

Student Staff for Palestine

May 7, 2024

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Retention & Success Maruth Figueroa,

The undersigned student workers under Student Retention and Success (“SRS”) at UC San Diego wish to express our outrage, concern, and sadness at the administration’s decision to utilize outside police forces, including riot police, to arrest and attack UC San Diego students & affiliates on May 6, 2024. The choices made by administration do not align with our understanding of university values, especially those set by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Student Retention and Success.

This academic year, Student Retention and Success held strategic planning meetings to set goals for 2024-2029. We do not see how Assistant Vice Chancellor Maruth Figueroa can affirm the university's recent actions in light of her own goals. The Assistant Vice Chancellor claims that Student Retention and Success vision is “meeting students throughout their pursuit of exploring and curating their own definitions of success.” Further, Student Retention and Success claims that they will advocate for students against systemic inequalities, and work to “eliminate barriers to providing student support.” We cannot reason how shutting down a peaceful encampment, penalizing student-organizations, and arresting protestors in any way align with these values. Student Affairs and Student Retention and Success pride themselves on being “student-centered,” yet the actions taken by the Vice Chancellor, Assistant Vice Chancellor, and their staff have done nothing but repress student voices.

In light of these failures by the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Retention and Success, we demand the immediate waiver of academic penalties, interim suspension, and other punishment measures being used on student protesters that are nothing more than retaliation and intimidation. We demand amnesty for all people arrested at the encampment and/or for protesting on May 6, 2024. We demand that Assistant Vice Chancellor Maruth Figueroa publicly call for the resignation of Chancellor Pradeep Khosla for his decision to utilize riot police and snipers to shut down a student-run, peaceful encampment. Lastly, we call upon Assistant Vice Chancellor Maruth Figueroa to publicly advocate for the divestment demands put in place by Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace.

As Student Retention and Success student workers, it is our duty to appropriately represent the mission and vision of Student Affairs and Student Retention & Success, and ensure that our programs, resources, and actions are truly “student-centered.” We call upon Assistant Vice Chancellor Figueroa to listen to the demands of both her student employees and her students to truly embody her “student-centered” motto.

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Signed,

Simon Roberts, Transfer Student Success Peer Coach

Malia Saez, Transfer Student Success Peer Coach

Arleth Chavez-Rodriguez, Transfer Student Success Peer Coach

Lillian Vazquez, Triton Firsts Programming Intern

Aline Gutierrez Rios, Transfer Student Success Peer Coach

Reina M. Perez Munoz, Transfer Student Success Peer Coach

Amrita Gill, Triton Firsts Marketing Intern

Melissa Ha, Transfer Student Success Peer Coach

Olivia Staton, Transfer Student Success Peer Coach

Mercedes Limon, Associated Students Transfer Senator

Veronica Liu, OASIS – TRIO Peer Mentor

Tyann Reneau - OASIS Student Coordinator

Celeste Espinoza - Muir Student Affairs Social Media Intern

Siul Maduena - Muir Student Affairs Graphic Design Intern

Carlos Rueda - Muir Student Affairs Leadership and transfer intern and Residential Life intern

Kristine Yambao, OASIS - TRIO Peer Tutor and MSTP Facilitator

Breanna Ramirez- OASIS Peer Mxntor

Ariadna Gomez-Lopez - OASIS Student Coordinator

Julie Nguyen - OASIS SB Student Coordinator

Viviana Banales - Student Financial Solutions Staff

Lizbeth Diaz- AS Local Affairs Community Advocate

Yarely Jalomo- OASIS TRIO Peer Mentor