ATEC / BAHT

Humberto González-Núñez, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Charles Bambach, Professor, BAHT

Neeraj Mittal, Professor, Department of Computer Science, Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science

May Alkhudari, Adjunct Professor, JSOM

J Michael Farmer, Associate Professor of Chinese Studies and History

Andy Amato, Professor of Instruction, BAHT

To have your name added, please go to the form here: <https://forms.gle/bwRPhKsbEtuziALy8>

Please note that we add names to the above letter manually, so there is likely to be a time delay before you'll see your name appear. Also, we are currently adding only the signatures of instructors at UT Dallas, so if you have submitted your name via the form but are otherwise affiliated, please know that we appreciate your support, but will not list you among the faculty signatories.

* Signatures will continue to be added after this date.