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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
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University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
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July 30, 2019

**JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

RE: Statement on Canary Mission

Dear Janet,

At its July 24, 2019 meeting, the Academic Council endorsed the attached statement about the Canary Mission organization and website. The statement expands on the University Committee on Academic Freedom letter Council endorsed and sent you earlier in July, to cover other groups and websites that engage in harassment.

With this letter, we are requesting that the administration of University endorse the attached statement, and join with the Academic Council in a joint public statement. This will send a clear signal to those who would victimize members of our scholarly community that their attacks will have no effect, and reaffirms that as a University we deplore the actions of these reprehensible websites.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Rob C May".

Robert C. May, Chair
Academic Council

Encl:

cc: Chancellors
Provost Brown
Academic Council
Senate Directors

**Academic Council Statement on Canary Mission
July 2019**

We condemn the efforts of Canary Mission and any other groups or websites that target individual scholars or students in an effort to intimidate or otherwise interfere with their scholarship, teaching, learning, or future educational or career prospects. As noted in a recent letter by the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) that was subsequently endorsed by Academic Council, Canary Mission relies on a definition of anti-Semitism that is so broad as to include not only all proponents of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement but also failure to advocate its suppression. “The objective,” UCAF observed, “appears to be to influence admissions, hiring, promotion, grant applications, and other decisions affecting the lives and careers of people listed on its site.”

While Canary Mission is among the most high-profile of such groups in recent times, organized efforts by powerful groups to damage the lives and careers of faculty, students, and staff have a long history going back to the anti-Communist hysteria of the 1950s. Such efforts must be condemned and resisted if we are to uphold the values of the University of California. We reaffirm that the University of California will continue to make decisions about admissions, hiring, promotion, and advancement in keeping with its own high standards without influence or prejudice from external organizations such as Canary Mission.